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4 **Condemning Ignorance of Racism and Equating Anti-Zionism with Anti-Semitism**

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6 **AUTHOR(S):** Chair of the Committee on Environmental Sustainability Bugra Sahin, Senator
7 James Kosmopoulos, Senator Sudarshana Rao, Senator Anna Sekiguchi, Senator
8 Akil Guruparan
9 **SPONSOR(S):** Senator James Kosmopoulos, Senator Arnaldo Ayala, Director Kirsten Peterson,
10 Senator Icardo Isasa
11 **ENDORSEMENT(S):** Chief of Staff Ali Mirza, President Connor Josellis

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13 **WHEREAS,** The Illinois Student Government stands in solidarity with marginalized populations and
14 aims to advocate against acts of injustice; and;

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16 **WHEREAS,** the University administration has repeatedly ignored clear, active, and threatening anti-
17 Semitic behavior, and have yet to take sufficient or appropriate actions given the
18 severity of these events and,

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20 **WHEREAS,** the University administration has created space for holocaust deniers, Nazis, and other
21 individuals -- by allowing an individual to spread hateful anti-Semitic ideologies on
22 campus; and,

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24 **WHEREAS,** the ongoing, anti-Semitic actions at this university have not been publicly addressed via
25 mass mail; and,

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27 **WHEREAS,** University of Illinois Chief of Police Craig Stone stated to the members of the public and
28 the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion that hate crimes are a "common occurrence"
29 and that if the administration was to "send out a safety alert every time hate crimes
30 were committed," we "would get safety alerts every day"; and,

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32 **WHEREAS,** the University has not actively invested a sufficient amount of its time or resources to
33 prevent hate crimes; and,

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35 **WHEREAS,** the University has not provided its students with an adequate level of transparency
36 necessary for these types of situations in order for students to be informed and aware
37 of the safety concerns present at the University of Illinois; and,

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39 **WHEREAS,** the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a history of responding with empty
40 words to hateful events that have occurred on campus without taking the necessary
41 immediate restorative measures to prevent future hateful occurrences; and,

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43 **WHEREAS,** the University of Illinois administration, including Chancellor Robert Jones, has
44 repeatedly refused to include the student body when deciding measures to be taken to
45 respond to hateful or predatory acts on campus; and,

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47 **WHEREAS,** the presentation mentioned in Chancellor Jones' massmail on October 9, 2019, was
48 improperly characterized, had no Anti-Semitic content in it; and,

49 **WHEREAS,** this presentation should not have been equated with the image of a swastika, a symbol
50 that literally and violently threatens Jewish people across the world; and;
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52 **WHEREAS,** Zionism is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as a political stance whose object is
53 “the assured settlement of [Jewish people’s] race upon a national basis in Palestine,”¹
54 while Anti-Semitism is defined as “Prejudice, hostility, or discrimination towards Jewish
55 people;”² and,
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57 **WHEREAS,** the administration has had a history of equating Anti-Zionism with Anti-Semitism; as
58 with the 2018 Divest campaign, and;
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60 **WHEREAS,** this false equivalence has gained national prominence as a method for cloaking
61 legitimate anti-Semitism behind attacks on political ideologies opposed to religious
62 violence; and;
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64 **WHEREAS,** this false equivalence has been used as a scare tactic against students and workers in
65 the Palestine movement, and it is rooted in a false understanding of what the
66 movement advocates for; and;
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68 **WHEREAS,** the rights of the student targeted in the email are being violated by the very
69 administration responsible to protect them, including possible legal defamation issues;
70 and,
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72 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government Senate condemn the University of Illinois
73 administrations October 9, 2019, mass mail; and,
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75 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government condemn the constant conflation of Anti-
76 Zionism and Anti-Semitism; and,
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78 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government Senate condemns the passive tolerance shown
79 by the University to racism, hate speech, bigotry, and white supremacy on
80 campus; and,
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82 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** the Illinois Student Government Senate request the retraction of the mass mail
83 and an apology to the student(s) in question and to the general university public
84 for wrongfully categorizing Anti-Zionism as Anti-Semitism, slandering many
85 students’ image and their cause; and,
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87 **LET IT BE RESOLVED,** The Senate requests the President direct the Executive to take any action
88 necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

¹ "Zionism, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, September 2019. Web.

² "anti-Semitism, n." *OED Online*. Oxford University Press, September 2019. Web.