

UGA Faculty Statement calling for immediate un-suspension of arrested UGA Students

On Monday April 29, 2024 at approximately 8:30 a.m. several UGA students and community members on North Campus were arrested and charged with misdemeanor criminal trespassing after warning. These students and community members had gathered to engage in political protest related to the ongoing war in Gaza. The students were also subsequently issued an interim suspension from the UGA Office of Student Conduct, which included a prohibition from coming onto campus property. This means that these students were barred immediately from all campus buildings including residence halls where some of the students live, from classrooms to take final exams, from the health center, and from dining halls.

We understand the university administration was within its rights to request police presence and intervention and to enforce the campus free speech policy, but we believe the decision of the Office of Student Conduct to immediately suspend students and bar them from campus property was unwarranted and antithetical to our educational mission.

We, the undersigned faculty, call on Rebecca Scarbro and the Office of Student Conduct to lift the interim suspension immediately and allow our students to return to campus to complete the semester. Further action regarding the Student Code of Conduct can be undertaken in due course, with ample opportunity for due process.

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Elizabeth Davis, Department of English
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Kristen Smith, Department of Advertising & Public Relations
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