

November 12, 2012

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*Via Email*

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Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Life and Leadership, UC Irvine

Re: **November 8<sup>th</sup> Violence and Intimidation at UCI Bookstore**

Dear Messrs Dooros and Taleh and Mmes Murren and Movaghari:

I write as counsel for United Automobile Workers Local 2865, the certified representative of UC Irvine teaching assistants. I write concerning the extremely disturbing incident which occurred on Thursday, November 8, 2012, involving our members and supporters. You may recall that on November 8, students, including UAW Local 2865 members, were engaged in protesting the privatization of the University of California at multiple campuses across the state, including UC Irvine.

At about 1:15 p.m., a group of approximately 30 students attempted to peacefully walk through the front entrance of the UCI bookstore. When the students entered the bookstore, about six UCI staff physically assaulted the students by grabbing and attempting to drag them out of the building, or by shoving them out of the doorway as they entered the bookstore. The students' protest concerning the privatization of the University applied especially to the bookstore, which has been transformed from a genuine student bookstore into a retail shop selling mostly non-educational consumer products.

At the time of incident, UCI administration staffers were present, and directed the bookstore staff to remove the students from an allegedly private business, the UC Irvine bookstore on campus. Administrators also attempted to intimidate the students by directing staff to "get photos of their faces", thus placing the force of the University behind the concerns of an allegedly private bookstore. None of the students engaged in any violent conduct whatsoever, but merely peacefully walked through the bookstore and left through the rear exit.

I write to emphasize the lawful nature of the students' conduct and their protected

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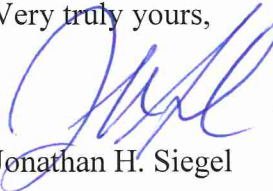
rights to engage in such conduct without violence, intimidation and other interference. First, the rights of organized students to engage in protected concerted activity without interference are guaranteed by the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act ("HEERA"), California Government Code § 3560 et seq. University officials conspiring with employees of a private enterprise to intimidate students and engage in violence upon their persons clearly and plainly contravenes the rights which these students enjoy as union members.

Further, pursuant to the provisions of California Civil Code §§ 51.7 and 52.1, known respectively as the "Unruh" and "Bane" Civil Rights Acts, every person in the State of California has the right to be free from violence, threat of violence and intimidation based upon their exercise of their free speech rights, their status as students and their position in a labor dispute. In placing hands upon the students and intimidating them with the use of photographs, both the UCI administrators and the employees of the bookstore violated the civil rights of the students.

We hereby insist that going forward, UC Irvine, acting through its employees, including its administrators and agents such as the UC bookstore, cease and desist from conduct which interferes with the protected labor rights of these students as well as their protected civil rights. We reserve all rights going forward to seek legal redress, especially if there is a continuation of this conduct.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Jonathan H. Siegel

JHS/fc

cc: Charlie Eaton, UAW Local 2865, Financial Secretary (via email)