

The Sundial Report:  
The 2023-2024 Protests at Columbia University

Columbia University Senate  
Resolution Addressing Current Events

Last Updated: March 31, 2025

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King's College Founded in the Province of New York  
By Royal Charter in the Reign of George II  
Perpetuated as Columbia College **by the People** of the State of New York  
When They Became Free and Independent  
**Maintained and Cherished from Generation to Generation**  
**For the Advancement of the Public Good** and the Glory of Almighty God

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## 1. Executive Summary

The Resolution Addressing Current Events, adopted on April 26, 2024, tasked the University Senate with reporting on the University's actions over the preceding months, and the events surrounding and leading up to those actions, deemed contrary to the norms and traditions of the University and counterproductive to its mission, specifically with regard to (a) the jeopardization of academic freedom, (b) breach of privacy and due process, and (c) violation of shared governance principles. The report has been written in fulfillment of the responsibilities and under the authority of the University Senate as set out in Section 22 of the University Statutes, Columbia's constitution.

The report finds that in its efforts to respond to the horrific events of October 7, 2023 and their aftermath, the University conducted itself in unprecedented ways, ways that render the institution more fragile and jeopardize the institution and its mission, and the trust of its immediate stakeholders in the institution, its senior leadership, and its Board of Trustees. As this report details, the Administration's often opaque actions over this period, at a time when the calls of external actors often drowned out those of its immediate community, served to undermine vital efforts to rebuild community in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the frequently changing leadership, and undermined the trust and goodwill of our community. Such trust in our community and our institution are essential if we are to weather challenges that lie ahead.

This is a first report on the events that took place at Columbia in the 2023 to 2024 academic year, some of the most momentous events in the institution's recent history. It sets out the dangers to the institution when the Administration loses sight of the importance and necessity of shared governance and looks outside the University rather than within when seeking guidance on appropriate courses of action in response to challenging events. Columbia University is a community of scholars, researchers, students, librarians, administrative staff, and alumni. Our scholars, researchers, and students allow us to chart a course into the future. Our alumni remind us of our recent history.

This report attempts first and foremost to document what took place on our campus, within our community and in our institution over the course of one year. The changing commitments of the Administration have reshaped the report's form. Any errors are those of the authors who contributed to this report and who

contribute to the work of the University Senate, Columbia's essential enterprise in shared governance. This will likely not be the last report on this period at Columbia.

## 2. Preface

A university's internal system of checks and balances is fragile. If, as Columbia's mission statement suggests, "all areas of the University [will] advance knowledge and learning at the highest level," such advances depend above all on the efforts and judgment of a world-class faculty and staff in continuous dialogue with students, who both benefit from and spur the creativity of their teachers and mentors. Many people take for granted that the particular excellence of the American system of higher education depends on the unconventional thinking and radical experimentation that academic freedom allows faculty to pursue as they "advance knowledge and learning at the highest level."<sup>1</sup> The academic endeavor that is arguably at the heart of the university is, however, dependent on a vast infrastructure of buildings and research facilities; sophisticated IT, computing, and library resources; skilled administrators and dedicated staff; and a Board of Trustees committed to faithful stewardship of the university's financial and physical resources.

But relations between the parts of this complicated system can, through inertia or in moments of crisis, go awry. Officers of administration, for example, may arrogate to themselves functions properly belonging to officers of instruction; or the mechanisms of shared governance that ensure all stakeholders a say in decisions conventionally or constitutionally within their purview may be bypassed, leading to profound feelings of alienation and betrayal and to the sense that key institutional actors or offices have forfeited legitimacy. The exponential growth in recent years of staff and administrators relative to faculty at institutions of American higher education has been well documented, and it has contributed to the displacement of faculty from many of their traditional roles. At the same time assertive political forces have reached into the university to involve themselves in matters of curriculum, student discipline, and academic freedom. The guardrails protecting these crucial university functions have been battered and, in some cases, breached. The result has been disorientation and alienation.

Columbia's response to global events in the Fall of 2023 exacerbated existing challenges for higher education, divided the community, and set the stage for crisis. On October 7, 2023, approximately 3,000 Hamas militants attacked civilians and soldiers on Israel's southern border with Gaza, resulting in the deaths of nearly 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and the abduction of 251 individuals as hostages.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "University Mission Statement," <https://www.columbia.edu/content/about-columbia>.

<sup>2</sup> Josef Federman and Issam Adwan, "Hamas surprise attack out of Gaza stuns Israel and leaves hundreds dead in fighting, retaliation," *The Associated Press*, October 7, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-hamas-rockets-airstrikes-tel-aviv-11fb98655c256d54ecb5329284fc37d2>.

Columbia immediately responded to this violence, with administrators issuing statements to reassure affected students of community support and available resources.<sup>3</sup> Israel's declaration of war on Gaza on October 8th elicited an immediate outcry and response from pro-Palestinian protestors.<sup>4</sup> On October 9th, various student groups and faculty released statements expressing solidarity with "Palestinian resistance" and criticizing the Administration's response to the October 7th attacks, alleging "discrimination" and a "complete erasure of Palestinians."<sup>5</sup> Some community members were outraged by these statements particularly during their time of mourning.<sup>6</sup> The first major pro-Palestinian protest occurred on October 12, 2023, four days after the attacks.<sup>7</sup> In the following weeks, students engaged in both protests and counterprotests regularly on campus in response to the events of October 7th and the ongoing war in which Israeli attacks on Gaza consistently resulted in high civilian casualties.<sup>8</sup> At these protests, slogans such as "from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" and calls for "intifada" were interpreted differently across the community and debate ensued over whether such slogans violated limitations on freedom of speech and constituted antisemitism.<sup>9</sup> Some community groups felt that there was no attention or University support for Palestinian students in response to the horrific violence in Gaza, particularly for many who were losing family members.<sup>10</sup> As of January 9, 2025, Gaza's Health Ministry reported that Israel's assault into Gaza killed 46,006 Palestinians and wounded 109,378, with women and children making up more than half the fatalities.<sup>11</sup> Overall, there was deep suffering, misunderstanding, and community disagreement on campus starting in Fall 2023. Spring 2024 brought continued protests and the establishment of two "Gaza Solidarity" encampments and the occupation of Hamilton Hall.<sup>12</sup> The encampments and occupation garnered extensive media attention and were the source of considerable controversy.<sup>13</sup> The decision of University administration to utilize NYPD to arrest students twice during

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Tia Goldenberg and Melanie Lidman, "War rages on multiple fronts as Israel marks a year since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack," *The Associated Press*, October 7, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-one-year-anniversary-cf123f95609051e8e8eaf6a6e661b6a>.

<sup>3</sup> See October 7, 2023, October 8, 2023, October 9, 2023, October 10, 2023 in 10) Chronology of Events

<sup>4</sup> See October 13, 2023 and October 30, 2023 in 10) Chronology of Events

Josef Federman and Issam Adwan, "Israel strikes and seals off Gaza after incursion by Hamas, which vows to execute hostages," *The Associated Press*, October 9, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-gaza-hamas-airstrikes-hostages-4377e096f62bf535bebcdf38cf16049>.

<sup>5</sup> See October 9, 2023 in 10) Chronology of Events

<sup>6</sup> See October 13, 2023 and October 30, 2023 in 10) Chronology of Events

<sup>7</sup> See October 12, 2023 in 10) Chronology of Events

<sup>8</sup> See October 12, 2023, October 20, 2023, October 25, 2023, November 1, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 9, 2023 in 9) Chronology of Events

Zeina Jamaluddine et al., "Traumatic injury mortality in the Gaza Strip from Oct 7, 2023, to June 30, 2024: a capture-recapture analysis," *The Lancet* 405, no. 10477 (February 8, 2025), [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)02678-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)02678-3/fulltext).

<sup>9</sup> See October 12, 2023, November 15, 2023, December 20, 2023 in 10) Chronology of Events

<sup>10</sup> See October 9, 2023, October 10, 2023, October 16, 2023, October 19, 2023, October 22, 2023, October 26, 2023, October 30, 2023, November 1, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 15, 2023 in 10) Chronology of Events

<sup>11</sup> Wafaa Shurafa and Fatma Khalad, "More than 46,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war, officials say," *The Associated Press*, January 9, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-hamas-war-news-01-09-2025-ffae654d619e8e848e2ceda8576e8fe5>.

<sup>12</sup> See April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024 in 10) Chronology of Events

<sup>13</sup> See April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024 in 10) Chronology of Events

the encampments, against the advice of the Executive Committee of the University Senate, eroded trust in the Administration. Since the events of Spring 2024, there has been intense internal discussions and external political pressure regarding discipline and protests on campus. The story of how the University reached this point is so far untold. Although bits and pieces of the events at Columbia have emerged publicly, a comprehensive analysis is lacking.

In response to the unrest surrounding the 2023-2024 protests on Columbia's Morningside campus, the University Senate adopted by a vote of 68-3 the Resolution Addressing Current Events on April 26, 2024. The resolution condemned "external interference" in the University's internal affairs that "undermines the traditions of academic freedom and shared governance." The resolution listed "actions of the University in recent months contrary to the norms and traditions of this University and counterproductive to its mission" that included "jeopardization of academic freedom," "breach of privacy and due process," and "violation of shared governance principles." The Resolution Addressing Current Events called for an inquiry into the "actions of the University" and "the events surrounding and leading up to those actions."<sup>14</sup>

The University Senate envisioned a collaborative investigation led by a distinguished and independent external figure and involving the active participation of faculty and students, and the joint participation of the Administration. Although the Administration initially pledged support in April 2024, Columbia University's General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the President informed the University Senate Executive Committee Chair in July 2024 that the Administration would not provide resources. Understanding the need to "retain relevant documentation and the memory of what happened," the University Senate assembled the primary documents relating to these events and committed to writing a report of events. It was announced in the August 23, 2024 plenary that the University Senate would "proceed on its own to produce a document."<sup>15</sup>

This report, based on a timeline of events, offers 1) an executive summary, 2) preface, 3) methodology, 4) a list of acronyms, abbreviations, and actors, 5) a map of Morningside campus, 6) a summary of key

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<sup>14</sup> Columbia University Senate, "April 26, 2024 Plenary." [https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US\\_Plenary%20Binder\\_20240426-R.pdf](https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US_Plenary%20Binder_20240426-R.pdf).

Columbia University Senate, "May 3, 2024 Plenary." [https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US\\_Plenary%20Binder\\_20240503-PP-R.pdf](https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US_Plenary%20Binder_20240503-PP-R.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Columbia University Senate, "August 23, 2024 Plenary." [https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US\\_Plenary%20Binder\\_20240823-PP.pdf](https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US_Plenary%20Binder_20240823-PP.pdf).

Columbia University Senate, "September 20, 2024 Plenary." <https://senate.columbia.edu/news/record>.



events on Columbia's campus, 7) background on shared governance, academic freedom, and Rules of University Conduct, 8) a brief historical contextualization of events in light of Columbia's prior history of divestment campaigns, university autonomy, and respect for faculty, student, and staff rights, 9) conclusions, 10) a detailed chronology of events, and 11) references. The writers of this report also created an appendix of relevant documents recording this pivotal moment in Columbia's history that will not initially be publicly distributed.

This document is a work in progress. Without full cooperation from senior members of the administration, without necessary resources, and without access to some administrative records, certain aspects of the report must perforce remain unfinished or conjectural despite good faith efforts to bring to light as much relevant information as possible.

The authority for presenting this report is set out in Section 22 of the University Statutes.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Columbia University, Charters and Statutes.

### 3. Methodology

This University Senate Report (Resolution Addressing Current Events) endeavors to make sense of the wealth of information documenting the events on Columbia’s campus from Fall 2023-Fall 2024 from a web of highly charged political agendas, media narratives, misinformation, and heightened emotional distortions. To do so, the writers of this report organized and presented collected evidence chronologically, **Chronology of Events** (section 10), and engaged in extensive background research, **Background on Shared Governance, Academic Freedom, and Rules of University Conduct** (7), and **Historical Background** (8) before analyzing and drawing **Conclusions** (9) based on clear patterns in the chronology.

The writers of this report relied upon news sources, University Senate materials, internal communications, public announcements, social media posts, lawsuits, medical records, hearing records, interviews, and the history of Columbia University. Following this **Methodology** (3) section, the **List of Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Actors** (4) and a **Map of Morningside Campus** (5) orient the reader physically and culturally in Columbia’s customs and structure. Next, the writers condensed the primary record, **Chronology of Events** (10), into a comprehensive **Summary of Key Events** (6).

The writers also include **Background on Shared Governance, Academic Freedom, and Rules of University Conduct** (7) and **Historical Background** (8), which provide critical context on Columbia’s long history of protest, divestment campaigns, and the founding of the University Senate: a configuration of shared governance unique to Columbia. This history is essential to understanding campus during Fall 2023-Fall 2024.

The **Chronology of Events** (10) is a thorough and detailed account of events at Columbia University from Fall 2023-Fall 2024. The temporal scope aims to show, through a chronology beginning in October 2023 and ending in December 2024, that the origin of Columbia’s acute crisis on campus in April 2024 began much earlier than April and many causes of the crisis remain unresolved as of December 2024. The content of the report’s scope is Columbia-specific events. While the writers of this report could have included important international events that impacted campus or described the landscape of other colleges and universities around the country, the writers of this report chose to focus on events and actions at Columbia. As mentioned previously, the roughly 250-page chronology was shortened into a more easily accessible

**Summary of Key Events** (6) that appears in the report before the longer chronology. Although some of the information in the chronology is well-known, the chronological organization helps deepen understanding of the *relationships* among and between events. Through chronology, significant patterns begin to emerge.

Common patterns in the **Chronology of Events** (10) are documented in the **Conclusions** (9). The **Conclusions** (9) include specific dates from the **Chronology of Events** (10) that provide evidence to support the report's significant findings. The **Conclusions** (9) appear in the document before the **Chronology** (10) in order to provide the reader of this report with an analytical framework before encountering the lengthy chronology and so that the essential analysis appears upfront and is clearly accessible.

It is important to note that this document is a starting point that may, despite our best efforts, contain inaccuracies or omissions. The analysis is in no way exhaustive. The events that occurred between Fall 2023-Fall 2024 could be extensively written about. This report is intended to be elaborated on and modified if necessary. There are also gaps in the analysis due to the lack of access to necessary information. Of note the Administration declined to participate or cooperate in the writing of this report despite initial indications to the contrary. Publication of a second revised edition is intended by the end of the 2024-2025 academic year after a feedback period where community members may submit comments, suggestions, and omissions.

Although the writers originally envisioned offering detailed recommendations at the end of this report, it was decided to leave this component open-ended to be filled in later by the deliberative, democratic body of the University Senate and the broader community.

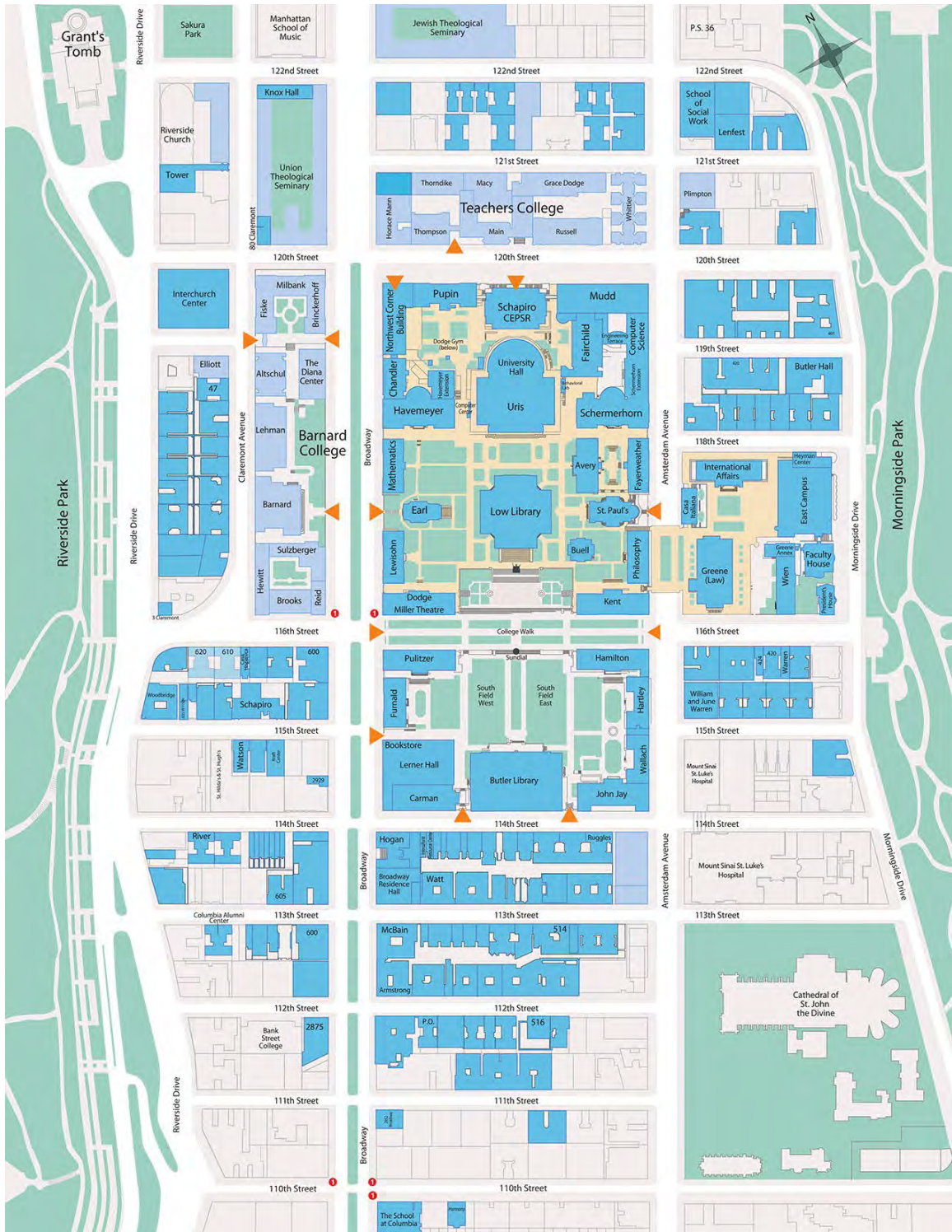
It is up to the Columbia community, not the writers of this report, to write the next chapter of our institution's history and provide recommendations as we move forward. The writers of the report simply hope that the analysis and attempt to make sense of the past year(s) can lead to some understanding and eventual resolution.

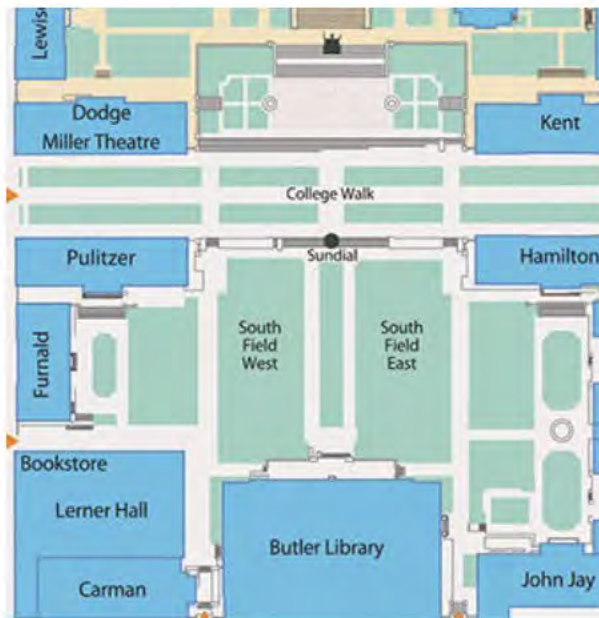
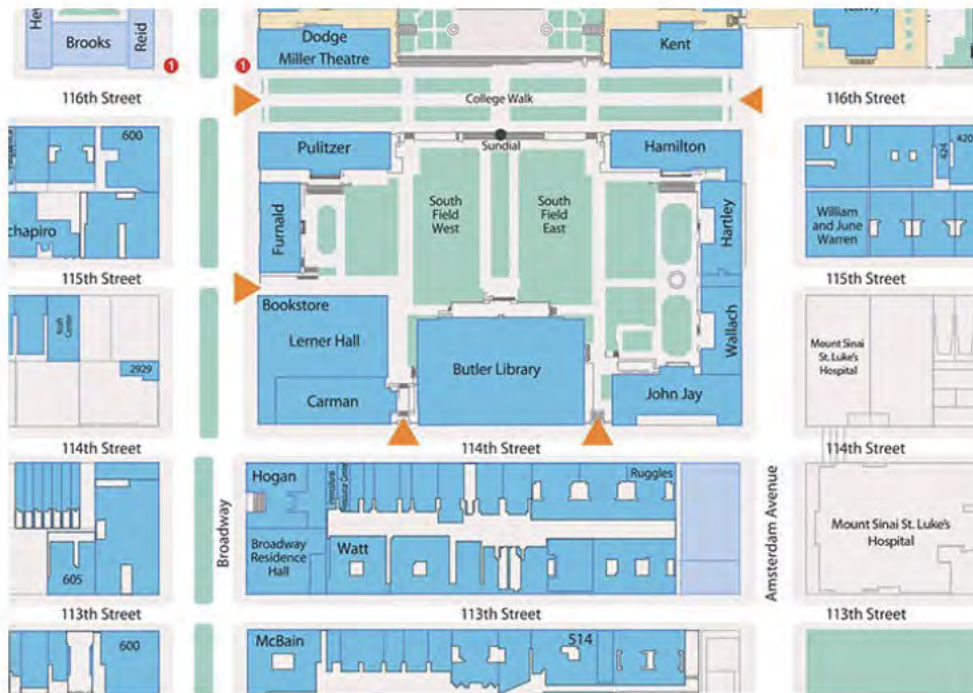
#### 4. List of Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Actors

- (ACSRI) Advisory Committee Socially Responsible Investing
- (ADL) Anti-Defamation League
- (AIM) Accuracy in Media
- (AR) Administrative Representative
- (CC) Columbia College
- (CCSC) Columbia College Student Council
- (CPSC) Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition
- (CSSI) Center for Student Success and Intervention
- (CU) Columbia
- (CUAD) Columbia University Apartheid Divest
- (ER) Encampment Representative
- (ESC) Engineering Student Council
- (Faculty) Officers of Instruction
- (FSJP) Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine
- (GS) General Studies
- (GSSC) General Studies Student Council
- (IGB) Interschool Governing Board
- (J4C) Columbia University Jews for Ceasefire
- (JVP) Columbia-Barnard Jewish Voice for Peace
- (MESAAS) Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies
- (NYCLU) New York Civil Liberties Union
- (NYPD) New York Police Department
- (OIE) Office of Institutional Equity
- (PFLP) Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
- (Researchers) Officers of Research
- (SEAS) School of Engineering and Applied Science
- (SGAB) Student Group Adjudication Board
- (SGB) Student Governing Board
- (SIPA) School of International and Public Affairs
- (SJP) Students for Justice in Palestine
- (Spec) Columbia Daily Spectator
- (SSI) Students Supporting Israel
- (SWS) School of Social Work
- (TAU) Tel Aviv University
- (UJB) University Judicial Board
- (USL) Undergraduate Student Life
- #EndJewHatred
- Antisemitism Awareness Act
- Barnard-Columbia Abolition Collective
- Board of Trustees
- Columbia/Barnard Hillel: The Kraft Center for Jewish Life

- CUAlumni4Palestine
- Dar: The Palestinian Student Society
- Executive Committee
- Inclusive Public Safety Advisory Committee
- International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)
- Kraft Center for Jewish Life / Columbia-Barnard Hillel Aryeh
- Office of Public Affairs: Communications and Government and Community Affairs
- Office of the President
- Office of the Provost
- Office of University Life
- Public Safety
- Q-House
- Rules of University Conduct Committee
- Special Committee on Campus Safety
- Stand Columbia Society
- Student-Worker Solidarity
- Title VI
- U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights
- University Senate
- University Senate Observers
- WKCR-FM

## 5. Map of Morningside Campus





## 6. Summary of Key Events

For more detailed information on these events, see Section 10) Chronology of Events.

- October 7, 2023: Special Committee on Campus Safety formed and began meeting daily
- October 9, 2023: Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) letters + student groups joint statement;  
President Shafik statement on October 7th attacks
- October 10, 2023: SSI vigil held in response to October 7th attacks
- October 11, 2023: Reported incident of Israeli General Studies student attacked with a stick on campus
- October 12, 2023: Access to campus restricted (CUID-only);  
SJP + JVP protest + major counterprotest
- October 12, 2023: “Israel Current Events” WhatsApp Group started
- October 20, 2023: SJP + JVP “Vigil for Palestinian Lives Lost” in front of Alma Mater
- October 24, 2023: “Student Group Event Policy and Procedure” revised to clarify time, place, and manner restrictions and the consequences for violations
- October 25, 2023: Accuracy in Media (AIM) doxxing truck circled campus for the first time;  
Access to campus restricted (CUID-only)
- October 25, 2023: SJP national walkout;  
EndJewHatred rally off campus at 116th and Broadway gates
- October 26, 2023: “Not In Our Name: Stop Doxxing Now” protest held by Jewish students
- November 1, 2023: Task Force on Antisemitism + Doxxing Resource Group announced;  
School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) walkout to express solidarity with doxxed students
- November 8, 2023: School of Social Work sit-in in support of pro-Palestinian students and faculty;  
Protesting social work students charged under the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI)
- November 9, 2023: “Shut it Down for Palestine” national walk-out;  
“Bring Them Home Now [Hostages]” rally
- November 10, 2023: Special Committee on Campus Safety public suspension of SJP and JVP
- November 15, 2023: Faculty rally on Low steps to protest the suspension for SJP and JVP;  
“All Out for Gaza” protest off campus at 116th and Broadway gates;  
Access to campus restricted (CUID-only);  
Mandatory scanning of affiliates CUIDs to access the Morningside campus, rather than presentation of CUIDs to Public Safety officers
- December 7, 2023: The Student Governing Board (SGB) announcement of noncooperation with changes to the “Student Group Event Policy and Procedure”
- December 1, 2023: CUAD submission of proposal to the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI) advocating for divestment from Israel
- December 11, 2023: “Barnard 4 Palestine” protest on Barnard campus
- January 9, 2024: In a disciplinary meeting with CSSI, a student said: “Be grateful that I’m just not going out and murdering Zionists” and posted a video of the interaction on the internet
- January 19, 2024: “Divestment Now” rally on Low steps, at which students were sprayed with a foul-smelling substance



January 22, 2024: University announcement on “Divestment Now” rally spraying incident

February 9, 2024: Boycott, picket, and disruption of SIPA “Preventing and Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence” talk with SIPA Professor Hillary Clinton

February 12, 2024: House Committee on Education and the Workforce announcement of an investigation into Columbia University’s response to antisemitism

February 19, 2024: Interim Safe Demonstration Policy released

February 29, 2024: ACSRI rejection of CUAD’s December divestment proposal

March 4, 2024: Task Force on Antisemitism “Report #1, Columbia University’s Rules on Demonstrations” published

March 24, 2024: “Resistance 101” event held at Q-House

April 1, 2024: Visit by private investigators hired by Columbia of student residences to investigate “Resistance 101” event

April 3, 2024: Six students suspended and evicted from University Housing for alleged involvement in “Resistance 101

April 4, 2024: “All Out for Al-Shifa” protest at the Sundial;  
The University reversed two of the six suspensions related to “Resistance 101”

April 15, 2024: Letter sent by the Rules of University Conduct Committee to General Counsel requesting clarification on CSSI’s process and rules for pursuing disciplinary actions against students involved in protest and demonstration activity

April 17, 2024: First “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” launched;  
Testimony of President Shafik, Board Co-Chairs David Greenwald and Claire Shipman, and Co-Chair of the Antisemitism Task Force David Schizer before House Committee on Education & the Workforce Committee

April 18, 2024: 108 students arrested by NYPD in first “Gaza Solidarity Encampment”; second encampment immediately launched

April 19, 2024: Encampment continued; students interim suspended who participated in first encampment; negotiation parties met for the first time

April 20, 2024: Encampment continued; negotiation parties met but did not discuss protestors demands; General Studies Gala held

April 21, 2024: Encampment continued; negotiation parties met but did not discuss protestors demands; “Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC gala” sent to Administration

April 22, 2024: Encampment continued; negotiations occurred; Faculty “Rally to Support Our Students,”

April 23, 2024: Encampment continued; negotiations occurred

April 24, 2024: Encampment continued; no negotiations,  
House Speaker Mike Johnson spoke on Low Library steps, calling for President Shafik’s resignation

April 25, 2024: Encampment continued; negotiations resumed; “United for Israel” protest off-campus

April 26, 2024: Encampment continued; negotiations occurred; “Israel Current Events” chat members met with Mayor Eric Adams; Senate Resolution Addressing Current Events passed

April 27, 2024: Encampment continued

April 28, 2024: Encampment continued; negotiations ended

April 29, 2024: Encampment continued; President Shafik announced end to negotiations;

Disciplinary warnings distributed to encampment participants

April 30, 2024: Hamilton occupation occurred after midnight; NYPD Strategic Response Group arrested students and nonaffiliates in and around Hamilton Hall in the evening

May 3, 2024: NYPD announced an officer accidentally discharged his gun during Hamilton raid at a press conference

May 6, 2024: University-wide Commencement ceremonies cancelled

May 8, 2024: University Senate Resolution calling for halt in ongoing disciplinary proceedings under CSSI and transfer of cases to University Judicial Board (UJB)

May 31, 2024: “Revolt for Rafah” encampment launched;  
“Jewish Life on Campus” panel held during annual alumni weekend

June 1, 2024: “Revolt for Rafah” encampment continued

June 2, 2024: “Revolt for Rafah” encampment voluntarily disbanded

June 20, 2024: Criminal trespassing charges against 30 protestors who allegedly participated in the occupation of Hamilton Hall dropped by Manhattan DA

July 2, 2024: House Committee on Education and the Workforce published full text exchange from May 31, 2024 panel, “Jewish Life on Campus”

July 8, 2024: Provost Olinto announced three administrators involved in May 31, 2024 text exchange were permanently removed from their positions

July 19, 2024: Senate announced that the majority of disciplinary hearings for students involved in the occupation of Hamilton Hall had been transferred from CSSI to UJB

August 1, 2024: House Committee on Education and the Workforce requested disciplinary information in a public letter to the University’s senior administrators

August 8, 2024: Three administrators involved in May 31, 2024 text exchange resigned

August 14, 2024: President Shafik resigned; Katrina Armstrong appointed Interim President

August 18, 2024: First newsletter from Stand Columbia Society issued

August 19, 2024: Information about disciplinary proceedings at Columbia published by House Committee on Education and the Workforce

August 21, 2024: Further records subpoenaed by House Committee on Education and the Workforce

August 23, 2024: New guidelines to the Rules of University Conduct University Senate passed at University Senate Plenary

August 30, 2024: Task Force on Antisemitism Report #2 published

September 3, 2024: CUAD “Shut It Down” picket off campus at 116th and Broadway gates

September 4, 2024: Pro-Palestinian protestors held a sit-in on the fourth floor of SIPA building to protest Professor Hillary Clinton

October 7, 2024: “Columbia United Against Terror” protest on Low plaza; Pro-Palestinian protestors demonstrated on Low plaza; “Memory Lane” gallery installed in west side of South Lawn; CUAD posted ideological evolution on Substack

October 8, 2024: CUAD posted on Instagram apologizing to student who said “Zionists don’t deserve to live” in Spring 2024

October 31, 2024: Republican Staff Report “Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed” published

November 9, 2024: Hind’s House exhibition shown off-campus

December 18, 2024: U.S. House of Representatives Staff Report on Antisemitism published

## 7. Background on Shared Governance, Academic Freedom, and Rules of University Conduct

### **Shared Governance**

As established in its statutes, Columbia University's structure of governance was founded with the aim of engaging all constituencies in meaningful and responsible decision-making. Ideally, the University adheres to the highest standards of academic and operational integrity, while ensuring its structure of governance is dynamic, responsive and reflective of the needs of its diverse community. Here follows an outline of the central governing bodies of the University:

The **Board of Trustees** is ultimately responsible for institutional fidelity to the University's mission, integrity, and efficiency of its operations, and ongoing financial stability. The Board is responsible for overseeing and approving the University budget, allocating financial resources, and selecting and evaluating the University President. The Board works closely with the President and is governed by the University Charters and Statutes.<sup>17</sup>

The **President**, chosen and supported by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Executive Committee of the University Senate, is the **Chief Executive Officer of the Administration** and works collaboratively to manage the operations of the University and inform and implement strategy.<sup>18</sup> The **Administration** includes the **Provost, Chief Operating Officer (COO), Executive Vice Presidents, Vice Provosts** overseeing key areas, and **Deans**, who lead individual Schools.<sup>19</sup>

According to Chapter II, University Statute §23, the **University Senate** is:

*“a policy-making body which may consider all matters of University-wide concern, all matters affecting more than one Faculty or school, and all matters pertaining to the implementation and execution of agreements with other educational institutions that are now or may hereafter become affiliated with the University.”<sup>20</sup>*

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<sup>17</sup> "The Trustees of Columbia University," <https://secretary.columbia.edu/directory>.  
Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes.

"Administration: Charter and Statutes," <https://facultyhandbook.columbia.edu/content/administration>.

<sup>18</sup> Faculty Handbook, "Administration: Charter and Statutes."

<sup>19</sup> "Executive Committee," <https://president.columbia.edu/university-leadership>.

<sup>20</sup> Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes.

"Columbia | University Senate ", <https://senate.columbia.edu/>.

The **University Senate** is comprised of 111 elected Senators representing all 17 Columbia Schools, as well as affiliate institutions Barnard College, Teachers College, and Union Theological Seminary; the Senate includes members of the entire University community.<sup>21</sup> While the majority of Senators are faculty, students, administrators, research officers, administrative staff, alumni, and librarians have representation.<sup>22</sup> The President and Provost are members of the Senate to ensure continuous feedback and facilitate open dialogue between the University's governing bodies. The Senate's monthly Plenary meetings are open to the entire University community and Plenary materials, including agendas, minutes, reports, and resolutions, are freely available online, further fostering a culture of transparency and accountability.<sup>23</sup>

The Senate's eighteen committees, as well as additional *ad hoc* committees, cover all important aspects of the University including Alumni Relations, Budget, Campus Planning and Physical Development, Commission on the Status of Women, Diversity, Education, Elections, External Relations and Research Policy, Faculty and Student Affairs, Honors and Prizes, Housing, Information and Communications Technology, Libraries, Research Officers, Rules of University Conduct, and Structure and Operations. The Executive Committee sets the agenda for the University Senate. To ensure shared governance, Senate committees send representatives to meetings of the related Trustee committee.<sup>24</sup> The Senate also nominates members to other University governing bodies, including the **University Judicial Board (UJB)**, which conducts hearings and provides sanctions related to violations of the **Rules of University Conduct**; the **Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI)**, which advises the Board of Trustees on ethical and social issues relating to the University's endowment; and the **Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault (PACSA)**, which reviews the University's policies and procedures relating to gender-based misconduct.<sup>25</sup>

## **Academic Freedom**

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<sup>21</sup> "111 University Senators | 20 Schools," <https://senate.columbia.edu/content/111-university-senators-20-schools>.

"University Senators," <https://senate.columbia.edu/senators>.

<sup>22</sup> Columbia | University Senate, "University Senators."

<sup>23</sup> "Columbia | University Senate".

<sup>24</sup> "Committees," <https://senate.columbia.edu/content/committees>.

<sup>25</sup> "Rules of University Conduct Committee," <https://senate.columbia.edu/committees/rules>.

"Finance Topics | Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing," <https://www.finance.columbia.edu/content/advisory-committee-socially-responsible-investing>.

"Presidential Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault," <https://sexualrespect.columbia.edu/presidential-advisory-committee-sexual-assault>.

**Academic freedom** is the lifeblood of the modern American university. A university’s commitment to the freedoms of inquiry, research, and teaching ensures that all faculty have the right to question received wisdom, and recognizes that the university, democratic society, and humanity at large have an inherent interest in the earnest search for and promulgation of truth. These freedoms are understood to be a necessary foundation for the scholarly pursuit of knowledge and for learning.<sup>26</sup>

Columbia University enshrines academic freedom in Chapter VII of the University Statutes, “**Code of Academic Freedom and Tenure**,” declaring in §70(a) that:

*“Academic freedom implies that all officers of instruction are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subjects; that they are entitled to freedom in research and in the publication of its results; and that they may not be penalized by the University for expressions of opinion or associations in their private or civic capacity; but they should bear in mind the special obligations arising from their position in the academic community.”<sup>27</sup>*

The University Senate, which—like all other bodies and offices at Columbia University—may not contravene University Statutes, has repeatedly affirmed the academic community’s shared commitment to both academic freedom and the freedom of expression.<sup>28</sup> Most recently, the University Senate reaffirmed this fundamental value in a February 2, 2024 “**Resolution Reconfirming Our Commitment to the Principles of Academic Freedom and Shared Governance**.” The resolution defines the University Senate’s understanding of academic freedom as “*a set of rights and responsibilities governing both faculty and University leaders that protect faculty’s rights to teach, conduct and publish research, and speak and write both on campus and off,*” further noting that these activities “*are crucial to ensuring our students receive the highest quality education possible.*” Furthermore, it resolves that

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<sup>26</sup> “FAQs on Academic Freedom,” <https://www.aaup.org/programs/academic-freedom/faqs-academic-freedom>.

<sup>27</sup> Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes.

<sup>28</sup> “Resolution Concerning the Principle of Academic Freedom,” updated February 2, 2018, <https://senate.columbia.edu/news/resolution-concerning-principle-academic-freedom>.

Columbia University Senate, “February 2, 2024 Plenary.” chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/[https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US\\_Plenary%20Binder\\_20240202\\_PP.pdf](https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US_Plenary%20Binder_20240202_PP.pdf).

Columbia University Senate, “March 8, 2019 Plenary.” [https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202018-19/University%20Senate\\_Plenary%20Binder\\_20190308-PP.pdf](https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202018-19/University%20Senate_Plenary%20Binder_20190308-PP.pdf).

*“[t]he University Senate, as the representative body of all University constituencies and the statutory policy-making body of the University concerning matters of academic freedom as provided by in the University Statutes §23(c), has an historic and vital role to play in convening and fostering further discussion, articulation, and/or ratification of principles around academic freedom and the rights and responsibilities that obtain to it.”<sup>29</sup>*

That 2024 resolution reinforces another Senate Resolution from 2018, “**Concerning the Principle of Academic Freedom**,” which highlights the importance of academic freedom at the University to society more generally. It asserts that “*All members of the Columbia community . . . have the freedom to disagree with conventional wisdom, with one another and with official policies whether institutional, local, national or global.*” The Resolution also emphasizes the essential value of academic freedom to the health and mission of the university: “*It is this freedom that empowers each of us to continue to question, experiment, explore and even be wrong — undertakings that support and perhaps even define the academic mission of Columbia University.*”<sup>30</sup>

Most scholars make a distinction between academic freedom and the **freedom of expression** that we associate with American democratic values more generally.<sup>31</sup> However, in the records of the University Senate, the two are often linked and addressed as interrelated. §440 of the University Statutes, the “**Affirmative Statement**,” commits the University to protecting freedom of expression in ways that are content-neutral, minimally restrictive, and prioritize “*protect[ing] the rights of free speech, free press, and academic freedom.*”<sup>32</sup> The University Senate reaffirmed these principles in a March 3, 2018 “**Resolution in Support of Freedom of Expression on Campus**,” underscoring the importance of free speech within the classroom and across the campus:

*“WHEREAS, we, as representatives of the University community, are concerned about the strengthening forces outside and inside the University advocating restrictions on freedom of*

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<sup>29</sup> Columbia University Senate, “February 2, 2024 Plenary.”

<sup>30</sup> Columbia | University Senate, “Resolution Concerning the Principle of Academic Freedom.”

<sup>31</sup> AAUP: American Association for University Professors, “FAQs on Academic Freedom.”

Robert C. Post and Jordi Pujol, “A conversation on academic freedom and freedom of expression at the university,” *Church, Communication and Culture* 9, no. 2 (November 4, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1080/23753234.2024.2396405>.

<sup>32</sup> Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes.

“Rules of University Conduct,” updated September 29, 2019, <https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/rules-university-conduct>.

*expression; we seek to protect and strengthen the University's reputation for addressing divisive issues in a principled way, in an environment that nurtures research and intellectual discourse; and we support the principles that enable the University to achieve its full purpose — the freedom to think, teach, listen, speak, speak out, learn, and prepare for global citizenship.”*

This resolution further affirmed that “*the First Amendment principles protecting and interpreting (as well as limiting) the rights of speech, assembly, and protest that govern the public sphere and public universities also apply, presumptively, in this University to similar activities.*”<sup>33</sup>

### **Rules of University Conduct**

The **Rules of University Conduct** are set out in Chapter XLIV of the University Statutes and establish a framework for the regulation of public expression on campus. The Rules also provide information on event management, a list of violations, the rights of respondents, and an explanation of the disciplinary process.

**The Rules Committee** of the University Senate “shall have jurisdiction to review and recommend revision of rules of University conduct, as well as the means of enforcing those rules.” According to the University Senate By-Laws (Sec.4.k.viii.), “the Committee shall, to the extent appropriate, incorporate its proposals in the form of amendments to the University Statutes and shall submit the same to the University Senate as a whole, to become effective upon adoption by the Senate with the concurrence of the Trustees.”<sup>34</sup> The Rules Committee of the University Senate is also responsible for issuing **Guidelines to the Rules**.<sup>35</sup>

The Rules and Statutes are foundational to the legitimacy of Columbia’s shared governance. During contentious times, the University can rely on these procedures to help ensure transparency. When there is uncertainty about the University’s policies and questions about their development and implementation, adherence to procedures reaffirms trust in our governing structures.

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<sup>33</sup> Columbia University Senate, "March 8, 2019 Plenary."

<sup>34</sup> University Policies, "Rules of University Conduct."

Columbia | University Senate, "Rules of University Conduct Committee."

<sup>35</sup> "The Guidelines to the Rules of University Conduct," updated August 23, 2024, <https://senate.columbia.edu/content/guidelines-rules-university-conduct>.

The first statute in the chapter on the Rules, “§440. **Affirmative Statement**,” states that the Rules “ensure that all members of the community may engage in Columbia’s cherished traditions of free expression and open debate. . . . To be true to these principles, the University cannot and will not rule any subject or form of expression out of order, on the ground that it is objectionable, offensive, immoral, or untrue.”<sup>36</sup>

According to the Rules: any regulation of public expression on campus must be content-neutral, narrowly construed, and limited either to the reasonable regulation of the time, place, and manner of public expression, or designed to restrict genuine threats of harassment, unjustifiable invasions of privacy, or the false definition of a specific individual.<sup>37</sup>

**Student discipline regarding protests is governed by the University Statutes.** §443 describes violations and §445 details the administrative and judicial personnel involved in the process. **The Rules Administrator** is responsible for investigating complaints, filing charges, and presenting evidence to the **University Judicial Board (UJB)**. The UJB, composed of faculty, students, and non-instructional officers, is charged to determine responsibility for misconduct, as well as sanctions. The UJB is appointed by the Executive Committee of the University Senate. The **Appeals Board** is populated by Deans of Columbia Schools and is responsible for hearing appeals from decisions or sanctions decided by the UJB.<sup>38</sup>

§446 addresses **the rights of respondents** and stating that the Rules are designed to provide “accessible, prompt, and fair methods of investigation and resolution of incidents of misconduct.” “§447. **Pre-hearing Procedures/Investigation**,” describes the procedures the Rules Administrator follows in notifying the respondent of an allegation against them and conducting an investigation. The Rules Administrator may seek an informal resolution of the case with the respondent. If those efforts are unsuccessful, the disciplinary process will continue. If a charge is filed and a respondent accepts responsibility, sanctions will be decided by the chair of the UJB in consultation with the rest of the Board. If the respondent declines responsibility or chooses not to respond, the matter will proceed to the hearing stage.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes. University Policies, "Rules of University Conduct."

<sup>37</sup> Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes. University Policies, "Rules of University Conduct."

<sup>38</sup> Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes. University Policies, "Rules of University Conduct."

<sup>39</sup> Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes.



In sum, the Rules are designed to support public expression on campus and provide a mechanism for investigation and resolution of incidents if misconduct in relation to protests occurs. The Rules apply University-wide, provide for one system that governs the disciplinary process for protests, and are designed to provide protections of due process. Additionally, the Rules separate the Rules Administrator's functions of *investigating* and *charging* from the UJB's functions of *determining responsibility* and *sanctioning*, and from the function of *appellate review*, which is handled by the Appeals Board and the President. These provisions allow for a process that is transparent, uniform, and consistent in application.

## 8. Historical Background

The events of 2023-2024 on Columbia's campus unfolded within a historical narrative that spans six decades, tracing the contours of student activism and institutional response. From earlier divestment campaigns and calls for racial justice to struggles for academic freedom in the face of external interference, this history not only contextualizes recent developments but also underscores the enduring challenges of balancing principled action with the university's commitments to autonomy, equity, and intellectual rigor. These complexities, deeply interwoven with the university's past, remain central to the discourse surrounding the 2023-2024 protests and their broader implications.

### Building Occupations, Political Protest, and Accusations of Antisemitism

In May 1968, in the immediate aftermath of student-led protests against the university's involvement in the Vietnam War and its plans to build a private gymnasium in public space Morningside Park and the ensuing police violence, an ad hoc Executive Committee of the Faculty co-chaired by future Columbia president Michael Sovern requested that the University administration commission an independent fact-finding report. The following semester, the five-person committee convened under the leadership of Harvard University law professor Archibald Cox published its conclusions.<sup>40</sup>

Since that time, Columbia has maintained a tradition of student-led political protest. Prior to its occupation by pro-Palestinian protesters on the night of April 30, 2024, Hamilton Hall, on the University's Morningside Heights campus, had been occupied or blockaded by student-led protests at least nine times.<sup>41</sup> Only once before, however, were building operations entirely halted. This occurred during the protests of April 1968.

The string of disruptions involving Hamilton Hall continued when, in May 1972, anti-Vietnam War protesters occupied the building as part of a week-long action that also included the occupation of Lewisohn, Kent, and Pupin, interrupting classes and other academic activities. Access to campus was ID-

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<sup>40</sup> *Crisis at Columbia: Report of the Fact-Finding Commission Appointed to Investigate the Disturbances at Columbia University in April and May 1968*, (New York: Vintage Books, 1968). On the 1968 protests at Columbia, see Robert A. McCaughey, *Stand, Columbia: A History of Columbia University in the City of New York, 1754-2004* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003).

<sup>41</sup> Kim Van Duzer, "You Say You Want a Revolution," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 26, 1996.

only. The protest ended when helmeted security guards broke through barricades in the tunnel between Hamilton and Kent, as student protesters fled unharmed through the building's front doors.<sup>42</sup>

Other Hamilton Hall occupations were less disruptive. In 1996, for example, hunger-striking students who occupied the building to demand that Columbia create an Ethnic Studies department allowed classes to continue and reduced their chants to whispers during working hours.<sup>43</sup> A decade earlier, in April 1985, anti-apartheid protesters demanding that Columbia divest from companies with holdings in South Africa blockaded the steps of Hamilton for over twenty days. The 1985 protest, which also included a hunger strike, was peaceful and no arrests were made.<sup>44</sup> The building remained open throughout, with access by tunnel through Kent Hall.<sup>45</sup>

Columbia is known for a longstanding faculty activism on the “question of Palestine” rooted in Professor of English and Comparative Literature Edward Said’s academic work. For his outspoken advocacy of the Palestinian cause, Said received frequent death threats. His office, which was vandalized more than once, was equipped by the administration with a buzzer that could summon campus security directly and – in a reminder of what academic freedom sometimes requires – his windows were of bullet-proof glass.<sup>46</sup> For most of the period considered here, however, opposition to pro-Palestinian activism such as Said’s did not include explicit charges of antisemitism. When controversy arose, accusations focused instead on what pro-Israel activists considered political bias. To be sure, antisemitism persisted on the Columbia campus throughout this period, and documented incidents are worthy of a separate account.<sup>47</sup> But by the century’s end most such accusations related to clashes between Black and Jewish militancy.

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<sup>42</sup> Richard Briffault, "University Guards Retake Hamilton," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 2 1972.

<sup>43</sup> Van Duzer, "You Say You Want a Revolution."

<sup>44</sup> J.J. Lee, Traci Mosser, and Micko Okamoto, "Students Uphold Columbia's Activist Legacy," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 28, 1993. This article misdescribes the arrest of protestors, which occurred in midtown.

<sup>45</sup> Dean Pride, "Is It 1968 Again on the Steps of Hamilton Hall?," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 16, 1985.

<sup>46</sup> Timothy Brennan, *Places of Mind: A Life of Edward Said* (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2021). Said described the vandalism of his office in Jim Naughton, "The Emerging Voices of the Palestinians," *Washington Post*, June 6, 1988, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1988/06/07/the-emerging-voices-of-the-palestinians/4a240ee7-349f-413c-9b02-a1561e6ad047/>.

<sup>47</sup> In 1987, the Rutgers geographer Neil Smith even speculated in the *Spectator* that one reason, when the University moved uptown around 1900, the Columbia administration had preferred the newer name “Morningside Heights” to the more historically common “Harlem Heights,” was that a substantial portion of Harlem’s population at the time was Jewish. The issue had hardly vanished by the time Smith spoke. Twice in the spring of 1980, for example, a swastika was drawn on a blackboard at Teacher’s College; and in the fall of 1986, swastikas were found drawn on a door in the Barnard College dorms. Notably, however, the context for Smith’s remarks was a proposal made by the Concerned Black Students Coalition to change the name of the neighborhood in which the University was located back to Harlem Heights, in recognition now of the area’s Black inhabitants.

Anita Josefa Barzman, "Letter to the Editor," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 14, 1980.

Melissa Rivkin, "Letter to the Editor," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 23, 1986.

Scott Susin, "Harlem Heights Name Change Is Not Racist," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 10, 1987.

In a speech given in March 1986 in support of Pan-African socialism, for example, Kwame Ture (formerly Stokely Carmichael) angrily condemned international Zionism, drawing protests from the student-led Council of Jewish Organizations.<sup>48</sup> In response, Mordechai Levy, the leader of the New York-based Jewish Defense Organization (JDO) contracted with the University to speak in Earl Hall. The discovery of administrative irregularities resulted in the cancellation of the planned speech. Student groups boycotted a follow-up forum, and, on another occasion, University rules again led to Levy being denied permission to speak.<sup>49</sup> Levy claimed discrimination but not outright antisemitism.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Jewish student organizations, along with others inside and outside the University community including Levy, periodically accused public figures who were invited to speak on campus by the Black Students Organization of antisemitism, some of whom, like Ture, were associated with Black Muslim militancy.<sup>50</sup> However, another critically important context for these tensions was the clashes between Black and Jewish residents of Crown Heights, Brooklyn in 1991, in which longstanding racial (rather than religious or ideological) conflict came to a head.<sup>51</sup>

Frequently too, the University Rules of Conduct have been invoked to govern political conflict on campus related to such tensions. In early April 1988, the Executive Committee of the University Senate resolved to amend these rules to impose more severe penalties on the deliberate disruption of university functions. The change was prompted by two related events. Earlier that semester, a speech about the first Palestinian uprising (Intifada) by Israeli Judge Advocate General Amnon Straschnow at Columbia Law School was cancelled due to interruption by pro-Palestinian protesters. In response to which Levy, handing out pamphlets in the Barnard College kosher dining room, “threatened” according to the

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<sup>48</sup> Irene Tucker and Spectator Staff, "Kwame Ture Blasts Zionism in Speech," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 6, 1986.

<sup>49</sup> University administrators concluded that the contract had been obtained inappropriately. Shortly thereafter, the Columbia-Barnard Debate Council agreed to include Levy in a planned forum; two student groups who had also been invited to participate, the Black Students Organization and the Arab Club, threatened to withdraw, and the forum was cancelled. That fall, Levy and the JDO again requested space for an event in Ferris Booth Hall. Lacking an on-campus sponsor, the request was refused.

On the Earl Hall contract: Stephen West, "Jewish Militant Denied CU Space for Speech," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 4, 1986.

On the debate invitation: Asha Badrinath, "Debate Club Sponsors JDO Leader's Speech," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 10, 1986.

On the cancellation, Asha Badrinath and Jennifer Lynch, "Debate Group Cancels Forum with JDO Head," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 14, 1986.

<sup>50</sup> The speakers in question included Khallid Mohammed (Khalid Abdul Muhammed), Lisa Williamson (Sister Souljah), and Public Enemy rapper Richard Griffen (Professor Griff). In August 1991 Lemrick Nelson, a Black Trinidadian man was accused of stabbing to death Yankel Rosenbaum, a Jewish graduate student, during street fights that broke out in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, following the accidental killing of Gavin Cato, a young Guyanese boy, by an automobile that belonged to the motorcade of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Alan M. Freeman, "Crown Heights Verdict an Outrage," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 4, 1992.

<sup>51</sup> Notably, a February 1993 conference, titled "Anti-Semitism on Campus, conflated the two contexts. Headlined by Anti-Defamation League Director Abraham Foxman, speakers at the conference criticized New York Mayor David Dinkins's handling of the Brooklyn killings, as well as the decision by the BSO to invite Nation of Islam representative Khalid Muhammed to speak on campus the previous fall. Dinkins, scheduled to speak, was unable to attend due to the emergency response to the bombing of the World Trade Center several days earlier.

Bill Torrey, "Conference Addresses Anti-Semitism " *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 1, 1993.

*Spectator*, “violent retaliation to any future disruption.”<sup>52</sup> That fall, over the objections of a considerable number of students and faculty, the University Senate responded by changing the rules, increasing the sanctions for such disruptions, which also included sustained blockades of buildings, to a level that could result in suspension.<sup>53</sup>

By 2000, pro-Palestinian speech, now more frequently equated by its opponents with antisemitism, had become the subject of debates on defensible speech. On July 3, 2000, Professor Said was photographed throwing a symbolic stone from southern Lebanon across a contested zone toward the Israeli border. His action provoked international outrage. Anti-Defamation League Director Abraham Foxman, wrote to Columbia President George Rupp that Said’s act warranted University “censure.”<sup>54</sup> Two months later, Provost Jonathan Cole published a five-page letter addressed to the Columbia College Student Council defending Said’s free exercise of political speech. Cole cited the University’s Code of Academic Freedom and Tenure, protecting “expressions of opinion and association,” to claim that Said’s critics were attempting to place “restraints on the views of our faculty.”<sup>55</sup>

### The University Senate

The University’s Code of Academic Freedom and Tenure was passed in 1972 as a University Senate resolution and subsequently incorporated into (section 23 of) the University Charters and Statutes. The Statutes describe the Senate, which was established in 1969 at the suggestion of the Executive Committee of the Faculty led by Sobern, as a branch of shared government.<sup>56</sup> As instituted, however, the Senate’s statutory authority required concurrence from the Board of Trustees. Speaking on behalf of the Executive Committee, sociology professor Immanuel Wallerstein did not see the requirement as reducing the Senate’s legislative powers. These, Wallerstein suggested, would “inevitably grow as it proves successful

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<sup>52</sup> Joshua C. Gillette, "Senate Resolves to Amend Univ. Conduct Rules," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 29, 1988. The *Spectator* also cited the blockade of Hamilton Hall by anti-apartheid protestors three years prior as a possible motivation for the policy change.

On the cancellation of the speech, see Erika Henrik, "Arab and Israeli Tension Erupts at Speech in Law," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 5, 1988.

<sup>53</sup> Robert Hardt Jr., "CU Rules Changed," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 1, 1988. Rules changes had been proposed prior to the Straschnow incident. Rules changes had been proposed prior to the Straschnow incident.

Joshua C. Gillette and Jenny Bower, "1,000 Students and Profs Sign Petition against New Rules," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 25, 1988.

<sup>54</sup> Karen W. Arenson, "Columbia Debates a Professor’s Gesture," *New York Times*, October 19, 2000, <https://www.nytimes.com/2000/10/19/nyregion/columbia-debates-a-professor-s-gesture.html>.

<sup>55</sup> Jonathan Cole, "On the Matter of Edward Said," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 20, 2000. On the stone-throwing incident, see Brennan, *Places of Mind: A Life of Edward Said*.

<sup>56</sup> "Charters and Statutes: Columbia University in the City of New York, Edition of April 6, 1959, with Amendments as of May 2024; Section 23." [https://secretary.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/University%20Charter\\_Statutes\\_May2024.pdf](https://secretary.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/University%20Charter_Statutes_May2024.pdf).

and commands support.” At which point the “real powers” of the Senate, he argued, would prove greater than the merely “legal powers” of the Trustees.<sup>57</sup>

“Real powers” inevitably wax and wane. In the early fall of 1969, for example, the Senate passed a resolution condemning the war in Vietnam and demanding the withdrawal of US troops. The resolution authorized members of the Columbia community to participate in an upcoming anti-war walkout “without penalty or prejudice.” Because President Andrew Cordier did not endorse the measure, the University officially remained open during the one-day “Moratorium for Peace.” Nevertheless, protected from sanction by the Senate resolution, thousands of students and faculty left their classrooms to rally in Low Plaza and march to Bryant Park.<sup>58</sup>

Not long thereafter, in 1972, the Senate enacted the Code of Academic Freedom and Tenure in the University Statutes, which both affirmed academic freedom as a right of faculty and specified details of the tenure process. To date, accepted by the Board of Trustees, this Code is regarded as one of the Senate’s most significant achievements.<sup>59</sup>

Five years later, in 1977, Board chair Arthur Krim asked the Senate to review the University’s South African holdings. The Board of Trustees approved the Senate recommendation to divest from South African banks and began doing so. During the spring of 1983, the Senate passed a new resolution calling for total divestiture, which the Board rejected. In May 1984 the Trustees, under mounting public pressure, passed a temporary freeze on such investments. One year later, in April 1985, the anti-apartheid blockade of Hamilton Hall increased that pressure. That fall, the Trustees voted in near-unanimity to begin full divestment. An encampment of student “shanties” on College Walk the following spring maintained the

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<sup>57</sup> "Wallerstein Defends Senate Plan," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 26, 1969.

This differed from an earlier proposal, in which “Acts of the Senate would be final unless vetoed or overruled by the Board of Trustees within thirty days of their enactment.”

Paul Starr, "Powers of University-wide Body Reduced from Those Proposed in Original Plan," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 17, 1969.

On the size and make-up of the Senate, see McCaughey, *Stand, Columbia: A History of Columbia University in the City of New York, 1754-2004*.

<sup>58</sup> Michael Gerrard and Ruth Hochberger, "University Senate Approves Anti-War Resolution," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 29, 1969.

See also: "Cordier Says Vietnam Vote Does Not Commit University," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 6, 1969.;

"Early Statement by Cordier Leads to Protest Rally," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 7, 1969.;

"Thousands Participate in Anti-War Moratorium," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 16, 1969.

<sup>59</sup> John Brecher, "New Tenure Code Adopted at Friday Meeting," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 14, 1972.

On discontent, and defense of the Senate, see for example

Kenneth Lehn and Sally Guttmacher, "The Noble Experiment," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 28, 1971.

"Boycott," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 22, 1971.

John Brecher, "Senate is Lauded As Cohesive Force in 2-Year Report," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 20, 1971..

pressure, and at that year's graduation ceremonies, President Sovern announced that South African divestment was proceeding ahead of schedule.<sup>60</sup>

In October 2001, amid concern over the intensity of political debate following the attack on the World Trade Center September 11, 2001, and the censuring of faculty at other institutions, the Senate passed a resolution declaring the University "dedicated to the free expression of ideas and open debate as well as the respect for diversity of opinions and beliefs."<sup>61</sup> This principle would be tested, when in a comment at a faculty teach-in to protest the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003, an assistant professor expressed their wish for U.S. defeat in "a million Mogadishus." President Bollinger condemned the remarks, which were covered widely by the press. Faculty organizers did the same, while recognizing the protections offered by the University's academic freedom policies.<sup>62</sup> In 2004, after a reported 20,000 emails and a letter denouncing the comments signed by 143 members of the US House of Representatives, Bollinger formed an ad hoc faculty advisory committee chaired by law professor Vincent Blasi to examine the issue of academic freedom on campus.<sup>63</sup> The Blasi committee's findings were never made public.

### The Ad Hoc Grievance Committee and Columbia Unbecoming

Events that followed prompted the establishment of the Ad Hoc Grievance Committee by Vice President of Arts and Sciences Nicholas Dirks, to investigate University policy for handling student complaints against faculty on politically sensitive matters. Its formal report defined its guiding "norms and principles" in accord with the 1972 Senate Code and the 1915/1940 "Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure" by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).<sup>64</sup>

The immediate occasion for the formation of the Grievance Committee was the 2004 release of a videographic film, *Columbia Unbecoming*. The film was produced by the David Project, a Boston-based group working with Columbians for Academic Freedom, a student group, to air student objections to teaching on contemporary Israeli and Palestinian history, with a focus on specific faculty in the Department of Middle Eastern and Latin American Cultures (MEALAC, now MESAAS). According to

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<sup>60</sup> "A History of Divestment at CU," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 9, 1985.

McCaughey, *Stand, Columbia: A History of Columbia University in the City of New York, 1754-2004*.

<sup>61</sup> Ben Casselman, "University Senate Affirms Free Speech," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 29, 2001.

<sup>62</sup> Margaret Hunt Graham, "The Genova Teach-in Comments Spark Fury," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 31, 2003.

Megan Greenwell, "Bollinger: No Plan to Reprimand De Genova," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 10 2003.

<sup>63</sup> Kathy Gilsonan, "Academic Bias Subject of Debate," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 3, 2004.

<sup>64</sup> Ira Katznelson et al., *Ad Hoc Grievance Committee Report*, Columbia University (March 28, 2005).

students interviewed in the film, several MEALAC faculty had in different pedagogical contexts criticized Israeli state policies and practices in a manner that some found offensive. In the version posted on YouTube none of the nine students who spoke on camera made direct accusations of antisemitism. Instead, the film emphasized what the students perceived as political bias and, in certain specific instances, intimidation.<sup>65</sup>

The Grievance Committee considered formal complaints brought against faculty named in the film. It found no serious violations of University policies and “no evidence of any statements made by the faculty that could be construed as antisemitic.”<sup>66</sup> To its administrative recommendations, the Committee appended the following: “In general, what we believe is most needed at the point are not further formal rules or regulations to codify behavior or sanction specific categories of action so much as the reassertion of certain norms. We need to reaffirm that sense of collective responsibility which is vital for the well-being of every community of scholars, and to nurture the mutual respect required to sustain us in our common quest for the promotion of learning and the advancement of knowledge.”<sup>67</sup>

In addition to direct intervention by outside actors, civil rights laws were called upon by powerful political interests outside Columbia to quash political and cultural dissent on campus. A series of articles and editorials on the “crisis at Columbia” appeared in *The New York Sun*. On one front page, it reported that Representative Anthony Weiner, a Democrat representing Brooklyn and Queens, had written to the University administration demanding that Columbia “fire” a non-tenured professor of Arab politics. When Columbia refused to comply, the editors noted that such a refusal would “not only invite intervention by the federal authorities,” but also would “bring market pressures to bear.” This then followed with an invitation to Columbia students concerned with the matter to “turn to those responsible for enforcing federal civil rights laws.”<sup>68</sup>

During this same period, the pro-Israel activist Daniel Pipes launched “Campus Watch.” Associated with the Middle East Forum, its project was to monitor “Middle East Studies on campus” and to document anti-Israel bias.<sup>69</sup> The 2005 Grievance Committee specifically cited the organization’s “watch-list” in their

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<sup>65</sup> "Columbia Unbecoming," 2004, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLzFegav40U>.

<sup>66</sup> Katznelson et al., *Ad Hoc Grievance Committee Report*.

<sup>67</sup> Katznelson et al., *Ad Hoc Grievance Committee Report*.

<sup>68</sup> Jacob Gershman, "Rep. Weiner Asks Columbia to Fire Anti-Israel Prof," *New York Sun*, October 22, 2003.

"The Bollinger Whitewash," *New York Sun*, November 19, 2004.

"The Bollinger Committee," *New York Sun*, December 10 2004.

<sup>69</sup> (<https://web.archive.org/web/20021219115230/http://www.campus-watch.org/survey.php/id/16>). The project remains active, publishing nationwide lists of “Professors to Avoid” for their political views on Israel, including (as of this writing) eight Columbia faculty.



report, while also noting, in the classes in question, the disruptive presence of auditors from outside the Columbia community.<sup>70</sup>

### Divestment Petitions, ACSRI, and 2023-2024 Protests

Calls for the University to divest from companies doing business with Israel also came to the fore during this period. In fall 2002, approximately 500 students and faculty signed a petition calling for divestment from Israel; a counter-petition opposing the measure garnered significantly more support.<sup>71</sup> President Lee Bollinger publicly opposed the proposal, declaring the comparison that the petition made of Israel with apartheid-era South Africa “grotesque and offensive.” He did not, however, join other college and university presidents in their signed advertisement in the *New York Times* condemning threats made against Jewish students on campus, given, in his view, the failure to include similar threats to Arab and Muslim students.<sup>72</sup>

During the 2010s, calls for divestment from private prisons and from fossil fuels met during the 2010s with mixed responses within the University administration.<sup>73</sup> It was in this context that, in spring 2016, a student group called Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) submitted a petition to the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI), which had been formed in 2000, calling for divestment from companies doing business with the state of Israel. That summer, forty faculty signed a petition in support of the proposal, which was eventually rejected.<sup>74</sup>

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"Professors to Avoid," <https://www.meforum.org/campus-watch/campus-resources/professors-to-avoid>.

<sup>70</sup> This included one incident when “someone began filming in one of Professor Saliba’s classes and left after being challenged.” Citing student testimony, the report added that “a small group of unregistered auditors attended Professor Massad’s lectures.” Katznelson et al., *Ad Hoc Grievance Committee Report*.

<sup>71</sup> That same fall, the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing took up the Israeli divestment issue and rejected the proposal the next spring. Sara Sebro, "The Divestment Duel," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 8, 2002.

<sup>72</sup> Rachel Scarborough King, "Petition to Divest Defeated," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 14, 2003.

On the New York Times advertisement, see Tom Bartlett, "More Than 300 College Presidents Sign Statement Condemning Anti-Semitism," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 8 2002, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/more-than-300-college-presidents-sign-statement-condemning-anti-semitism/>. The comparison with apartheid was regularly made by South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and is cited in Sebro, "The Divestment Duel."

<sup>73</sup> Danielle Smith and Annie Bryan, "ACSRI Recommends Columbia Divest from private Prison Industry," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 2, 2015. More recently, see "University Announcement on Fossil Fuel Investments," (Columbia News: Announcements, January 22, 2021). <https://news.columbia.edu/news/university-announcement-fossil-fuel-investments>.

<sup>74</sup> Bwog Staff, "BREAKING: Columbia University Apartheid Divest launches BDS Campaign," *Bwog*, February 1 2016,

<https://bwog.com/2016/02/breaking-coalition-forms-to-call-for-divestment-in-palestine/>.

Columbia University Apartheid Divest, "Bold, Beautiful, BDS: The Moral Case for Saying 'Yes' to Divest," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 13 2018, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2018/04/13/bold-beautiful-bds-the-moral-case-for-saying-yes-to-divest/>.

## 9. Conclusions

The history of Columbia University provides the key to understanding the unprecedented nature of the events that took place on campus from 2023 to 2024. Until now, the integrity of the *universitas*, a centuries-old, self-governing academic community, has survived, despite uneven or reluctant defense and other divisive political conflicts. Not once in the five-and-a-half decades from 1968 to 2024 were pressures so great, and the integrity of the University so weakened, that the University Administration called close to six hundred heavily armed police officers onto campus to quell an unarmed student protest. Previously, the University Administration chose to resolve protests peacefully, and the disciplinary actions taken against those involved were predictable and, some might say, relatively lenient. Throughout, Columbia's institutions of shared governance, preeminently the University Senate, played a significant role in mediating conflict and establishing transparent Rules of Conduct.

The primary purpose of this report is to understand how instability was introduced into the daily life of the University and what can be done to set things right. It would be wrong to assume that the origins of the crisis lie exclusively in October 2023. But before the work of repair can be accomplished, we must reckon with the immediate past, understanding the events in the context of their underlying causes and conditions.

To begin to parse through this past, one might ask: Why were the existing mechanisms for dealing with a crisis on campus ineffective? Did the University Senate, a deliberative body, move more slowly than the circumstances demanded or was restraint what was needed? Did the fault lie with inadequate rules, dated policies, and insufficient decision-making mechanisms, or did it stem from inappropriate implementation and disregard for well-established rules? Did institutional actors exceed their authority and powers, or did they neglect to use their legitimate authority to protect those who warranted it? How did external pressures alter the management of the crisis?

A significant limitation of this report is the refusal of senior administrators, with the exception of former President Minouche Shafik, to be interviewed to clarify and explain their often unusual and sometimes extraordinary actions: broad suspension of students without proper due process; calling the NYPD onto campus twice to arrest students; and the surveillance of students and faculty. Senior administrators who may have been involved in these actions include former Senior Executive Vice President Gerald Rosberg,

General Counsel Felice Rosan, Chief of Staff to the President Susan Glancy, Chief Operating Officer Cas Holloway, former Executive Vice President for Public Affairs Shailagh Murray, and former Interim Provost and Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Advancement Dennis Mitchell.

This conclusion section, in conjunction with our chronology of events, attempts to provide initial answers. For each of the significant findings listed, the writers of this report have provided dates in the footnotes that provide supporting evidence for each claim. The details of the events and actions on these referenced dates can be found in Section 10 (Chronology of Events).

### Significant Findings:

1. In the immediate aftermath of the October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel, the Columbia community was in turmoil. Members of our community experienced great fear, pain, and anger. These feelings were exacerbated by the fact that some at Columbia did not denounce the attacks and expressed support for the Palestinian people, heightening feelings of distress within Columbia’s Jewish community while they were in shock and mourning the events of October 7th. These wounds cut deep, and despite the evolution of the conflict have never healed. Additionally, media narratives surrounding antisemitic incidents contributed to an escalation of public distrust and anxiety.<sup>75</sup>
2. In response to the unfolding international crisis, affiliates turned to campus as an outlet for actions and events, some of which caused tremendous tension between groups in the Columbia community. The conflicting concerns and perspectives resulted in considerable divisions among students and faculty. Additionally, the efforts to control the situation on campus, including the implementation of new policy, resulted in an evolving distrust between Administration and the students and faculty.<sup>76</sup>
3. There were minimal efforts from the University Administration, including the University Senate, to unite the community and foster open discussion and mutual respect, particularly in the

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<sup>75</sup> See October 7, 2023, October 8, 2023, October 9, 2023, October 10, 2023, October 11, 2023, October 12, 2023, October 13, 2023, October 15, 2023, October 17, 2023, October 18, 2023, October 19, 2023, October 20, 2023, October 21, 2023, October 23, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 26, 2023, October 27, 2023, October 30, 2023, October 31, 2023, November 1, 2023, November 9, 2023

<sup>76</sup> See October 8, 2023, October 9, 2023, October 10, 2023, October 11, 2023, October 12, 2023, October 13, 2023, October 14, 2023, October 15, 2023, October 16, 2023, October 17, 2023, October 18, 2023, October 19, 2023, October 20, 2023, October 21, 2023, October 22, 2023, October 23, 2023, October 24, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 26, 2023, October 27, 2023, October 28, 2023, October 30, 2023, October 31, 2023, November 1, 2023, November 2, 2023, November 7, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 9, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 12, 2023, November 13, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 16, 2023, November 17, 2023, November 19, 2023, November 20, 2023, November 29, 2023, November 30, 2023, December 1, 2023, December 2, 2023, December 5, 2023, December 7, 2023, December 8, 2023, December 9, 2023, December 10, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 14, 2023, December 15, 2023, December 20, 2023, December 21, 2023, December 26, 2023, December 28, 2023, January 2024, January 8, 2024, January 10, 2024, January 16, 2024, January 19, 2024

immediate aftermath of October 7. This lack of engagement is unfortunate, as an academic institution is uniquely positioned to address contentious political issues with compassion, sensitivity, and intellectual rigor.<sup>77</sup>

4. “The Special Committee on Campus Safety,” formed by the Columbia Administration on October 7, 2023, made important decisions without consulting the community at large, including students, faculty, and the University Senate. The committee met daily in Fall 2023 initially as a response to what was perceived as potentially violent protests and evolving into measures to preempt conflict on campus. Despite not consulting internal partners, the committee did consult with external entities, including holding frequent meetings with a former Vice President for Government Relations, Advocacy, and Community Engagement for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)/member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.<sup>78</sup>
5. Decisions were increasingly made by a small group of administrators aligned around the idea that Pro-Palestinian students and supporters were prone to violence. Eventually, decision-making at the highest levels narrowed. This led to a reliance on immediate discipline, without any meaningful dialogue between the Administration and protesting students, and tactics involving the use of private investigators, widespread surveillance, and general misuse of disciplinary processes.<sup>79</sup>
6. There is ongoing disagreement within the Columbia community regarding the definition of antisemitism. In particular, there is contention over whether criticism of Israel constitutes antisemitism and whether criticism of a nation constitutes hate speech. Additionally, some considered protest slogans such as “from the river to the sea” and “intifada” antisemitic. There is a range of opinion within Columbia’s Jewish community on the definition of antisemitism. Moving forward, it is essential for our academic community to engage in discussions, specifically with experts on antisemitism, to reach a consensus on this issue.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>77</sup> See October 10, 2023, October 18, 2023, October 23, 2023, December 20, 2023, April 26, 2024, May 14, 2024, September 8, 2024, October 7, 2024

<sup>78</sup> See October 7, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 16, 2023, November 17, 2023, November 30, 2023, December 8, 2023, December 14, 2023, December 21, 2023, December 26, 2023, February 13, 2024, July 1, 2024

<sup>79</sup> See October 7, 2023, October 24, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 16, 2024, November 17, 2023, November 30, 2024, December 2, 2023, December 8, 2023, December 14, 2023, December 21, 2023, December 26, 2023, January 2024, February 13, 2024, March 13, 2024, March 24, 2024, March 26, 2024, March 28, 2024, April 1, 2024, April 2, 2024, April 3, 2024, April 4, 2024, April 5, 2024, April 10, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 8, 2024, May 12, 2024, May 15, 2024, June 2024, July 1, 2024, August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024, October 10, 2024

<sup>80</sup> See October 12, 2023, October 26, 2023, November 1, 2023, November 15, 2023, December 7, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 13, 2023, December 20, 2023, January 16, 2024, January 23, 2024, January 24, 2024, February 17, 2024, March 1, 2024, March 4, 2024, March 9, 2024, March 10, 2024, March 21, 2024, April 1, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 30, 2024, June 1, 2024, June 2, 2024, June 13, 2024, July 19, 2024, August 29, 2024, August 30, 2024, September 4, 2024, September 14, 2024, September 16, 2024, September 17, 2024, September 18, 2024, September 20, 2024, October 7, 2024, December 9, 2024, December 13, 2024

7. The Administration announced the creation of the Task Force on Antisemitism on November 1, 2023 and later appointed its members. The Task Force received criticism for not defining “antisemitism” until August 2024. The lack of definition of the Task Force’s subject in Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024 contributed to frustration and confusion in the community, particularly regarding First Amendment rights on Columbia’s campus. Some of the Task Force’s suggestions in Spring 2024 and Fall 2024 were adopted by the Administration.<sup>81</sup>
8. The University Administration made minimal effort to engage with Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian students, even as many were negatively impacted by the events in Gaza. President Shafik never met with Palestinian students, although the University Administration held a number of meetings with pro-Israeli groups on campus. As time went on and the situation in Gaza worsened, the Administration’s unwillingness to meet with Palestinian students undermined its statements that all students would be treated equally. Students and faculty groups also requested President Shafik form an Islamophobia Task Force, but this never occurred. There has been no update, announcement, or attempt to create any entities on campus to solicit feedback or address discrimination against Arab, Muslim, or Palestinian students and faculty during the 2023-2024 school year, nor has there been any since the 2024-2025 school year began.<sup>82</sup>
9. Doxxing of students and faculty (particularly those supporting Palestine, but also of those that advocated for students’ right to protest and their right to due process) has been rampant. As a result of doxxing, University affiliates have received death and rape threats, along with a barrage of aggressive harassment on the internet. A doxxing truck, sponsored by the group Accuracy in Media (AIM), circled Columbia’s campus starting in Fall 2023. Students expressed concerns that the photos displayed on the doxxing trucks were from Columbia records and feared that Columbia had provided this information to AIM. AIM did use CampusGroups, a public online platform used by

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<sup>81</sup> See November 1, 2023, November 15, 2023, December 13, 2023, February 2024, February 17, 2024, February 28, 2024, March 1, 2024, March 4, 2024, March 21, 2024, April 1, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 21, 2024, May 31, 2024, June 11, 2024, July 2024, August 14, 2024, August 30, 2024, September 5, 2024, September 15, 2024, September 17, 2024, September 20, 2024, October 4, 2024, October 31, 2024

<sup>82</sup> See October 9, 2023, October 10, 2023, October 12, 2023, October 13, 2023, October 16, 2023, October 17, 2023, October 18, 2023, October 19, 2023, October 23, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 27, 2023, October 28, 2023, October 30, 2023, October 31, 2023, November 1, 2023, November 4, 2023, November 13, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 17, 2023, November 20, 2023, January 20, 2024, January 23, 2024, February 8, 2024, February 13, 2024, March 4, 2024, March 27, 2024, March 26, 2024, March 28, 2024, April 1, 2024, April 8, 2024, April 10, 2024, April 12, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 6, 2024, May 14, 2024, May 20, 2024, June 2, 2024, July 5, 2024, July 8, 2024, August 11, 2024, August 12, 2024, August 14, 2024, August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024, August 19, 2024, August 20, 2024, August 29, 2024, August 30, 2024, September 3, 2024, September 12, 2024, September 23, 2024, September 28, 2024, October 3, 2024, October 24, 2024, December 13, 2024

the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) as a centralized hub for its student groups and activities, to obtain students' information.<sup>83</sup>

10. A key turning point in Fall 2023 was when President Shafik was apparently advised to change the University Event Policy, specifically modifying time, place, and manner restrictions, without any notification or announcement to other administrators, staff, faculty, and most importantly, students. The community learned of this unilateral policy change after *Columbia Spectator* examined earlier versions of the Columbia website. Had the Administration adhered to established processes and procedures, this policy revision would have been reviewed by the University Senate's Rules Committee. The Special Committee on Campus Safety used this policy as the basis for the suspension of the student groups, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP) on November 10, 2023. Starting in Fall 2023, the University's lack of transparency and disregard for democratic processes and shared governance undermined confidence in the Administration and further fractured the campus. Even after the University altered the revised Event Policy in Spring 2024, in an attempt at transparency after public community outrage, it was difficult for students and faculty to trust the rules and procedures governing events moving forward because the disciplinary processes were unclear. Trust had been broken.<sup>84</sup>
11. Beginning in Fall 2023, student groups were unsure of the specific requirements of University policy related to events, including protests and vigils, because changes to policy were not publicized. The unilateral implementation of new restrictions on events without communication of the changes to the community resulted in profound disillusionment with the Administration. Some community members thought that these changes were a means to trap students into facing disciplinary charges for protesting, particularly given the manner by which these policy changes were implemented.<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> See October 12, 2023, October 24, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 26, 2023, October 27, 2023, October 28, 2023, October 30, 2023, October 31, 2023, November 1, 2023, November 2, 2023, November 13, 2023, November 17, 2023, December 13, 2023, December 21, 2023, January 16, 2024, January 30, 2024, February 7, 2024, February 13, 2024, April 7, 2024, April 9, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 29, 2024, May 6, 2024, May 11, 2024, June 1, 2024, June 27, 2024, July 2024, July 8, 2024, July 19, 2024, August 15, 2024, August 16, 2024, August 19, 2024, August 22, 2024, August 23, 2024, August 25, 2024, August 28, 2024, September 3, 2024, September 6, 2024, September 8, 2024, September 10, 2024, September 11, 2024, October 2024, October 1, 2024, November 22, 2024, December 12, 2024, December 16, 2024

<sup>84</sup> See October 24, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 31, 2023, November 2, 2023, November 7, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 9, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 12, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 17, 2023, November 30, 2023, December 2, 2023, December 5, 2023, December 8, 2023, December 14, 2023, December 15, 2023, December 21, 2023, December 26, 2023, December 28, 2023, February 23, 2024, March 7, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 26, 2024, May 4, 2024, May 7, 2024

<sup>85</sup> See October 10, 2023, October 12, 2023, October 14, 2023, October 16, 2023, October 17, 2023, October 18, 2023, October 19, 2023, October 20, 2023, October 23, 2024, October 24, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 30, 2023, October 31, 2023, November 1, 2023, November 2, 2023, November 7, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 9, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 12, 2023, November 13, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 17, 2023, November 20, 2023, November 30, 2023, December 2, 2023, December 5, 2023, December 7, 2023, December 8, 2023, December 10, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 14, 2023, December 15, 2023, December 20, 2023, December 21, 2023, December 26, 2023, December 28, 2023, January 2024, January 8, 2024, January 10, 2024, January 19, 2024, January 22, 2024, January 24, 2024, January 25, 2024, January 30, 2024, February 5, 2024, February 8, 2024, February 9, 2024, February 13, 2024, February 19, 2024, February 21, 2024, February 22, 2024, February 23, 2024, February 24, 2024, March 4, 2024, March

12. The Administration suspended the groups Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) in Fall 2023 in ways departing from long-established self-governance mechanisms. The decision was based on these groups violating the new University Event Policy, created opaquely and without consultation of the University Senate. As a result, some viewed the suspensions as lacking legitimacy. Importantly, in his statement announcing the suspension of these groups on November 10, 2023, Senior Executive Vice President and Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety Gerald Rosberg stated that the groups used “threatening rhetoric and intimidation,” which he later retracted in a University Senate Plenary on November 17, 2023. Following the suspensions, incidents of doxxing directed at student members of these groups increased, particularly as media coverage of Columbia intensified.<sup>86</sup>
13. Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, the University Administration deviated from the standard disciplinary process governing student protests and denied students’ due process. Despite potential violations of the Rules of University Conduct occurring at demonstrations in the Fall of 2023, the Administration did not refer these cases to the University Judicial Board (UJB), which has overseen protest-related discipline since Columbia’s 1968 protests and is enshrined in the University Statutes. Instead, the Administration disciplined student protestors through the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI), where they were not permitted legal representation or advisement and where charges were heard by a panel consisting solely of members of the Administration. The Administration’s subversion of process, particularly regarding student disciplinary matters, broke the community’s trust. The University Senate was unaware until Spring 2024 that a new system was being utilized to discipline protesting students. While the Rules Committee of the University Senate reviews the Rules of University Conduct, implementation, including bringing charges, rests solely in the hands of the Administration. Of note, the University Administration had not brought charges under the Rules of University Conduct before the UJB since 2018 and resolved other protest charges with informal resolutions.<sup>87</sup>

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7, 2024, March 13, 2024, March 18, 2024, April 3, 2024, April 4, 2024, April 5, 2024, April 10, 2024, April 15, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 26, 2024, May 7, 2024

<sup>86</sup> See October 24, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 30, 2023, October 31, 2023, November 2, 2023, November 7, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 9, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 12, 2023, November 13, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 17, 2023, November 20, 2023, November 30, 2023, December 2, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 15, 2023, December 20, 2023, December 21, 2023, December 26, 2023, January 8, 2023, January 10, 2024, January 16, 2024, January 23, 2024, February 5, 2024, March 13, 2024, April 7, 2024, April 9, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 7, 2024, August 19, 2024, November 6, 2024

<sup>87</sup> See October 24, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 12, 2023, November 17, 2023, December 8, 2023, December 20, 2023, January 2024, January 19, 2024, January 21, 2024, January 22, 2024, February 9, 2024, February 13, 2024, February 19, 2024, February 21, 2024, February 22, 2024, February 23, 2024, March 4, 2024, March 24, 2024, April 1, 2024, April 5, 2024, April 10, 2024, April 15, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 4, 2024, May 5, 2024, May 6, 2024, May 7, 2024, May 8, 2024, May 16, 2024, May 23, 2024, May 25, 2024, May 27, 2024, May 29, 2024, June 2024, June 3, 2024, June 5, 2024, June 7,

14. Discipline was outsourced and private investigators were hired and given detailed information about students, including their addresses and personal cell phone numbers. Students were coerced into complying with interrogations without due process, under the threat of severe consequences. Investigators also reportedly requested access to students' private text messages. In some cases, students were immediately suspended simply for not cooperating with the investigation. Some suspended students lost access to housing, work study jobs, and on-campus dining. On more than one occasion, the University mistakenly suspended students who were out of the state or country and did not attend an event or play any role in organizing or publicizing it.<sup>88</sup>
15. Since Fall 2023, the Administration has maintained heightened levels of surveillance and access restrictions, contributing to continuing frustration, anxiety, disenchantment and distrust. The university's swift and expansive adoption of surveillance technologies has raised serious concerns about its lack of transparency and potential overreach. Regular campus access remains limited to CUID holders only, a rare occurrence in Columbia's history.<sup>89</sup>
16. The Administration's decision, against the advice of the University Senate Executive Committee, to bring the New York Police Department (NYPD) to campus to arrest the 108 protestors who launched the first "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" caused significant backlash from the campus community, alumni community, and the world.<sup>90</sup>
17. In the aftermath of the arrest of protestors in the first "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" and as a result of the backlash against the Administration, the University negotiated with protestors in the second encampment, attempting to end the encampment without further NYPD intervention. Major efforts were made by the University to address student concerns through the negotiation

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<sup>88</sup> See November 17, 2023, March 24, 2024, March 26, 2024, March 28, 2024, April 1, 2024, April 2, 2024, April 3, 2024, April 4, 2024, April 5, 2024, April 6, 2024, April 10, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 7, 2024, May 8, 2024, May 18, 2024, May 20, 2024, May 27, 2024, May 31, 2024, June 2024, June 7, 2024, June 26, 2024, August 10, 2024, August 29, 2024, September 9, 2024, October 3, 2024, October 11, 2024, December 30, 2024

<sup>89</sup> See October 11, 2023, October 12, 2023, October 13, 2023, October 14, 2023, October 15, 2023, October 16, 2023, October 24, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 26, 2023, October 30, 2023, November 9, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 22, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 12, 2023, January 2024, January 19, 2024, January 24, 2024, February 1, 2024, February 2, 2024, February 5, 2024, February 6, 2024, March 18, 2024, April 1, 2024, April 14, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 4, 2024, May 7, 2024, May 8, 2024, May 9, 2024, May 17, 2024, June 1, 2024, June 5, 2024, June 14, 2024, June 17, 2024, July 2024, July 8, 2024, July 10, 2024, July 11, 2024, July 19, 2024, July 31, 2024, August 12, 2024, August 17, 2024, August 25, 2024, September 3, 2024, September 6, 2024, September 12, 2024, September 20, 2024, September 24, 2024, September 27, 2024, October 6, 2024, October 7, 2024, November 21, 2024, December 9, 2024

<sup>90</sup> See April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 4, 2024, May 7, 2024, May 8, 2024, May 9, 2024, May 10, 2024, May 12, 2024, May 16, 2024, May 30, 2024, August 14, 2024, August 16, 2024, August 17, 2024, September 17, 2024, September 26, 2024, October 2, 2024, October 3, 2024, October 10, 2024, October 11, 2024



process, but encampment negotiators were not satisfied with going through institutional processes and wanted immediate action on some demands, thereby bypassing proper procedures. The negotiating parties were therefore unable to come to an agreement. The negotiations were in good faith. However, certain actions by the University – including the suspension of a student negotiator and continual following and surveillance of negotiating parties – contributed to a pervasive atmosphere of mistrust.<sup>91</sup>

18. Negotiations took place with the University and protesters in the context of shifting and unclear deadlines and the constant threat that the police or the National Guard would be brought onto campus. Additionally, surveillance of the negotiators and University Senate observers influenced and placed undue stress on the process. There was an insurmountable level of distrust between the student protestors and the University.<sup>92</sup>
19. Despite misperceptions, divestment from Israel was never seriously discussed during negotiations. The vast majority of the discussions regarding divestment focused on companies that manufacture weapons and companies that are complicit in violating international law. Negotiations fell apart as the student negotiators wanted a guarantee that the Columbia University Trustees would honor the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI)'s review and decision on their proposals, as Trustees held the ultimate veto power over divestment decisions. The Administration insisted that all divestment decisions had to go through the ACSRI process and no guarantees could be made prior to an ACSRI review of a proposal, but an expedition of the months-long process was offered during negotiations.<sup>93</sup>
20. Restricted press access to the campus significantly hindered accurate and holistic reporting from external news organizations, leading to misinterpretations of campus events. The Administration restricted press entry to campus beginning on April 18, 2024. Media coverage of the protests often blended events on campus with those occurring off campus leading to the erroneous attribution of violent and antisemitic statements by external actors, beyond the campus gates, to Columbia student protestors. The actions of affiliates were also often distorted by the press. Both external

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<sup>91</sup> See April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024

<sup>92</sup> See April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024

<sup>93</sup> See April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024

news outlets and the Administration were imprecise in reporting on events and failed to clarify mistakes and misinformation. Media narratives contributed to tension and divisions on campus.<sup>94</sup>

21. Throughout the second encampment, the activity on campus was frenetic. There were numerous protests and counterprotests, multiple public officials visiting inside and outside the campus several times a day, and a flurry of letters and statements commenting on the activities of the Columbia students and Administration. The student movement grew across the country and world, further motivating students in Columbia's encampment. Near the middle of the week, student protestors also began to get messages directly from Palestinian civilians in Gaza livestreaming humanitarian situations from refugee camps, with written messages saying "Thank you, Columbia." Negotiations became more difficult as student protestors were empowered by the outside support. A steady hand by University leadership, patience in waiting for external actors to turn their attention elsewhere, might have allowed for more focused discussions.<sup>95</sup>
22. On April 30, 2024, Hamilton Hall was occupied by a breakaway group of protestors. Less than 24 hours after the occupation began, the Administration planned to call the NYPD to campus for a second time to arrest protestors. The Hamilton group contacted encampment negotiators to request that they be allowed to leave without police involvement. However, by the time the students within Hamilton had communicated they wanted to end their occupation, the police had already arrived on campus. While the students' request was shared with the Administration, those occupying Hamilton were not provided with an opportunity to leave. Subsequently, the NYPD riot police raided the building, contributing to significant destruction, including the accidental discharge of a gun. The use of more than 600 police to remove approximately 46 students and non-affiliates from Hamilton Hall was excessive.<sup>96</sup>
23. The Administration's campus access restrictions the day of the Hamilton Hall occupation impacted media coverage, medical services, and legal observers. Student journalists not already on campus and most external media were prevented from entering. Although University Senators attempted to facilitate the entry of Certified EMTs, first-aid "helpers," and legal observers, these groups were also prohibited from accessing campus. When NYPD arrived on campus, student journalists reporting on campus events were threatened with arrest. The almost complete closure of campus

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<sup>94</sup> See April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 4, 2024, June 13, 2024

<sup>95</sup> See April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024

<sup>96</sup> See April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 7, 2024

limited the ability of journalists to obtain accurate information regarding the arrests and final days of protest and prevented student's health and safety needs from being met. Media were also not allowed on campus for several days after the Hamilton raid.<sup>97</sup>

24. Protesting students are not a monolith. Protest groups at Columbia have evolved and fractured over the course of Spring, Summer, and Fall 2024. For example, Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) has evolved ideologically over this period, resulting in disagreement about ideology and tactics between protestors and the founding of the Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition (CPSC) in Fall 2024. Additionally, the individuals that occupied Hamilton were a distinct group that emerged from the larger protest movement and intentionally broke away from those in the encampment. These groups are not static, and their membership and leadership has not remained fixed; understanding critical context is essential to any analysis of the past year(s). It is not precise or fair to hold all protesting students responsible for all the actions that occurred, even if they are in support of them, and critical of disciplinary procedures.<sup>98</sup>
25. Prominent individuals and organizations pressured the University to end the encampments and occupation of Hamilton with force. These included: government officials, business leaders, politicians, social media figures, international and national organizations, and special interest groups. For example, as reported in *The Washington Post*, high-profile donors and business leaders pressured Mayor Eric Adams and Columbia's Board of Trustees to forcefully end the protests on campus. The lobbying of these external groups raises concerns about undue outside influence on the internal decision-making processes within Columbia.<sup>99</sup>
26. Columbia has been under intense political pressure – and remains under this pressure – to impose harsh and immediate discipline on students involved in protests. External pressures were immense during the April encampment and Hamilton occupation. Outside influences both responded and contributed to the intensity of activity and turmoil on campus during that time.<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> See April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 4, 2024

<sup>98</sup> See April 30, 2024, October 3, 2024, October 7, 2024, October 8, 2024, October 9, 2024, October 14, 2024, October 17, 2024, October 19, 2024, October 24, 2024, October 30, 2024, October 31, 2024

<sup>99</sup> See October 12, 2023, October 16, 2023, October 27, 2023, November 10, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 29, 2024, May 16, 2024, May 20, 2024

<sup>100</sup> See October 17, 2023, October 18, 2023, October 19, 2023, October 24, 2023, October 26, 2023, October 31, 2024, November 8, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 15, 2023, December 5, 2023, December 7, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 13, 2023, December 22, 2023, December 28, 2023, January 4, 2024, January 7, 2024, January 28, 2024, February 12, 2024, February 18, 2024, February 29, 2024, March 11, 2024, March 24, 2024, April 10, 2024, April 15, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 4, 2024, May 6, 2024, May 7, 2024, May 10, 2024, May 14, 2024, May 16, 2024, May 29, 2024, June 3, 2024, June 12, 2024, June 13, 2024, June 27, 2024, June 28, 2024, July 2024, July 2, 2024, July 8, 2024, July 9, 2024, July 12, 2024, July 19, 2024, July 25, 2024, July 26, 2024, August 1, 2024, August 8, 2024, August 14, 2024, August 19, 2024, August 21, 2024, August 22, 2024, August 29, 2024, September 3, 2024, September 5, 2024, September 16, 2024, September 18, 2024, October 2024, October 2, 2024, October 11, 2024, October 14, 2024, October 15, 2024,

27. Politicians also demanded that faculty be punished or removed from their positions due to involvement in protests or political opinions that they expressed. During the April 17, 2024 Congressional hearing, “Columbia in Crisis: Columbia University’s Response to Antisemitism,” Columbia Administration publicly disclosed confidential and identifiable information about faculty and potential disciplinary investigations. This resulted in faculty outrage and criticism of the president’s breach of confidentiality, heightening concerns over academic freedom and fueling wider protests and intense media scrutiny.<sup>101</sup>
28. While the Administration has continued to limit physical campus access for outside groups, external groups continue to exert pressure and influence on the life of the University through media coverage, congressional pressure, donor calls, et cetera.<sup>102</sup>
29. There has been an increase in attacks on the University Senate. External groups have lobbied against Columbia’s governance structure, advocating for increased centralization and a more powerful executive authority, with few constraints and no oversight. These have increased following Senators’ advocacy for respecting due process in student discipline matters and calls for the transfer of protest-related discipline cases from the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI) to the University Judicial Board (UJB) in Spring 2024. Columbia students and faculty have been doxxed and harassed, especially those Senators serving on the Rules Committee, sometimes by fellow members of the Columbia community. As a result, the ability of many to speak up in University Senate plenaries without fear has diminished significantly, stifling free speech within our very own community.<sup>103</sup>

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October 23, 2024, October 25, 2024, October 28, 2024, October 30, 2024, October 31, 2024, November 1, 2024, December 12, 2024, December 13, 2024, December 18, 2024

<sup>101</sup> See October 8, 2023, October 11, 2023, October 13, 2023, October 15, 2023, October 18, 2023, October 19, 2023, October 26, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 12, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 30, 2023, December 5, 2023, December 7, 2023, December 22, 2023, December 28, 2023, January 4, 2024, January 7, 2024, January 25, 2024, February 2024, February 2, 2024, February 18, 2024, March 8, 2024, March 11, 2024, March 19, 2024, April 9, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 6, 2024, May 17, 2024, June 2024, June 3, 2024, June 12, 2024, June 13, 2024, July 2024, July 9, 2024, July 12, 2024, August 21, 2024, August 26, 2024, August 29, 2024, September 10, 2024, October 16, 2024, October 30, 2024, October 31, 2024, November 1, 2024, December 17, 2024, December 18, 2024

<sup>102</sup> See October 11, 2023, October 12, 2023, October 13, 2023, October 14, 2023, October 15, 2023, October 16, 2023, October 24, 2023, October 25, 2023, October 31, 2023, November 9, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 15, 2023, December 11, 2023, December 13, 2023, January 24, 2024, February 1, 2024, February 2, 2024, February 5, 2024, February 6, 2024, March 18, 2024, March 24, 2024, April 10, 2024, April 14, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 28, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 4, 2024, May 7, 2024, May 8, 2024, May 9, 2024, June 1, 2024, June 3, 2024, June 13, 2024, June 14, 2024, June 17, 2024, July 2024, July 2, 2024, July 8, 2024, July 10, 2024, July 11, 2024, July 19, 2024, July 31, 2024, August 1, 2024, August 8, 2024, August 11, 2024, August 12, 2024, August 17, 2024, August 18, 2024, August 19, 2024, August 21, 2024, August 22, 2024, August 25, 2024, September 3, 2024, September 6, 2024, September 18, 2024, September 20, 2024, September 24, 2024, September 27, 2024, October 2024, October 2, 2024, October 6, 2024, October 7, 2024, October 11, 2024, October 30, 2024, November 1, 2024, December 9, 2024, December 12, 2024, December 13, 2024

<sup>103</sup> April 15, 2024, April 26, 2024, May 8, 2024, May 11, 2024, July 19, 2024, August 15, 2024, August 16, 2024, August 18, 2024, August 19, 2024, August 22, 2024, August 23, 2024, August 25, 2024, August 28, 2024, August 30, 2024, September 8, 2024, September 10, 2024, September 20, 2024, October 1, 2024, October 4, 2024, October 10, 2024, October 11, 2024, October 15, 2024, October 25, 2024, October 28, 2024, October 31, 2024, November 1, 2024, November 8, 2024, November 10, 2024, November 22, 2024, December 6, 2024, December 13, 2024, December 18, 2024

30. Since the outbreak of campus tensions in Fall 2023, several outside (formal and informal) political groups have maintained a considerable and sustained interest in campus climate and University functions, giving total or disproportionate focus to Columbia administration, faculty, and students, as well as the governance and disciplinary functions of the University in an apparent effort to exert control over governance decisions.<sup>104</sup>
31. The University created a new office to address Title VI violations in Summer 2024: The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE). The University's establishment of OIE emerged from a context of unclear Title VI violation standards and threatened federal funding. There are substantial concerns over OIE's investigative methods, for example, the requirement that students under investigation sign a restrictive non-disclosure agreement (NDA) before accessing case materials or speaking with investigators. Many questions remain surrounding this office and there is a continued lack of clarity regarding what constitutes a Title VI violation.<sup>105</sup>
32. The Office of Communications and Public Affairs has been criticized for the frequency, content, and tone of their communications. Concerns arose about potential bias in the University's media coverage, with some questioning the comprehensiveness and objectivity of the reporting. This was seen as an attempt to control the narrative and minimize the perceived impact of the protests on the University's reputation. Many students were concerned that the Administration was not using communication to relay information, but rather to create a narrative and appease external actors.<sup>106</sup>
33. Comments made by University Trustees have raised concerns about the boundaries of their involvement in student and faculty affairs, especially regarding public statements and tenure decisions. These comments risk undermining the tenure process and hold the grave potential of harming faculty morale and the institution's reputation. The October 2024 House of

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<sup>104</sup> See October 24, 2023, December 13, 2023, April 24, 2024, April 29, 2024, June 3, 2024, June 13, 2024, July 2024, July 2, 2024, July 8, 2024, July 19, 2024, August 1, 2024, August 8, 2024, August 18, 2024, August 19, 2024, August 21, 2024, August 22, 2024, August 23, 2024, August 30, 2024, September 3, 2024, September 18, 2024, September 20, 2024, October 2024, October 2, 2024, October 4, 2024, October 11, 2024, October 25, 2024, October 31, 2024, November 1, 2024, November 8, 2024, November 10, 2024, November 22, 2024, December 6, 2024, December 12, 2024, December 13, 2024, December 18, 2024

<sup>105</sup> See November 7, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 16, 2023, February 2024, February 12, 2024, February 28, 2024, March 4, 2024, April 15, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 29, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 7, 2024, June 5, 2024, June 17, 2024, August 23, 2024, August 25, 2024, August 28, 2024, August 30, 2024, September 6, 2024, September 18, 2024, September 23, 2024, October 8, 2024, October 9, 2024, October 11, 2024, October 19, 2024, October 24, 2024, October 31, 2024, November 2024, November 1, 2024, November 10, 2024, November 21, 2024, December 2024, December 16, 2024, December 18, 2024

<sup>106</sup> See October 19, 2023, October 20, 2023, November 8, 2023, November 10, 2023, November 15, 2023, November 17, 2023, November 22, 2023, November 30, 2023, January 19, 2024, January 21, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 19, 2024, April 20, 2024, April 21, 2024, April 22, 2024, April 23, 2024, April 24, 2024, April 25, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 27, 2024, April 29, 2024, April 30, 2024, May 1, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 3, 2024, May 4, 2024, June 2, 2024, November 1, 2024

Representatives “Republican Staff Report” further suggests that University Trustees were closely involved in decision-making related to student discipline.<sup>107</sup>

34. Trustees are responsible for the broad governance of the University and have fiduciary duties to uphold its mission and oversee strategic decisions. Their authority includes appointing key officers and setting major policies, but it does not extend to daily academic decisions or public commentary on individual faculty performance. The Charter of Columbia College delineates these boundaries, ensuring that Trustees operate within a framework that supports the institution’s objectives while respecting academic freedom and the professional judgments of faculty and administrators. Best practices from governance bodies, such as the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, emphasize the importance of trustees fostering an environment of academic freedom and deferring to faculty and administrative expertise in personnel matters. Given the considerable influence and authority that trustees hold in the universities’ governance, it is vital to reassess and clarify the limits and scope of their authority in order to prevent overreach.<sup>108</sup>
35. While many individuals outside of the University have pointed to weak shared governance as the problem and the need for more swift, unilateral executive decisions from senior Administration and/or Trustees, most of the major flashpoint conflicts that have arisen on campus have been the direct result of overreach from these same entities, often in a disproportionate or biased manner. These issues are unlikely to be solved through further consolidation of power.<sup>109</sup>
36. At key moments of transition over the past 18 months, discussions in the University Senate have emphasized the fundamental need to rebuild community. We now call on our leaders to safeguard our institution’s values, maintain the integrity of its governance, and uphold the rights of students and faculty, renewing our commitment to the highest standards of academic life.<sup>110</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> See February 5, 2024, March 24, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 24, 2024, May 2, 2024, May 11, 2024, May 16, 2024, May 18, 2024, May 29, 2024, October 31, 2024, November 19, 2024

<sup>108</sup> April 17, 2024, May 7, 2024, May 18, 2024, May 29, 2024, November 19, 2024

<sup>109</sup> October 24, 2023, November 10, 2023, April 15, 2024, April 17, 2024, April 18, 2024, April 26, 2024, April 29, 2024, May 8, 2024

<sup>110</sup> April 26, 2024

## 10. Chronology of Events (October 2023 to December 2024)

The report's timeline covers October 7, 2023 to December 31, 2024. It follows from world-political events beginning in Israel and three days after Dr. Nemat "Minouche" Shafik was inaugurated as the twentieth president of Columbia University.<sup>111</sup> It concludes with the end of fall semester 2024. The focus is on events on Columbia's campus. Specific student names are omitted.

### Events in the Wake of October 7, 2023 Attacks

#### **October 7, 2023:**

- Dean of Barnard College Leslie Grinage and Barnard's Vice President for Inclusion and Engaged Learning and Chief Diversity Officer Jennifer Rosales emailed students, sharing information about counseling and mental health services offered to students at Barnard: "We are writing because many in our community have been affected by the violence and loss of life that took place in Israel this morning. . . We offer our heartfelt thoughts and support to those of you who have been directly or indirectly impacted by today's tragic events and the ongoing suffering in the region."<sup>112</sup>
- The Special Committee on Campus Safety formed and began meeting daily throughout the fall semester. The University community was not made aware of the formation of this committee, its' purpose, or its' membership. The first public mention of this committee was the suspension of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) on November 10, 2023. The committee was led by then Senior Executive Vice President (SEVP) Gerald Rosberg and included representatives from Public Safety, University Life, Communications, and the Offices of the President, Provost, and General Counsel. It did not include students or faculty, making it insular to members of administration. The names of the members of the Special Committee on Campus Safety were announced during the December 8, 2023 Plenary: Senior Executive Vice President Gerry Rosberg, the chair, David Greenberg, Executive Vice President for University Facilities and Operations; Shailagh Murray, Executive Vice President for Public Affairs; Felice Rosan, General Counsel; Jessica Fenton, Associate General Counsel; Dennis Mitchell, Interim Provost, Joseph Defraime Greenwell, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, and Susan Glancy, Chief of Staff to President Shafik.<sup>113</sup>

#### **October 8, 2023:**

- At 8:06 PM Brian Cohen, Lavine Family Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life Columbia/Barnard Hillel emailed parents of students "Update from Columbia/Barnard Hillel," assuring them of Columbia/Barnard Hillel's support and efforts to ensure students' health and safety: "We are reeling from the horrific events of the past 48 hours, and like the rest of our Jewish family around the world, we are feeling sad, concerned, and angry. Our commitment to Jewish Peoplehood and our love for Israel are unwavering, and we are acutely aware of the ways in which so many in our community are connected to - and grieving for - their family and other loved ones in Israel. Our top priority since Saturday morning has been singular: to ensure students' health and safety, whether physically, psychologically, or emotionally. Upon hearing the news, our staff met at the Kraft Center on Saturday morning. The building was filled with hundreds of students celebrating Shabbat and Shemini Atzeret. Some had heard what was happening in Israel, but many did not yet hear the news. We notified all the students and created a plan to support our students. Below you will find what our team has done, and will continue to do, to support our students on campus. Please be in touch any time if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do. . . 1) We adjusted our security procedures as we have previously done in high risk situations. We were also in touch with the University's Public Safety office and the NYPD's 26th Precinct, both of which parked cars and

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<sup>111</sup> Esha Karam, Isabella Ramirez, and Sarah Huddleston, "Shafik inaugurated as 20th University president in ceremony that draws hundreds of protestors" *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 4, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/04/shafik-inaugurated-as-20th-university-president-in-ceremony-that-draws-hundreds-of-protestors/>.

<sup>112</sup> Shea Vance, "Rosenbury issues statement extending 'deepest condolences' to Barnard community amid 'ongoing violence' in Israel and Gaza," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 10, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/10/rosenbury-issues-statement-extending-deepest-condolences-to-barnard-community-amid-ongoing-violence-in-israel-and-gaza/>.

<sup>113</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Chris Mendell, "Columbia suspends SJP and JVP following 'unauthorized' Thursday walkout," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 10, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/10/columbia-suspends-sjp-and-jvp-following-unauthorized-thursday-walkout/>. Sarah Huddleston, "Columbia updated its event policy webpages. Seventeen days later, it suspended SJP and JVP.," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/17/columbia-updated-its-event-policy-webpages-seventeen-days-later-it-suspended-sjp-and-jvp/>.

officers outside the Kraft Center. 2) Israeli news was broadcast on the 2nd floor all day and night for those who wanted to watch. Food, drinks, and comfort were provided to all of the students. 3) At 4 PM on Saturday we gathered as a community to help students process what was happening and to support them with whatever they needed. Rabbi Drizin and his family from the Chabad House joined us. In the midst of deep sorrow, we also made space to celebrate as Shemini Atzeret ended and Simchat Torah began. Hundreds of students filled the Kraft Center on Saturday night to dance with the Torah. Through tears and hugs, students grappled with balancing the joy of the holiday with the deep pain and fear they were feeling. 4) We are in touch with many of the University administrators to ensure that they understand the gravity of the situation and what will likely happen in the days and weeks ahead. We have many Israeli students on campus, including those who are being called up for reserve duty. Many other students have family and loved ones in Israel, including those serving in the IDF. 5) We are providing pastoral support to students as well as working with Columbia Psychological Services to provide care for students who need it. As the situation continues to unfold in the days and weeks to come, we will continue to provide support to our students. More communal gatherings will be planned. As always, our top priority is the wellbeing of our students. Our team will continue to check in individually with each Jewish student on campus and offer our support. Again, if there is anything we can do for Ilana, please let me know and we will make sure to be in touch as soon as possible".<sup>114</sup>

- Professor Joseph Massad published "Just another battle or the Palestinian war of liberation?" in *Electronic Intifada*. In the article, Massad described Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7 as a "resistance offensive" to "Israeli settler-colonialism and racism toward the Palestinians." In the article Massad's choice of words "astounding," "astounding," and "awesome" in the article were reported in the media and were a source of later controversy.<sup>115</sup>
  - "What can motorized paragliders do in the face of one of the most formidable militaries in the world? Apparently much in the hands of an innovative Palestinian resistance, which early on Saturday morning launched a surprise attack on Israel by air, land and sea. Indeed as stunning videos show, these paragliders have become the air force of the Palestinian resistance. Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, the major offensive led by Hamas on 7 October, was not expected by anyone. It came in retaliation for the ongoing Israeli pogroms in the West Bank town of Huwwara and Jerusalem, especially by settlers storming al-Aqsa mosque during the Jewish High Holy Days over the last month, not to mention the ongoing siege against Gaza itself for more than a decade and a half.
  - The consensus of many Arab media commentators is that the resistance has effectively obliterated the myth of Israeli military might and the undeserved reputation of its intelligence apparatus, whose failures – judging from the shocking success of the Palestinian offensive – are staggering. No less astonishing was the Palestinian resistance's takeover of several Israeli settler-colonies near the Gaza boundary and even as far away as 22 kms, as in the case of Ofakim. Perhaps the major achievement of the resistance in the temporary takeover of these settler-colonies is the death blow to any confidence that Israeli colonists had in their military and its ability to protect them."
  - "The sight of the Palestinian resistance fighters storming Israeli checkpoints separating Gaza from Israel was astounding, not only to the Israelis but especially to the Palestinian and Arab peoples who came out across the region to march in support of the Palestinians in their battle against their cruel colonizers. Indeed, Jordanian security blocked Jordanians who marched to the Israeli border from advancing. No less awesome were the scenes witnessed by millions of jubilant Arabs who spent the day watching the news, of Palestinian fighters from Gaza breaking through Israel's prison fence or gliding over it by air. The resistance's remarkable takeover of Israeli military bases and checkpoints, where even the resistance fighters marveled at the rows of abandoned Israeli tanks and armored vehicles, upon which they placed their banners, has both shaken Israeli society and struck Palestinians and Arabs as incredible."
- General Studies Dean Lisa Rosen-Metsch sent an email to students: "I watched the terrible deadly terrorist acts of this weekend in Israel with great sadness, knowing how directly this impacts our GS community and the many students, alumni, family members, and friends from and in Israel. My heart and thoughts are with you; we are here to support you however possible. . . I have been hearing from several GS students who have been directly affected by the events in Israel this weekend, including some students who are reservists in the IDF. Your advisors and GS Wellbeing team are here to work with you and with the faculty and our administration to support you."<sup>116</sup>

<sup>114</sup> Brian Cohen, October 8, 2023.

Minouche Shafik, "Message of Concern for Our Community," (Office of the President: Announcements, October 9, 2023).

<sup>115</sup> Joseph Massad, "Just another battle or the Palestinian war of liberation?," *The Electronic Intifada*, October 8, 2023.

<sup>116</sup> Lisa Rosen-Metsch, "Regarding the attacks in Israel," (October 8, 2023).



## October 9, 2023:

- President Shafik issued a statement expressing her devastation “by the horrific attack on Israel and the ensuing violence that is affecting so many people” and noted that “we must reject forces that seek to pull as apart.”<sup>117</sup>
- Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) published an open letter addressed to administrators that asserted solidarity with “Palestinian resistance” and said Columbia “actively normalizes Israeli apartheid and subjugation of Palestinians.”<sup>118</sup>
  - The open letter condemned Barnard Dean Grinage’s statement following the October 7 attacks for its failure to mention “Palestinian suffering” and School of General Studies Dean Lisa Rosen-Metsch’s statement, which the organization wrote “exclusively sympathized with Israeli soldiers” and refused to acknowledge Palestinian casualties, as well as the historical context of the conflict.
  - The letter also called on President Shafik to “divest from Israeli apartheid,” end the dual degree-program with Tel Aviv University, cancel the opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center, and to “verbally [acknowledge] Palestinian existence and humanity.”
  - The letter also condemned former University President Lee Bollinger for overturning a student referendum for Columbia to divest from Israeli companies that “profit off of the construction of illegal settlements on Palestinian land.”
- Twenty Palestinian solidarity groups released a joint statement urging Columbia to “end its ties with” what they characterized as “apartheid Israel.”<sup>119</sup>
  - “As we mourn the loss of lives, let us come together as a Columbia community and fervently advocate for the universal human right to live in peace and seek justice.”
  - The student groups wrote that “there can be no future of safety and freedom for all Israelis and Palestinians without holding” Israel “accountable for its actions.
  - The joint statement specifically condemned previous statements sent to students over the weekend from Barnard Dean Grinage and General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch. The groups said the statements displayed “discrimination” and a “complete erasure of Palestinians.”
  - The Palestinian Working Group (PWG)—a student group at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) dedicated to raising awareness, understanding, and engagement about Palestinians and the Palestinian territories—was one of the student organizations that signed the joint statement. The leadership team of PWG told *Spectator* that the Global Center in Tel Aviv is inaccessible for many Palestinian students. PWG said that the operation of the Tel Aviv Global Center and Tel Aviv University are part of the “institutional apartheid against Palestinians.”
- SJP and JVP posted four specific demands of the University on Instagram. The organizations called on the University to “correct and apologize” for previous administrator statements, “divest from companies profiting from Israeli apartheid,” cancel the planned opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center, and end the dual-degree program with Tel Aviv University.<sup>120</sup>
- At 1:34 PM [redacted Palestinian student] emailed Associate Dean of Student Wellness Amber Griffiths seeking “Academic support”: “As for the context of what is going on, as you may or may not know, I am Palestinian. I have been preoccupied with the events of this weekend and the situation is escalating among the students right now . . . Several student groups have condemned other statements put out by the administration already, and the tensions are getting worse among the student body. . . As for more personally, there are students posting particularly volatile things on social media, and I am not quite feeling safe among the student body at the current moment . . . There has already been 1 GS student actively posting on his Instagram for an ethnic cleansing of all Palestinians in disturbing detail, which has made me not particularly feel very optimistic about my safety this week.” The student also requested Dean Griffiths reach out to their professors.<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>117</sup> Shafik, "Message of Concern for Our Community."

<sup>118</sup> Sabrina Ticer-Wurr, "Nearly two dozen Palestinian solidarity groups release open letter, joint statement," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 12, 2023. "Columbia SJP and JVP 10\_9 Open Letter," (October 9, 2023).

Isabella Ramirez et al., "Hundreds of protestors pack campus following escalation of violence in Israel and Gaza," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 12, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/12/hundreds-of-protesters-pack-campus-following-escalation-of-violence-in-israel-and-gaza/>.

<sup>119</sup> Ticer-Wurr, "Nearly two dozen Palestinian solidarity groups release open letter, joint statement."

"Joint Statement from Palestine Solidarity Groups at Columbia University regarding the recent events in Palestine/Israel: Oppression Breeds Resistance," (October 9, 2023).

<sup>120</sup> Ramirez et al., "Hundreds of protestors pack campus following escalation of violence in Israel and Gaza."

<sup>121</sup> [redacted student], October 9, 2023.

- At 2:06 PM Dean Griffiths responded to redacted student re “Academic Support”: “I can only imagine the stress and fear you must be feeling right now on every level. If at ANY time you do not feel safe on campus, call public safety, don’t hesitate on that.” Dean Griffiths also confirmed they would reach out to the students’ professors.<sup>122</sup>

### October 10, 2023:

- Around 100 students attended a vigil at the Sundial organized by Students Supporting Israel (SSI) in response to the October 7 attack. SSI began planning the vigil to support students immediately after hearing the news of Hamas’ attacks. According to the organizers, the main goals of the rally were to “raise awareness within the Columbia community” and stop misinformation and antisemitism on campus.<sup>123</sup>
  - A video of a student’s speech at the SSI vigil in which the student stated that Israel has a “deep understanding of the sanctity of life” was posted on TikTok and went viral garnering over 1 million views. Subsequently, the student reported to *Spectator* that they received threatening phone calls and text messages from unknown numbers.
- The School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) held an online “Rapid Response Webinar” with the Institute of Global Politics (IGP) in response to the October 7 attacks. This event was promoted to the entire Columbia community in President Shafik’s October 9, 2023 email.<sup>124</sup>
  - After the webinar was announced, the leaders of SIPA’s Palestinian Working Group (PWG) sent an email to SIPA Dean Yarhi-Milo demanding the presence of Palestinian voices at the webinar. This request was not granted.
  - Panelists included former Secretary of State and SIPA professor Hillary Clinton; SIPA professor Stephen Biddle; IGP Inaugural Carnegie Distinguished Fellow Kim Ghattas; former U.S. National Security Advisor and IGP Inaugural Carnegie Distinguished Fellow Robert O’Brien; and senior columnist for the Yediot Ahronot Daily, an Israeli newspaper, Nadav Eyal. Following Dean Yarhi-Milo’s introduction, President Shafik delivered an introductory address about the University’s role in political affairs.
- Barnard President Laura Rosenbury issued a statement addressing the “loss of life and ongoing violence caused by the Hamas deadly attacks on Israel” and extending her “deepest condolences to all who are mourning the loss of friends, family members, or colleagues in Israel and Gaza. . . These events are beyond horrific and touch close to home for many members of our diverse Barnard community.”<sup>125</sup>
- University Life Director of Student Engagement, Orientation and Community Programs Marnie Turini met with SJP leadership to discuss holding a sit-in on campus.<sup>126</sup>

### October 11, 2023:

- Columbia Administration restricted access to Morningside campus (CUID-only) ahead of two planned protests.<sup>127</sup>
  - The north and south pedestrian gates at 116th Street and Broadway, the south pedestrian gate at 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, and the Wien Hall pedestrian gate were open to all CUID holders.
  - The north pedestrian gate at 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue were open for disability access only.
  - All other campus gates were closed.
  - Barnard said it anticipated “large numbers” at the protests.
  - Columbia told affiliates to prepare to present their CUIDs to Public Safety.
- An Israeli General Studies student hung posters around campus and got into an altercation with a nonaffiliate near Butler Library. The student filed a report with Public Safety and the NYPD that the nonaffiliate assaulted him with a stick. The NYPD investigated and the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office charged the non-affiliate suspect with

<sup>122</sup> Amber Griffiths, October 9, 2023.

<sup>123</sup> Noah Bernstein and Rebecca Massel, “Students Supporting Israel organizes rally following attacks on Israel,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 11, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/11/students-supporting-israel-organizes-rally-following-attacks-on-israel/>.

Emily Forgash, “Campus discourse through University administrators’ words,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 9, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/09/campus-discourse-through-university-administrators-words/>.

<sup>124</sup> Emily Forgash and Grace Hamilton, “Clinton, SIPA Dean host rapid-response webinar addressing violence in Israel and Gaza,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 11, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/11/clinton-sipa-dean-host-rapid-response-webinar-addressing-violence-in-israel-and-gaza/>.

<sup>125</sup> Vance, “Rosenbury issues statement extending ‘deepest condolences’ to Barnard community amid ‘ongoing violence’ in Israel and Gaza.”

<sup>126</sup> Marnie Turini, October 14, 2023.

<sup>127</sup> Esha Karam and Isabella Ramirez, “Columbia restricts access to Morningside campus ahead of planned protests,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 12, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/11/columbia-restricts-access-to-morningside-campus-ahead-of-planned-protests/>.

assault as a hate crime, aggravated harassment, and criminal possession of a weapon. This widely reported incident led to heightened levels of fear among some Jewish and Israeli students and garnered widespread national media attention. Administrators responded by increasing levels of security and vigilance on campus. After reviewing the case evidence, including witness accounts and footage, the Manhattan District Attorney's Office concluded in June 2024 that video footage of the incident does not support the allegation that the nonaffiliate intentionally struck the student with a stick and moved to drop the case. The perpetrator accepted an offer to dismiss the case but did not plead guilty (adjournment in contemplation of dismissal). This agreement included protection for the student. The District Attorney's Office removed all charges against the nonaffiliate from its online database.<sup>128</sup>

- Visiting Assistant Professor in Modern Arab Studies, Mohamed Abdou, posted on social media: "I'm with Hamas & Hezbollah & Islamic Jihad."<sup>129</sup>

### October 12, 2023:

- At 10:52 AM Chief of Staff to the President Susan Glancy informed the Chair of the Executive Committee: "NYPD informed University leaders this afternoon that in order to ensure campus safety, there would have to be some police presence for the duration of today's protests."<sup>130</sup>
- The University restricted access to Morningside campus (CUID-only) and invited NYPD on campus to provide security due to heightened concerns over the potential for violence at protests scheduled later that day. The Administration consulted with and received approval from the Executive Committee of the University Senate to bring NYPD to campus as required by 444.f of the University Statutes.<sup>131</sup>
- Interim Provost Dennis Mitchell sent an email to the Columbia community before scheduled protests, emphasizing "students' freedom of speech, denouncing hate speech, and explaining the University's decision to close campus."<sup>132</sup>
  - "Substantial efforts were made to enlist the participation of outside supporters in a manner that risks creating an unsafe environment for our community."
- Columbia College Dean Josef Sorett, School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) Dean Shih-Fu Chang, and General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch sent a joint statement to students acknowledging the reported October 11, 2023 assault on campus.<sup>133</sup>
  - The Deans called the reported assault "intimidation and outright violence."
  - "The atmosphere on campus is extremely charged and many are concerned for their personal safety. . . Community members are observing and experiencing disturbing antisemitic and Islamophobic acts . . . with some students being targeted based on their religious identity or political speech . . . It is paramount—in a moment where it is most difficult to be together across our differences—that we recommit ourselves to doing precisely that."
- Around 4:30 PM hundreds of Columbia affiliates protested in response to more information coming out about the October 7 attacks in Israel and violence escalating in Gaza.<sup>134</sup>

<sup>128</sup> Rebecca Massel, Isabella Ramirez, and Esha Karam, "General Studies student allegedly assaulted in front of Butler Library, suspect arrested and charged, NYPD says," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 14, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/12/general-studies-student-allegedly-assaulted-in-front-of-butler-library-suspect-arrested-and-charged-nypd-says/>.

Erum Salam, "Columbia pays \$395,000 to student suspended over protest 'fart spray': Israeli student filed lawsuit after suspension for spraying pro-Palestinian protestors with foul-smelling substance," November 1, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/nov/01/columbia-student-protest-lawsuit#:~:text=Columbia%20University%20has%20reached%20a,had%20been%20suspended%20until%20May>.

Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 20, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/20/shafiks-columbia-13-months-and-13-days-of-a-campus-spiraling-into-crisis/>.

Isabella Ramirez, "Former student faces hate crime charges from DA, granted supervised release after allegedly assaulting General Studies student," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 16, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/16/former-student-faces-hate-crime-charges-from-da-granted-supervised-release-after-allegedly-assaulting-general-studies-student/>.

<sup>129</sup> Jesse Levine, "Columbia AAUP issues statement defending academic freedom amid calls for faculty sanctions and dismissals," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 8, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/08/columbia-aaup-issues-statement-defending-academic-freedom-amid-calls-for-faculty-sanctions-and-dismissals/>.

<sup>130</sup> Susan Glancy, October 12, 2023.

<sup>131</sup> Ramirez et al., "Hundreds of protestors pack campus following escalation of violence in Israel and Gaza."

<sup>132</sup> Ramirez et al., "Hundreds of protestors pack campus following escalation of violence in Israel and Gaza."

<sup>133</sup> Ramirez, "Former student faces hate crime charges from DA, granted supervised release after allegedly assaulting General Studies student."

<sup>134</sup> Ramirez et al., "Hundreds of protestors pack campus following escalation of violence in Israel and Gaza."

Rebecca Massel, "I am a target': Dozens of Jewish students report feeling unsafe on campus," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 2, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/02/i-am-a-target-dozens-of-jewish-students-report-feeling-unsafe-on-campus/>.

- SJP/JVP and SSI demonstrated on opposite lawns with Pro-Palestinian protestors located on South Lawn East and Pro-Israel protestors on South Lawn West as other students and press observed. Both groups expressed concerns for their safety.
- SJP and JVP attendees began with a moment of silence for civilians who had been killed, then started a series of chants, including “Free, free Palestine,” “Palestine is here and proud,” and “From the river to the sea.” Attendees waved Palestinian flags.
- SSI attendees wore Israeli flags and held signs that displayed the names and photos of Israelis that Hamas had killed and taken as hostages. SSI attendees remained largely silent through the first half hour of the protest and then began singing in a circle.
- A University Medical Center administrative officer stated in an interview at the protest with student radio station WKCR that they hoped that “every one of these people die,” referring to the Pro-Palestinian student demonstrators.
- Public Safety kept protestors and counter protestors apart and designated different campus exits for each group. The high levels of concern and anxiety that prevailed on campus meant that even these efforts led to misunderstandings and further distrust. For example, the designated use of the 115<sup>th</sup> Street exit for pro-Palestinian protestors elicited fears among members of the Columbia community that the protestors were making their way toward the Kraft Center for Jewish Life located on 115<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and Riverside Drive. Toward the end of the rally, SJP and JVP protestors moved down Broadway to 115<sup>th</sup> Street. Public Safety and the NYPD “responded to the Kraft Center,” which “already had Public Safety and NYPD officers present,” according to an email sent by Director Cohen. The front doors of the Kraft Center were locked, and students were advised to stay in the building until the protest dispersed at 7:20 PM. 11 students said the protest’s proximity to the Center or the locking of the Center’s doors made them feel unsafe.
- Following the protest, SJP wrote in a statement to *Spectator* that it was “shocked and saddened by the email released by Hillel that implied that we were marching toward the Kraft Center.”<sup>135</sup>
  - The organization wrote that most SJP members were unaware of the location of the Kraft Center and that on October 12 the protestors walked around the periphery of campus escorted by the NYPD.
  - “To release a public statement insinuating that SJP and JVP’s protest intended to threaten or endanger Jewish students at the Kraft Center simply because we walked in a circle around campus is not only dishonest, but dangerous. . . The statement further neglects to mention that the 10/12 protest was co-organized by Jewish Voice for Peace.”
- In a separate statement, JVP wrote that it was “alarmed” by the closure of the Kraft Center, “especially considering the sheer distance between the protest and the center. . . Furthermore, we simply marched on a public city street near our campus. . . We can not posit any explanation for the closure, as it was extremely clear the only reason the protest was on 115<sup>th</sup> street and Broadway in the first place was to reenter campus through the only gate made available to us, which we then had to wait several minutes in front of to be let in.”<sup>136</sup>
- Rumors began circulating of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, reviewed by *Spectator*, detailing the personal information of students who were a part of groups that co-sponsored the pro-Palestinian protest.<sup>137</sup>
- A WhatsApp group chat, titled “Israel Current Events,” was started. The chat eventually expanded to about 100 members and included some of the nation’s most prominent business leaders and financiers, including former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz, Dell founder and CEO Michael Dell, hedge fund manager Bill Ackman, and Joshua Kushner. More than a dozen members of the group appeared on Forbes’s annual list of billionaires; others worked in real estate, finance, and communications. Some chat members attended private briefings with former Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett, member of the Israeli war cabinet Benny Gantz, and Israel’s former ambassador to the United States Michael Herzog in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. The chat log shows Zoom invites for these meetings. During the April encampments, group members met with New York City Mayor Eric Adams over Zoom and discussed with him how they could pressure Columbia to end the encampments.<sup>138</sup>
  - The chat was initiated by a staffer for real estate magnate Barry Sternlicht (who never joined directly and communicated through the staffer).

<sup>135</sup> Massel, “‘I am a target’: Dozens of Jewish students report feeling unsafe on campus.”

<sup>136</sup> Massel, “‘I am a target’: Dozens of Jewish students report feeling unsafe on campus.”

<sup>137</sup> Esha Karam, Sarah Huddleston, and Sabrina Ticer-Wurr, “‘We’re the ones being targeted’: Pro-Palestinian affiliates report harassment, threats,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 2, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/02/were-the-ones-being-targeted-pro-palestinian-affiliates-report-harrasment-threats/>.

<sup>138</sup> Hannah Natanson and Emmanuel Felton, “Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show,” *The Washington Post*, May 16, 2024.

- In one of the first messages sent in the group, the staffer posted on behalf of Sternlicht that the goal of the group was to “change the narrative” in favor of Israel, partly by conveying “the atrocities committed by Hamas . . . to all Americans.”
- The staffer for Sternlicht outlined the mission of the group: while Israel worked to “win the physical war,” the chat group’s members would “help win the war” of U.S. public opinion by funding an information campaign against Hamas. This campaign was referred to in the chat as “Facts for Peace.”
- Members of the group also worked with the Israeli government to screen a roughly 40-minute film showing footage compiled by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) titled “Bearing Witness to the October 7 Massacre” to audiences in New York City.
- At 6:30 PM leadership of Turath, the Arab Student Association, and Dar, the Palestinian Student Association, reached out to President Shafik in an email titled “You failed us”: “Dear Columbia University leadership, We write to you on behalf of Turath . . . and, Dar. . . regarding your recent communications related to the horrific events ensuing in Palestine and Israel. We feel deeply hurt by your one-sided University-wide emails that left us feeling excluded from our own university. The violence occurring in Israel and Palestine today does not exist in a vacuum. It is an extension of a long-standing conflict that has disproportionately affected Palestinians. By failing to mention Israel’s ongoing campaign of displacement and ethnic cleansing in the occupied territories, our university is spreading a highly biased narrative that is harmful to our student body, especially Palestinian students on campus. We are extremely disappointed by the administration’s failure to acknowledge our existence. By refusing to explicitly name Palestinians, you not only erase the visibility of Palestinian students on campus, but you also uphold a colonial legacy that dates back to the Balfour Declaration. As a university that prides itself on representation and open discourse on issues that affect our world, you have an obligation to recognize and acknowledge the multitude of communities on campus. You have let us down. Palestinian students and allies are scared to voice their opinions. We are scared of being harassed. Your one-sided emails have led to a campus environment based on fear, not conversation. Columbia has a duty to care for all students. Given the sensitive nature of the situation and the incredibly vulnerable position that Palestinians are in, we demand that University Leadership draft amendments to the prior email communications, by recirculating a new statement that includes: 1. Context behind the current violence that is ensuing in Palestine and Israel. 2. Acknowledgement of the hardships faced by Palestinian students of campus 3. Communication to the student body dictating that from this moment forward, proactive support for Palestinian students (i.e. counseling, religious support, academic accommodations, and protection from harassment on campus) will be offered beyond moments of heightened violence to anyone seeking support. We appreciate your time, and look forward to the amendments made to the University-wide communications.”<sup>139</sup>
- At 6:31 PM leadership of Turath and Dar reached out to Vice President for Student Affairs Joseph Greenwell in an email titled “You failed us”: “We write to you . . . regarding our serious concerns for the institution’s failure to support the current or past needs of Palestinian students at Columbia University, given the events that are ensuing at this time. As we speak, the Israeli government is cutting off access to food, water, and electricity in Gaza – a place many of our students call home – while directing banned chemical weapons like white phosphorus and missiles toward innocent civilians. Living under the oppressive regime that has been imposed upon Palestinians is something we would never wish upon a fellow classmate or coworker on campus, yet many individuals across our student body from a Palestinian background live this reality daily. Given the sensitive nature of this situation, and the incredibly vulnerable position that Gazans and other Palestinians are currently in, we would like to set up a meeting time as soon as possible to discuss ways in which University Life can proactively support Palestinian students moving forward beyond moments of heightened violence. We believe that not only will providing Palestinian students of various backgrounds support, be an integral aspect to their academic success, psychological well being, and social flourishing at Columbia University, but that the lack thereof has been detrimental to all of these core aspects of the fulfilling education Columbia prides itself with providing. We appreciate your time, and look forward to hearing back from you regarding scheduling a time to meet with us, with our advisor, [redacted], present. Please do not hesitate to communicate any questions to us.”<sup>140</sup>

## October 13, 2023:

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<sup>139</sup> Dar and Turath, October 12, 2023.

<sup>140</sup> Turath leadership and Dar leadership, October 13, 2023.

- Campus access remained CUID only.<sup>141</sup>
- At 6:24 PM Vice President Greenwell responded re “You failed us”: “Thank you for reaching out and sharing your concerns. We have actively been thinking through and working on plans to meet with different student groups given the war; and hope to share those plans soon. Certainly members of Turath and Dar will be invited to these meetings. In addition, we’ve been working with Deans, Deans of Students, and Education Deans to support students at the school level. We understand the need for support in navigating these times, both in in the immediate and the long term, and are eager to be in conversation with you to explore what that support can look like. If you have specific requests to share with us now as we continue to organize these meetings, please let us know.”<sup>142</sup>
- A student petition was published calling for Columbia to remove Joseph Massad, a tenured professor in the department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies (MESAAS), from its faculty.<sup>143</sup>
  - The demand came in response to Massad’s October 8 article for the *Electronic Intifada*, in which he described the October 7 attacks as a “resistance offensive” to “Israeli settler-colonialism and racism toward the Palestinians.”
  - The student who wrote and shared the petition, condemned Massad’s use of words such as “astonishing,” “astounding,” and “awesome” to describe the attack, and claimed Massad “shows support for the terrorist organization.”
  - “Massad’s decision to praise the abhorrent attack encourages violence and misinformation in and outside of campus, particularly putting many Jewish and Israeli students on campus at risk. . . Regardless of one’s stance on the conflict, supporting and praising one of the worst acts of terrorism in history is never acceptable.”
  - The petition garnered more than 47,000 signatures.
  - On December 17, 2024, the University’s Office of Public Affairs published a “Statement on Professor Massad’s Spring 2025 Course” defending Professor Massad’s right to academic freedom.
- SJP leadership met with University Life Director of Student Engagement, Orientation and Community Programs Marnie Turini to discuss holding a sit-in on campus.<sup>144</sup>

#### October 14, 2023:

- Campus access remained CUID only.<sup>145</sup>
- University Life Director Turini emailed 3 redacted students and cc’d University Life Director Gomes and Dean Giles “SJP Sit-In Event Update”: “Thanks again for meeting with me yesterday afternoon. I am reaching out after speaking with event partners around campus to share that your space request to have a sit-in early next week is too soon to move forward. After a review of Thursday’s events, and with an abundance of caution for safety at future events, we want to make sure we have taken the right steps to prepare. We are at a unique time for our campus and we must allow adequate time for planning. My goal is to support your events, and we also want to ensure safety for you and your community. I look forward to partnering with you to go over the planning and review of events more thoroughly to assist with planning moving forward. I would like to find a time to meet on Monday to talk through the event planning process some more. I am going to have my colleague Nikki Youngblood Giles from Barnard College, and Aaron Gomes from CC/SEAS Student Engagement join us to provide more context as well.”<sup>146</sup>

#### October 15, 2023:

- Campus remained closed and CUID only.<sup>147</sup>

<sup>141</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, "Public Safety keeps Morningside Heights campus gates closed out of an abundance of caution, frustrating students," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 17, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/17/public-safety-keeps-morningside-heights-campus-gates-closed-out-of-an-abundance-of-caution-frustrating-students/>.

<sup>142</sup> Joseph Defraigne Greenwell, October 23, 2023.

<sup>143</sup> Noah Bernstein, "Petition calling for removal of MESAAS professor Joseph Massad garners over 47,000 signatures," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/17/petition-calling-for-removal-of-mesaas-professor-joseph-massad-garners-over-47000-signatures/>.

Office of Public Affairs: Statement, "Statement on Professor Massad’s Spring 2025 Course," (December 17, 2024). <https://communications.news.columbia.edu/news/statement-professor-massads-spring-2025-course>.

<sup>144</sup> Turini.

<sup>145</sup> Zuloaga, "Public Safety keeps Morningside Heights campus gates closed out of an abundance of caution, frustrating students."

<sup>146</sup> Turini.

<sup>147</sup> Zuloaga, "Public Safety keeps Morningside Heights campus gates closed out of an abundance of caution, frustrating students."

- At 12:16 PM David Friedman, CC '78, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel, posted the October 13, 2023 petition calling for the removal of MESAS Professor Massad on X, attracting attention beyond campus.<sup>148</sup>
- In response to the October 13, 2023 petition calling for the removal of Professor Massad, students, faculty, alumni, and affiliates of the University and the MESAS department wrote a letter expressing their “unwavering solidarity” with Massad.<sup>149</sup>
  - The letter called on President Shafik to “unequivocally guarantee his physical safety and his academic freedom as well as those of our University’s faculty and students more broadly.”
  - According to the letter, Massad had received a number of death threats, including one that was slid under his office door. The letter demanded the University investigate the source of these threats.
  - “Current attacks against Professor Massad are a continuation of this decades-long attempt to censor and intimidate him for his rigorous scholarship on Palestine.”
  - The letter also called on Shafik to issue a University wide statement “unequivocally supporting” Massad’s academic freedom of speech.” More than 300 Columbia affiliates and 300 members of the public signed the statement.

### October 16, 2023:

- Public Safety continued to limit gate access on the Morningside Heights campus out of “an abundance of caution” and announced it planned to reevaluate the gate closures later in the week. A University spokesperson also conveyed that the NYPD would have an increased presence on the streets near and around the Morningside campus.<sup>150</sup>
- At 9:30 PM SJP leadership emailed University Life Director Gomes “Vigil this Friday”: “I am one of the SJP board members that you spoke with today. I wanted to follow up and say that we are just representatives of the SJP-JVP coalition. We spoke to the rest of the board members and they are insistent that due to the urgency of the genocide in Gaza, it is urgent we have the vigil this week. We've decided that the importance of this joint vigil/Shabbat cannot be understated. If you can provide us with any support or protection that would be great, but if not, we will handle security concerns ourselves.”<sup>151</sup>
- At 10:34 PM SJP leadership emailed University Life Director Turini “Vigil this Friday (With love)”: “We just sent an email to Aaron Gomez, and BCCd you on it. As you can see from that email, we are going to follow through with the vigil on Friday. We will be co-sponsoring JVPs Shabbat and will have a joint vigil for the thousands of Palestinians lost and the rising death toll. We understand the 10-day rule but were infuriated by the double standard and the reluctance to label what is happening in Gaza as a ‘pressing’ enough issue to plan quickly in advance for. The security concerns will be addressed by ourselves, and as we saw at the protest on Thursday, those were the people that protected us. Not to be upset at you because we are not, but we realize there is nothing they will do to help us, so we will carry on. We would also love to meet with you separately if you would like, but we do want to let you know about this event even if there is nothing admin can do to help. Thanks so much.”<sup>152</sup>
- “Israel Current Events” chat held a briefing with former Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennet. Howard Shultz, the former CEO of Starbucks, wrote to the chat: “most appreciative for the behind the scenes briefing by Naftali Bennet.”<sup>153</sup>
- Student Workers of Columbia-United Auto Workers (SWC-UAW) released a statement calling for the protection of expressions of support for Palestinians and for the University to publicly acknowledge the “pain, fear, and grief of Palestinians.”<sup>154</sup>
  - “As a community of instructors, researchers and students at Columbia University, we stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. . . We affirm their right to self-determination and freedom from apartheid.”

<sup>148</sup> Bernstein, "Petition calling for removal of MESAAS professor Joseph Massad garners over 47,000 signatures."

<sup>149</sup> Bernstein, "Petition calling for removal of MESAAS professor Joseph Massad garners over 47,000 signatures."

Faculty Students, Alumni, and Affiliates of the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies and Columbia University, "Letter to Express Solidarity with Professor Joseph Massad’s Right to Academic Freedom " (October 15, 2023).

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/177t2tF2FNwzDNF3fAmviLjr25eQONPG2vtoYwTSnmmY/edit?pli=1&tab=t.0>.

<sup>150</sup> Zuloaga, "Public Safety keeps Morningside Heights campus gates closed out of an abundance of caution, frustrating students."

<sup>151</sup> Columbia SJP, October 16, 2023.

<sup>152</sup> Columbia SJP, October 16, 2023.

<sup>153</sup> Natanson and Felton, "Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show."

<sup>154</sup> Sarah Huddleston, "SWC-UAW publishes statement of solidarity, calls for acknowledgement of ‘pain, fear, and grief of Palestinians’," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 19, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/19/swc-uaw-publishes-statement-of-solidarity-calls-for-acknowledgement-of-pain-fear-and-grief-of-palestinians/>.

Surina Venkat, "SWC-UAW passes resolution supporting BDS, commits to strike ‘should circumstances justify’," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/01/swc-uaw-passes-resolution-supporting-bds-commits-to-strike-should-circumstances-justify/>.

- The decision to release a statement was initially discussed by the solidarity and political education committee of SWC-UAW.
- The proposal was then brought to an open meeting, where the full group decided to release a statement.
- All members of SWC-UAW, including those on the organizing list and subscribers of the group’s weekly newsletter, were invited to participate in the drafting process.
- The finalized statement was passed by a supermajority vote of all eligible members who participated in the vote.
- The statement outlined three demands of the University: assembling a working group to identify measures to protect free speech on campus; divesting from all companies involved in the Israeli war effort; and amending statements issued by University administrators. Specifically, the statement criticized emails sent by President Shafik, Barnard Dean Grinage, and General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch, which the statement characterized as “promot[ing] a one-sided account that downplays Palestinian suffering.”
- A Columbia University Irving Medical Center spokesperson condemned a widely circulated audio from an October 11 WKCR broadcast in which an employee called for violence against protesters with SJP and JVP: “Using words that incite dangerous behavior is clearly prohibited. . . While we will not comment on specific cases involving individual members of our community, we are committed to enforcing the rules and policies that are in place to ensure safety, civility and respect, a responsibility that we take extremely seriously.”<sup>155</sup>

### October 17, 2023:

- At 11:09 AM University Life Director Turini responded to SJP leadership “Re: Vigil this Friday (with love)”: “Thanks for reaching out. I know yesterday's meeting was difficult and I cannot imagine the weight you are all carrying right now. I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person. I spoke with Aaron yesterday and we are trying our best to get you approved for a vigil within the 10 day period. If you can send over a plan for what the vigil would look like so we can present to campus partners ASAP that would be the first step in getting event partners to the table. Is that something you could feasibly do today? I'd be happy to meet on Zoom (I'm still rather sick) to walk you through some things if you need support in putting something together.”<sup>156</sup>
- At 8:12 PM SJP and JVP leadership responded to University Life Director Turini “Re: Vigil this Friday (with love)”: “Another SJP rep here. Again, unfortunately, as the situation is becoming more and more urgent, the rest of our boards as well as other co-organizing organizations and non-affiliated students feel that it is imperative that this vigil (vigil and Shabbat, not even a protest!) take place on Friday at the latest. We have already had to push everyone else not in our organization to wait to collaborate with us rather than hold an emergency one today. Friday is the best that we can do. If the administration is amenable to working with us for security for Friday, we will send the minute by minute breakdown as soon as possible. If they still want us to hold it in ten days, then we can't take up time working on the detailed breakdown from now because of how unbelievably busy and overloaded we are. I know this is not an ideal situation for you or for us to be put in, but the situation for innocent Palestinian civilians is far from ideal now, too. To say the least. And we don't understand how last week was considered an urgent exception to normal campus policies when the focus was on Israel, but now that thousands of Palestinians are facing imminent genocide, it's "no longer urgent" and "we must return to regular campus policies." We urge the administration to recognize how this is yet again anti-Palestinian hypocrisy (as well as what we suspect to be a concern for PR/image above student need) taking place. We refuse to let our security concerns overshadow the urgent need to simply mourn and bring awareness to lives lost.”<sup>157</sup>
- University Life Administrators, Gomes, Noah Mullenix, and Sean Trulby, and SSI Executive Board met to discuss the cancellation of a proposed krav maga class. The Board members allegedly were told that their event was cancelled because the university could not ensure their safety and because they could not hold events using “buzzwords,” including “Israel” and “Palestine.”<sup>158</sup>

<sup>155</sup> Esha Karam and Isabella Ramirez, "Medical center spokesperson denounces viral WKCR audio of Columbia employee as 'words that incite dangerous behavior'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 17, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/17/medical-center-spokesperson-denounces-viral-wkcr-audio-of-columbia-employee-as-words-that-incite-dangerous-behavior/>.

<sup>156</sup> Marnie Turini, October 17, 2023.

<sup>157</sup> Columbia SJP, October 17, 2023.

<sup>158</sup> Students Against Antisemitism et. al. (amended), (United States District Court Southern District of New York).



- *Spectator* published an op-ed written by JVP and SJP: “Columbia, you are failing your Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, Black, Brown, and Jewish student activists.”<sup>159</sup>
  - “On campus, affiliates have spat on Black and brown Muslim students, torn off Muslim women’s hijabs, labeled activists as “terrorists” and “murderers,” and advocated for peaceful protestors to “die.” These abhorrent attacks are rooted in Islamophobic and anti-Black rhetoric and make a disproportionate impact on visibly Muslim women.”
  - “We faced unprecedented resistance from the administration in organizing our protest. It was the first time in recent history that Columbia closed its gates, only allowing people carrying a Columbia ID to enter campus. The New York Police Department was exempted from this policy, turning out in numbers reminiscent of its interference with a sit-in protest against Columbia’s proposal to construct a stratified gym in Morningside Park and the United States’ support of the Vietnam War in the 1960s. We were not expecting media presence, but we were met with a swarm of reporters that had been escorted in, caging us in like we were in a zoo and exposing us to threatening international attention. And even then, police and campus security did nothing when counterprotestors harassed and interfered with our protest; our student-led security coordination team had to peacefully de-escalate the situation, despite the risks to our safety.”
  - “It is because of the racist aggression toward pro-Palestinian students on campus that SJP is now adding a fifth demand: We call on Columbia to protect its students right now.”
  - “We demand immediate action to legally and publicly support the Muslim students at Columbia who have fallen victim to doxxing and have been unjustly placed on terror watchlists. We demand the administration to not only acknowledge the blatant racism and Islamophobia that is being disseminated on campus, but acknowledge their role in enabling it. We demand that the administration has an open discussion acknowledging the increased NYPD presence on campus, which is making students of color feel extremely unsafe while other communities feel protected.”
  - “We demand that the administration take immediate action so that no student, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, or personal background, feels unsafe on campus due to their advocacy for or association with Palestine.”
- The Law Firm of Davis Polk rescinded job offers to three students who were affiliated with groups which signed the October 9, 2023 student group statements that expressed “solidarity with Palestinian resistance” and asserted that Columbia normalizes “apartheid.”<sup>160</sup>

### October 18, 2023:

- At 12:42 PM Dar and Turath leadership emailed Vice President Greenwell re “You failed us”: “Thank you for your prompt response. The rapid progression of events has left many of our students feeling anxious, uncertain, and unsafe on campus that once felt like home. Since our last email, the situation has evolved significantly. Yesterday morning, a hospital in Gaza was bombed, killing 500 Palestinian civilians. In light of recent developments and after consulting with our student community, it is necessary to have these support systems in place for the wellbeing of our student body: 1. Campus space designated for Grieving: our Palestinian students are experiencing intolerable pain and grief – some of us have lost family members – and we still don’t have a safe communal safe to grieve, cry, and support each other. We are in desperate need for a safe space that allows our students to convene on campus. The space will be used by Palestinians and the community of Turath and Dar. We consider this an urgent demand. 2. Designating Personnel: We suggest designating a representative from the Student Misconduct Office to specifically address incidents of harassment, discrimination, or attacks against our students. This would ensure a swift and specialized response. 3. Legal Advisory: Providing a legal advisor by the university to assist our students with their complaints would be a significant step toward safeguarding their rights. This support is particularly crucial in these challenging times. 4. Acknowledgement of Incidents: The university must publicly acknowledge and condemn actions by its affiliates that have jeopardized our students’ well-being. Holding those responsible accountable not only provides relief to the affected but also serves as a strong deterrent against potential infractions. These recommendations are in addition to our initial demands forwarded to the University leadership and the meeting request with President Shafik. Given the scale of violence recently inflicted, we would appreciate meeting on the

<sup>159</sup> JVP and SJP, “Columbia, you are failing your Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, Black, Brown, and Jewish student activists,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 17, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2023/10/17/columbia-you-are-failing-your-palestinian-muslim-arab-black-brown-and-jewish-student-activists/>.

<sup>160</sup> Adam Gabbatt, “Leading US law firm says it rescinded job offers to students who backed Israel-Hamas letters,” *The Guardian*, October 18, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/oct/18/student-palestine-letter-harvard-columbia-us-law-firm-jobs-revoked>.

sooner side. Additionally, we would want our advisor present. Please let us know when we should expect the meeting.”<sup>161</sup>

- Dar, the Palestinian Student Union, hosted a vigil for Palestinian lives lost in Gaza. At the same time, there was a separate pro-Israel vigil outside of Butler Library and SJP held a meeting in Lerner Hall.<sup>162</sup>
  - Attendees of the SJP meeting in Lerner could hear loud noises from outside. An SJP member came into the meeting and warned that a man outside was yelling about the group. According to one SJP member: “I feared for our safety and asked everyone to take off their keffiyehs. It was so loud that we ultimately became scared and left through the back door of the building. Later we found out that the commotion had been from Columbia Professor Shai Davidai.”
  - At the pro-Israel vigil outside Butler Library, Assistant Professor in Columbia Business School Shai Davidai spoke. In the speech, Professor Davidai called President Shafik a “coward,” for “not standing up to pro-terror voices on campus” and claimed that SJP and JVP celebrated rape and terrorism and had to be “eradicated from campus.” Professor Davidai later posted a video of the speech on social media titled “An Open Letter to Every Parent in America.” Professor Davidai gained a massive social media following this event.
- President Shafik shared a second email with the Columbia community, entitled “Upholding Our Values,” addressing the community’s suffering following the “terror attacks on Israel and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza” and noting how “disheartened” she was by “abhorrent rhetoric.”<sup>163</sup>
- SSI Executive Board followed up via email with University Life Administrators, Gomes and Mullenix, and asked why SJP and JVP’s events had been allowed violating the “buzzword protocol” mentioned to SSI in their meeting on October 17, 2023.<sup>164</sup>
- Lavine Family Director Cohen sent a memo to University leadership (specific recipients unknown): “Who is responsible for overseeing protests on campus? Who will share plans in advance of the next protest/vigil on campus? Who can we direct questions and concerns to in real time to troubleshoot effectively without putting me or my professional team in harm’s way? Rules regarding on-campus gatherings need to be communicated to all University affiliates. This should not be limited to Israel/Palestine groups. Random students are planning vigils and protests without any organizational involvement. If affiliates act inappropriately or in direct violation of the University codes of conduct, will the rules be enforced? Who is responsible for enforcing these rules? What is the plan with non-affiliates who do not follow the University’s rules? If a protest or campus action puts the Kraft Center and Jewish students in danger, who is in charge of communicating with me and my professional team? In the case of a building lock down, who is accountable for securing the surrounding area and ensuring that students and staff are safe? In the aftermath of SJP leaving the designated area and relocating in the vicinity of the Kraft Center, what if anything has been done to prevent this from happening in the future? There needs to be a centralized University policy that enables students to request and participate in classes virtually. It is undermining the health and security of students who are already grappling with tragedy to have to manage this approval process. If any of these students need to drop a class, is there an avenue by which their tuition can be refunded or deferred to an upcoming semester? Many are finding their current course load to be overbearing. Students impacted by this war should be given the option of taking their classes Pass or Fail. It must be communicated to students that threats to their safety are being taken seriously and will not be tolerated. An increased security presence throughout campus is necessary to ensure that these acts of harassment, violence, and intimidation do not go unnoticed. I am urging any student who shares these types of incidents with me to go to their Deans and University administrators, but they need to be assured that they will not be ignored. University administrators need to be meeting with Israeli and Palestinian students to hear firsthand the impact of the war. How can Columbia possibly support our students if they do not fully understand what is happening to them and their loved ones? The Kraft Center is not a substitute for the administration. University officials need to engage directly with students. Apps like Sidechat need to be dealt with. Legal and technological solutions to this problem should be pursued. If nothing can be done, students should be encouraged to remove and ignore this app. University administration should make a clear statement that the Tel Aviv University program with General Studies is appreciated, and student demands will not impact the future of this program.”<sup>165</sup>

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<sup>161</sup> Turath leadership and Dar leadership, October 23, 2023.

<sup>162</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X (Twitter), October 18, 2023, 2023, <https://x.com/ShaiDavidai/status/1714809243038048384?lang=en>.

Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, Columbia-Barnard Jewish Voice for Peace, Maryam Alwan, and Cameron Jones, (Supreme Court of the State of New York ).

<sup>163</sup> Minouche Shafik, "Upholding Our Values," (Office of the President: Announcements, October 18, 2023).

<sup>164</sup> *Students Against Antisemitism et. al. (amended)*.

<sup>165</sup> Brian Cohen, October 18, 2023.

## October 19, 2023:

- At 3:59 PM University Life Director Turini emailed JVP and SJP leadership “Vigil Tomorrow”: “I’m reaching out regarding the vigil that SJP and JVP are co-hosting tomorrow afternoon. [redacted student], I apologize that it’s taken be this long to get back to you. Based on recent updates, we need to meet tomorrow morning to discuss your plans and to address recent security concerns. Please let me know if you are available to meet between 10am-12pm in Lerner.”<sup>166</sup>
- Official social media accounts for the State of Israel reposted a video of Professor Davidai’s October 18, 2023 speech attacking President Shafik for not condemning or halting pro-Palestinian groups on campus and added “to the presidents of @Columbia, @nyuniversity, @Harvard and other universities who have stood SILENT as terror supporters have marched through campus and celebrated raping women, executing children and kidnapping grandmothers, you are cowards. Listen to Columbia Professor and father @ShaiDavidai’s heartbreaking speech.” This post received more has 5 million views.<sup>167</sup>
- Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, reposted the October 18 video of Professor Davidai and added: “Must Watch @Columbia, @Harvard, @nyuniversity: you facilitate terrorism. No parent should feel comfortable sending their child to these terror supporting institutions. Jewish life is not cheap. You have lost your moral credibility to educate students. Shame on you.”<sup>168</sup>
- In response to Professor Davidai’s posts on X one member of SJP told *Spectator* that Davidai misrepresented their group as “pro-terror”: “He was completely misrepresenting what we were standing for.”
  - The member added that the University should be doing more to protect its students from the potential consequences for students speaking out in support of Palestinians: “By not releasing a statement saying ‘we defend academic freedom, and we’re not going to shut down our students because of people misrepresenting them,’ [the University] sets a dangerous precedent.”<sup>169</sup>

## October 20, 2023:

- At 6:08 AM SJP and JVP leadership responded to Director Turini re “Vigil Tomorrow”: “Hi I can come in today at 11:30. Sorry I didn’t see this message earlier.”<sup>170</sup>
- At 6:11 AM SJP and JVP leadership responded to Director Turini re “Vigil Tomorrow”: “Actually just talked to [redacted student] and maybe zoom would be better for both of us to come.”<sup>171</sup>
- At 6:31 AM Director Turini responded to SJP and JVP leadership re “Vigil Tomorrow”: “Would you both be available at a later time to meet in person? Perhaps sometime before 1? We can meet in my office, Aaron might join as well. Let me know what time works best.”<sup>172</sup>
- At 8:39 AM SJP and JVP leadership responded to Director Turini re “Vigil Tomorrow”: “This is the official minute by minute! Approximate Timeline: 3:45 – Organizers get to sundial with supplies 4:00 – Give people time to arrive, pass out candles/stones/masks 4:15 – Opening Statement (JVP) 4:20 – Jewish Prayers Mourner’s Kaddish Placing of Stones Misheberach 4:40 – Islamic Prayers (Imam) 4:50 – Open space for people of other religions to say prayers and talk about those they’ve lost (5:00 – [Redacted student]) 5:10 – [Redacted student] 5:20 – Moment of silence 5:30 – Closing statements 5:45 – Shabbat blessings 6:00 – Head to Shabbat dinner”<sup>173</sup>
- At 12:52 PM Director Turini responded re “Vigil Tomorrow”: “Thank you for this minute by minute, it is extremely helpful. I just want to reiterate that this is an unsanctioned event that you are still moving forward with, and that if individuals stray from your intentions, the group will remind folks of this mission and the vigil’s purpose. Also, that you are only advertising to Columbia/Barnard students and that this event will end no later than 5:45/6 p.m. Lastly, I’m pretty sure you wouldn’t invite media, but wanted to confirm that as well.”<sup>174</sup>

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<sup>166</sup> Marnie Turini, October 19, 2023.

<sup>167</sup> Oscar Noxon, “Official State of Israel calls Columbia administrators ‘cowards’ in social media reposts of Business School professor’s speech,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 23, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/23/official-state-of-israel-calls-columbia-administrators-cowards-in-social-media-reposts-of-business-school-professors-speech/>.

<sup>168</sup> Noxon, “Official State of Israel calls Columbia administrators ‘cowards’ in social media reposts of Business School professor’s speech.”

<sup>169</sup> Noxon, “Official State of Israel calls Columbia administrators ‘cowards’ in social media reposts of Business School professor’s speech.”

<sup>170</sup> SJP and JVP leadership, October 20, 2023.

<sup>171</sup> SJP and JVP leadership.

<sup>172</sup> Marnie Turini, October 20, 2023.

<sup>173</sup> SJP and JVP leadership, October 20, 2023.

<sup>174</sup> Marnie Turini, October 20, 2023.

- University Life Administrator Mullenix emailed SSI Executive Board and asked to schedule a meeting to follow-up on SSI's October 18, 2023 communication. At the meeting, Mullenix apparently did not respond "as to why SJP and JVP were allowed to announce an event and instead explained the protocol for scheduling events." After the meeting, Mullenix apparently followed up with an email where he provided "shareable resources" including a self-defense class and counseling and psychological services.<sup>175</sup>
- The president and founder of Lion Lez, a Barnard club for queer women and nonbinary people by students of color, emailed club roster a flyer promoting an event and added: "It's FREE PALESTINE over here. Zionists aren't invited."<sup>176</sup>

### October 21, 2023:

- The President of Lion Lez emailed club roster: "Can you read between the lines of this poem? white Jewish people today and always have been the oppressors of all brown people, just like every other white subgroup. White supremacy is so extreme that even AFTER they (white Jews included) violently went after ALL brown people, they then looked around the room of thempastyselves and said hmm who is the most different looking here...? And it was the Jewish people! So that means [redacted student], and I'm gonna touch your hand when I say this, WHEN I SAY THE HOLOCAUST WASN'T SPECIAL, I MEAN THAT. You got a lot of nerve coming into a Black person's inbox talkin bout 'I'm afraid of brown people as a white Jew.' Look at all the information available to us, the only people who support 'Israel' are very stupid and/or very racist. Stop looking at news' interpretation of primary sources and look at the primary sources themselves. C'mon aren't we scholars? . . . Look at social media from people actually on the ground (that includes 0 Zionists). . . No, white Jewish people in Palestine are not dying on a large scale. No, none of the. . . people you're referring to are from 'Israel,' colonizer settlers don't just suddenly 'come from' where they forced. . . into. No, no one cares how much a white girl cries anti-semitism when we say stop the genocide. . . Did you know that only white Jews are allowed to live in 'Israel'? So if you had/have a cousin that shared your Jewish grandma and grandpa, but their other parent was Black, that cousin wouldn't be able to go to Israel with you? LionLez is run by people of color. For it to be a safe space for people of color. Zionists (all of whom are white supremacists) are not invited. Ever. Germany, the country who recently orchestrated the Holocaust and is still anti-semitic to this day, supports Israel. Have you thought about why? Could it be that Israel supports both their white supremacist agenda of ethnic cleansing of brown people AND their anti-semitic agenda of making Jewish people look bad? Britain and the US have admitted to manipulating white Jews' trauma to get a foothold in the Middle East for political and economic gain. Hamas only exists because of Zionists' cruelty. Zionists have taken Palestinian hostages for 75 years, so Hamas took hostages for a prisoner exchange to get their family members back. They fought back and killed a handful of people after a 75-year ongoing genocide that's killed hundreds of thousands. This is not a war. 'Israel is the sole aggressor. Israelities are the Nazis. Every religion has religious extremists. Christian religious extremists are called fundamentalists. Muslim religious extremists are called al Qaeda. Jewish religious extremists are called Israelis and Zionists. You and your white supremacy are also not invited. STOP THE GENOCIDE! FREE PALESTINE! FUCK ISRAEL."<sup>177</sup>
- Barnard's Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Department published a "Solidarity with Palestine" faculty statement on its website.<sup>178</sup>

### October 22, 2023:

- Barnard administration removed an October 21, 2023 "Solidarity with Palestine" faculty statement from the Barnard Women's, Gender, and Sexuality (WGSS) Department's website. Barnard Provost Linda Bell informed faculty

<sup>175</sup> *Students Against Antisemitism et. al. (amended).*

<sup>176</sup> Isabella Ramirez and Rebecca Massel, "LionLez president comes under fire for viral email," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/27/lionlez-president-comes-under-fire-for-viral-email/>.

<sup>177</sup> Ramirez and Massel, "LionLez president comes under fire for viral email."

@blakeflayton, X, October 24, 2023, <https://x.com/blakeflayton/status/1716812963636793404?s=20>.

<sup>178</sup> Maya Stahl, "One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president's controversial tenure so far," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/24/one-year-of-rosenbury-a-look-at-the-barnard-presidents-controversial-tenure-so-far/>.

members in the department that the statement had been removed and stated that it violated Barnard's acceptable use policy.<sup>179</sup>

- Dean of Undergraduate Student Life Cristen Kromm and Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs Melinda Aquino wrote that University bias response teams were "working actively on these issues with partners across the University and Public Safety continues to ensure that our campus remains a safe environment for all community members." The Deans emphasized the need for students to report instances of bias directly to the University through the bias report form.<sup>180</sup>

### October 23, 2023:

- Director Cohen sent a follow-up email to University leadership (specific recipients unknown) re October 18, 2023 memo: "Dear all - I have not received a response to my memo submitted on October 18. Below are two ideas, one was in the memo and one is a modified idea from the memo. I hope you will take both to heart: 1) University leadership needs to meet with the students most impacted by this war. Many of our students are on their own with loved ones in harm's way. They are from Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon. Their lives have been turned upside down and they are dealing with so many issues on campus, both in and out of the classroom. This University cannot support these students without hearing their stories, and the Kraft Center is not a substitute for the administration. I hope you will meet with them, listen to them, ask how they can be better supported, and be a shoulder for them to cry on. Opening a direct line of communication is also incredibly important right now. 2) The old way of doing business does not work any more. University rules and processes should be amended to deal with the timeliness and needs that this war will bring to campus. An interdepartmental task force should be created to respond to event requests, bias or harassment complaints, security needs, communication demands, etc. in a timely fashion. Students can't and won't wait three weeks to plan a program. These dedicated professionals need to be in direct contact with the students and the committee should include members with experience in this area. Once the new rules are set, they need to be enforced. Without this, we will have anarchy on campus. Without the University changing how it is handling things on campus, this will get far worse before it gets better. Let's please not wait for someone to get hurt or a building to be taken over by student activists."<sup>181</sup>
- At 6:55 PM Vice President Greenwell emailed Dar and Turath leadership re "You failed us": "Thank you for your time and thank you for your patience during this time. We have shared your concerns with University leadership and hope to be able to meet with you soon. In the meantime, the University has developed additional resources for the community, including support spaces for students. Below are details regarding one such space: (Support Spaces for Students with family or friends in Gaza, Lebanon, West Bank / Wednesdays / 5:00-6:15 PM / 10/25/2023 – end date TBD / Facilitator: [redacted], LCSW / Location: Lerner 8 Conference Room). This in-person confidential space is intended to provide comfort and support for students with personal connections to Palestine, worried about the safety and well-being of their loved ones there or contending with grief at the loss of friends or relations in the conflict. To sign up for the group, please email [redacted] at [redacted]@cumc.columbia.edu with the subject line 'Support Space for Students with family and friend in Gaza, Lebanon, or the West Bank.' One on one support continues to be available as well as therapists who speak Arabic, should you or anyone in the community need to speak with someone. I hope to be in touch soon to find a time and date for us to convene. Thank you again for your patience as we work to support students during this challenging times."<sup>182</sup>
- At 8:13 PM Dar and Turath leadership emailed Vice President Greenwell, Interim Provost Mitchell, Vice President for Student Life Ixchel Rosal, Associate Director of Multicultural Affairs and LGBTQ Outreach Vanessa Aviva Gonzalez-Siegel, and University Life re "You failed us": "I am saddened to say that your email is disappointing and not appreciated. We shared our needs with you clearly in the previous email. Your email conveys to us that you are not listening to our needs for safety and community support. Instead, you are trying to impose something on us that we haven't asked for or even consulted on when sharing this event held by CPS. Your email is simply telling us, this is what you need as a priority, not what we asked for. I hope you realize how dehumanizing and disrespectful this

<sup>179</sup> Shea Vance, "New York Civil Liberties Union sends letter to Barnard over academic freedom concerns, policy of 'prior restraint'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 22, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/22/new-york-civil-liberties-union-sends-letter-to-barnard-over-academic-freedom-concerns-policy-of-prior-restraint/>.

Stahl, "One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president's controversial tenure so far."

<sup>180</sup> Noxon, "Official State of Israel calls Columbia administrators 'cowards' in social media reposts of Business School professor's speech."

Sarah Huddleston, "Shafik, Rosenbury announce Doxing Resource Group," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 1, 2023,

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/01/shafik-rosenbury-announce-doxing-resource-group/>.

<sup>181</sup> Brian Cohen, October 23, 2023.

<sup>182</sup> Greenwell.

approach feels. Furthermore, the language used in the description of the event that's held by CPS is divisive and failed to acknowledge Palestine or Palestinians. On the other hand, CPS acknowledged Israel and Israelis in the other published event. We see the use of this language as a systematic discrimination by the university which we reject and condemn. We have addressed our needs in the previous two emails – and as of this moment you failed to provide us with a safe communal space to grieve and support each other, you failed to provide us with an attorney advisor, and failed to provide us with legal protection. What's next? We will bring the media to your office, with our reasonable demands, and we will enter a strike. The timing is yet to be determined. Our door is not closed yet. We are open to dialogue. However, we refuse the notion that our needs for safety and community solidarity is not taken seriously."<sup>183</sup>

- Columbia indefinitely postponed its annual Giving Day after “careful consideration and consultation with University and alumni leadership.”<sup>184</sup>

#### October 24: New University Policy and Subsequent Consequences

##### **October 24, 2023:**

- Administration posted revised event policies to the University Event Policy webpage with a new provision for a “safe and responsible event” which stated that “consistent with the Rules of University Conduct, the University may regulate the time, place and manner of certain forms of public expression. This includes restricting certain activities when the University believes there is a genuine threat of harassment and/or the potential for an unmanageable safety concern.” At the same time, Columbia updated its Student Group Event Policy and Procedure webpage to include a policy that granted the University “sole discretion” to determine sanctions on student organizations and their members. The revised policy included a special event classification that required a 10-day advance notice period. President Shafik was provided with the recommendation that university event policies be changed. According to President Shafik she was unaware that the University Senate would typically engage and review these policies and she trusted the advice given to her by her advisors since “she was not familiar yet with the processes at the University.” The fact that changes were being made to university event policies, or that updated event policies were implemented, was not communicated to the Columbia community and information on this was not transmitted to student leadership or faculty. This was done without official communication to the University Senate, student groups, or faculty. The updated policies were cited in SJP’s and JVP’s suspension on November 10, 2023.<sup>185</sup>
- Executive Vice President for University Facilities and Operations David Greenberg announced access restrictions for October 25, 2023 and added: “Please note that there may be future instances that necessitate the implementation of gate closures or access restrictions based on information received from law enforcement of potential events that may affect Columbia.” Greenberg added that he recognized the “inconvenience” of the limited gate configuration and wrote that Columbia “will make every effort to provide timely notifications if such restrictions are put in place.”<sup>186</sup>
- At 11:01 PM Director Turini emailed SJP and JVP leadership “SJP and JVP Event Tomorrow”: “I’m reaching out in regards to your advertised walk out and protest planned for tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., meeting on Low Steps. As we have discussed, the student group event policy and procedures for reserving space for an event like this requires a 10 day review period. Please understand that the University will consider this an unsanctioned event and, if held tomorrow, you should anticipate individual and/or group follow-up and accountability. As your adviser, I would recommend that you stop advertising the event. . . If you would like to propose this event for a later date, or have ideas for future events please let me know and put in a space request immediately. . . Please let me know if you’d like to talk through alternative options or upcoming events.”<sup>187</sup>
- A member of the WhatsApp group, “Columbia Alumni for Israel” wrote in the chat that “the Lionlez idiots need to be outed and frankly humiliated through any, and all means.”<sup>188</sup>

<sup>183</sup> Turath leadership and Dar leadership.

<sup>184</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>185</sup> Huddleston, "Columbia updated its event policy webpages. Seventeen days later, it suspended SJP and JVP."

<sup>186</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, "Public Safety announces changes in gate access to Morningside Heights campus ahead of impending walkout," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 23, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/23/public-safety-announces-changes-in-gate-access-to-morningside-heights-campus-ahead-of-impending-walkout/>.

<sup>187</sup> Marnie Turini, October 24, 2023.

<sup>188</sup> Sarah Huddleston, "In leaked messages, members of 'Columbia Alumni for Israel' group chat work to identify, punish pro-Palestinian protesters," *The Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 5, 2025, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2025/03/05/in-leaked-messages-members-of-columbia-alumni-for-israel-group-chat-work-to-identify-punish-pro-palestinian-protesters/>.

- On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors” about the chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia’s interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.

### October 25, 2023:

- At 1:00 PM Public Safety access restrictions (CUID-only) to Morningside campus announced October 24, 2023 went into effect. Gate access to the Morningside Heights campus was restricted to the pedestrian gates at 116th Street at Broadway, Amsterdam Avenue, and Wien Hall. This closure marked the second restriction in advance of planned demonstrations on campus since October 7.<sup>189</sup>
- For the first time, a doxxing truck circled Morningside campus with “Columbia’s Leading Antisemites,” written on its sides, alongside names and images of Columbia affiliates who were, allegedly, members of organizations that signed an October 9, 2023 Palestinian solidarity statement.<sup>190</sup>
  - Hours after the truck began driving around the Morningside campus, protestors gathered at the pedestrian gates at 116th and Amsterdam Avenue to condemn the truck, holding signs that said “stop doxxing our students.” Protesters also gathered in front of the truck carrying balloons and umbrellas to block the names and faces displayed on the truck.
  - The group behind the trucks, conservative media group Accuracy in Media (AIM), also published a website titled “Columbia Hates Jews” that listed Columbia affiliates and announced that the list would be “continually updated.” On October 25, 2023 the site had 29 affiliates listed. The site called on its visitors to send a message to Columbia’s Board of Trustees urging them to “take a stand” against “these hateful individuals.”
  - Students expressed concerns that their photos from the doxxing trucks were from Columbia records and expressed fear that Columbia had provided this information to AIM. AIM did use CampusGroups, an online platform SIPA used as a centralized hub for its student groups and activities, to obtain students’ information.
  - In an interview with *Spectator*, AIM President Adam Guillette said that he had purchased the domain names for “dozens” of Columbia affiliates. Guillette also told *Spectator* that it was “quite likely” that the truck would visit Columbia affiliates’ homes.
  - Pro-Palestinian protestors began to wear masks more frequently to protect themselves against doxxing after the truck visited campus.
- At 9:26 AM University Life Director Gomes emailed a long list of redacted recipients including SJP and JVP leadership “Student Group Reminders and Updates Fall 2023”: “Greeting Student Group leaders, We hope that your groups and events are off to a good start this fall!” Gomes first provided an update on the Club ReFuel process. Gomes then wrote: “Event Planning: As you begin to program more frequently, please keep the following tips and reminders in mind. Loop your adviser in as you think of new programs or events. We’ve been asked to circulate updated University Event Policy, Student Group Event Policy, and updated information on hosting vigils on

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Natasha Lennard and Akela Lacy, "The Columbia Network Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors," *The Intercept*, February 15, 2024, <https://theintercept.com/2025/02/15/columbia-alumni-israel-whatsapp-deport-gaza-protesters/>.

<sup>189</sup> Ariel Yu and Dakasha Pillai, "Hundreds of affiliates participate in national walkout with Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/26/hundreds-of-affiliates-participate-in-national-walkout-with-students-for-justice-in-palestine-and-jewish-voice-for-peace/>.

<sup>190</sup> Esha Karam, "'Doxxing truck' displaying names and faces of affiliates it calls 'Antisemites' comes to Columbia," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 25, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/25/doxxing-truck-displaying-names-and-faces-of-affiliates-it-calls-antisemites-comes-to-columbia/>.

"Columbia Hates Jews," <https://p2a.co/WPpYTxs>.

Karam, Huddleston, and Ticer-Wurr, "'We're the ones being targeted': Pro-Palestinian affiliates report harassment, threats."

Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Doxxing Resource Group connects affiliates to privacy scrubbing, legal advice, and support services," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 23, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/23/doxxing-resource-group-connects-affiliates-to-privacy-scrubbing-legal-advice-and-support-services/>.

Elliot Heath and Wyatt King, "A year of protests at Columbia," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/videos/2024/10/23/a-year-of-protests-at-columbia/>.

University property. It is important to read through and understand all of these policies and to plan as far in advance as possible, particularly outdoor events which may have safety concerns. The University requires a minimum of ten days advance planning, getting approval of an event in advance of advertising, and outlines potential individual and group accountability. Keep in mind that some events will require an event review, special event approval, or additional logistical coordination. If your event requires purchasing supplies, ticketing, reserving tech, or has unique setup or support needs, communicate that to your adviser and appropriate campus partners at least ten business days prior to the event. Make sure you have enough volunteers for your event if needed; creating schedules and sharing them with members of the group in advance is always a plus!" Gomes then provided an update on Pre-Calendaring and Group Travel. Gomes ended the email with: "We look forward to supporting you and your communities. Please let us know how we can best assist your group!"<sup>191</sup>

- At 1:00 PM Hundreds of affiliates protested violence in Gaza and the University's ties to Israel on the steps of Low Library as part of a national walkout organized by national SJP and other Palestinian advocacy groups. The walkout did not receive approval from the University because it did not meet the new 10-day notice requirement as a "non-emergency event" as required by new event policies.<sup>192</sup>
  - One SJP board member stated: "we've received threats among the board that we will get personal disciplinary action, etc. But we decided to hold this walkout. The whole point is that it's happening now. And we want to stand up now and tell the school to call for a ceasefire, tell the government to call for a ceasefire. And then we will get to the other demands of divestment."
- At 5:58 PM Dean Kromm emailed [2 redacted students] in an email title "Follow-up from earlier": "Thank you so much for sharing your honest thoughts this afternoon when I stopped by Dean Aquino's office. I am truly heartbroken that you are feeling uncared for, and scared, and so many other awful feelings right now – although I certainly understand why that is the case. I hope in the coming days I/we can show you with our actions how much we do care for you personally, and your community. I have reached out to Joseph Greenwell and Ian Rottenberg about both the urgency of a community space and getting the meeting scheduled with Turath and Dar leadership about the pressing demands/concerns. There are a number of staff who need to support the protest outside our gates this evening – and we just aren't able to get something together tonight. We are working on a community space for tomorrow – no promises yet, but a commitment that we are trying. In terms of the meeting, with an understanding of the importance of your specific 4 requests – also pressing to have that ASAP – but not sure if that can happen this week – but, hopefully Monday at the latest. [1<sup>st</sup> redacted student] . . . I understand Dean Sorett reached out to you about a meeting tomorrow with several CC students. [2<sup>nd</sup> redacted student] – I hope you are feeling safer at home with family and look forward to welcoming you back to campus when you are ready."<sup>193</sup>
- Hundreds gathered outside the Morningside campus gates on West 116th Street and Broadway to demand an "end to Jew-Hatred on campus."<sup>194</sup>
  - The rally was co-organized by EndJewHatred, Club Z, The North American Division of the Department for the Promotion of Aliya, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, American Russian-Speaking Jews Alliance, the World Zionist Organization, and Yad Yamin NY.
  - At the rally, speakers called to end Jewish hatred, antisemitism, and anti-Zionism on college campuses. Throughout the rally, participants chanted "end Jew hatred" and "Am Yisrael Chai," which translates to "the nation of Israel lives."
  - Toward the end of the rally, participants sang Hatikvah, the national anthem of the State of Israel.
- Leon Cooperman, Business '67, a hedge fund manager who donated \$25 million in 2012 to support the construction of the Manhattanville campus, announced in an interview with Fox Business that he would no longer donate money to Columbia, citing the October 25 walkout organized by SJP and JVP and a recent rise in antisemitism.<sup>195</sup>

<sup>191</sup> Huddleston, "Columbia updated its event policy webpages. Seventeen days later, it suspended SJP and JVP." Aaron Gomes, October 25, 2023.

<sup>192</sup> Yu and Pillai, "Hundreds of affiliates participate in national walkout with Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace."

<sup>193</sup> Christin Kromm, October 25, 2023.

<sup>194</sup> Yu and Pillai, "Hundreds of affiliates participate in national walkout with Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace."

Rebecca Massel, "Hundreds rally against antisemitism outside Columbia gates," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 26, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/26/hundreds-rally-against-antisemitism-outside-columbia-gates/>.

<sup>195</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, "Billionaire Leon Cooperman, Business '67, vows to cut off donations to Columbia, citing student walkout and rise of antisemitism " *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/27/billionaire-leon-cooperman-business-67-vows-to-cut-off-donations-to-columbia-citing-student-walkout-and-rise-of-antisemitism/>.



- *Spectator* reported that 75 Columbia affiliates were listed on Canary Mission, a website that claims to document “individuals and organizations that promote hatred of the USA, Israel and Jews.”<sup>196</sup>

#### October 26, 2023:

- Approximately 50 students gathered for a “Not In Our Name: Stop Doxxing Now” protest led by Jewish students opposed to “doxxing trucks around Columbia Campus.” The students initially gathered on Low Plaza and then moved to the crosswalk at the 116<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway crosswalk off-campus.<sup>197</sup>
- Barnard President Rosenbury issued a second statement following October 7: “The war is also taking a toll on our campus. . . I am appalled and saddened to see antisemitism and anti-Zionism spreading throughout Barnard and Columbia.”<sup>198</sup>
- An open letter, “Academic Freedom Under Attack at Barnard College,” addressed to President Rosenbury was issued. Though written anonymously, the letter identified its writers as “faculty of Barnard and Columbia” and argued that the characterization of anti-Zionism by Rosenbury “subjects all faculty and students critical of the Zionist political project to the increased security, surveillance, and policing currently being implemented by the College.” Over 800 Barnard and Columbia faculty, alumni, students, and other affiliates signed the letter.<sup>199</sup>
- Barnard Dean Grinage and Senior Vice President for Strategic Finance and Operations Sarah Gillman emailed the Barnard community “Responding to reports of doxxing”, notifying students that they could request for their names to be taken off the University directory by emailing the University Registrar. Barnard faculty and staff were also told they could contact the Office of the Provost or Human Resources to have their contact information removed.<sup>200</sup>
  - “Doxxing is an unacceptable practice that threatens the safety of our community.”
  - “Barnard is working with the NYPD to report concerns about the presence and content of the trucks near our campus.”
  - “The NYPD has also informed us that any person displayed on a truck in the vicinity of campus can make a complaint to report harassment. The person should have photo documentation if possible. The complaint must be filed by the person whose photo is displayed. Any student or community member should call Barnard's CARES Community Safety (212-854-6666 or 4-6666 from a campus phone) and CARES will help to file the report with the NYPD.”
  - “In addition to the doxxing by the trucks, we have received reports of doxxing through shared spreadsheets and unaffiliated websites.”
- H.R. 6090, “Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2023,” was introduced in the House of Representatives.<sup>201</sup>
  - “To provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.”

#### October 27, 2023:

- A swastika was found drawn on a bathroom wall on the fourth floor of the International Affairs Building. SIPA Dean Yarhi-Milo emailed the SIPA community about the incident. Columbia Public Safety “promptly” notified the NYPD who launched an investigation.<sup>202</sup>

<sup>196</sup> Karam, “‘Doxxing truck’ displaying names and faces of affiliates it calls ‘Antisemites’ comes to Columbia.”

<sup>197</sup> Rebecca Massel and Daksha Pillai, “Students protest against ‘doxxing truck’,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/27/students-protest-against-doxxing-truck/>.

<sup>198</sup> Stahl, “One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president’s controversial tenure so far.”

<sup>199</sup> Shea Vance, “Rosenbury follow-up email on violence in Gaza and Israel denounces ‘anti-Zionism,’ draws criticism for ‘biased rhetoric,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 31, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/31/rosenbury-follow-up-email-on-violence-in-gaza-and-israel-denounces-anti-zionism-draws-criticism-for-biased-rhetoric/>.

<sup>200</sup> Leslie Grinage and Sarah Gillman, “Responding to reports of doxxing,” news release, October 23, 2023, <https://barnard.edu/news/responding-reports-doxxing>.

Karam, Huddleston, and Ticer-Wurr, “‘We’re the ones being targeted’: Pro-Palestinian affiliates report harassment, threats.” Huddleston, “Shafik, Rosenbury announce Doxing Resource Group.”

<sup>201</sup> Rep. Lawler [R-NY-17] Michael, H.R. 6090 - Antisemitism Awareness Act of 2023.

<sup>202</sup> Daksha Pillai, “Swastika found drawn in International Affairs Building restroom,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 30, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/10/30/swastika-found-drawn-in-international-affairs-building-restroom/>.

- In SIPA Dean Yarhi-Milo’s email, she stated: “I am shocked and dismayed that anyone would promote this most notorious symbol of antisemitism, hatred, and racial supremacy. . . I conveyed to our community just a short while ago that behavior like this has no place at SIPA, at Columbia University, or in our society.”
- At 11:36 AM a student who was doxxed on the doxing truck on October 25, 2023 emailed Dean Kromm and cc’d Associate Dean of Multicultural Affairs Melinda Aquino and Associate Director Gonzalez-Siegel: “Dean Kromm, Thank you for meeting us earlier this week. I am in the engineering school and am yet to receive a single email from administration about being doxxed. I truly cannot even wrap my head around how careless the entire school is about the situation. I have been making calls, sending emails, finding new contacts for help non stop and am yet to hear anything from Columbia. As an Arab and Muslim student, I know I’m not the priority here. It’s the norm to not get the same protection and care as for other students. My mental and emotional state has been greatly affected by this situation, not only for me, but my entire family. I mean my future is at stake and I am paying for a school that was meant to open opportunities for me, not close them. I’m questioning why I should even continue paying tuition at this point. Not to mention that I’ve been falling behind in all my classes because of the way I’ve been neglected from the university. I need to be in contact with people higher up to see what they are doing. The last 48 hours have been detrimental to me and my family and that is fully on the administration. It is truly beyond me that I am yet to receive an email about the situation going on. The only statement I’ve seen (which wasn’t even sent to me) was that despicable statement from the Barnard president yesterday. I used to have an ounce of hope that the University would step in to help, but I’ve seen and heard nothing. Please get me into contact with those higher up as soon as possible.”<sup>203</sup>
- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>204</sup>
  - President Shafik did not attend.
  - “Sen. D’Armiento welcomed senators. She said people on campus were now facing disturbing and complex issues that have affected the entire community. She stressed the importance of the practice in an academic community of listening to each other and respecting each other.”
  - “Sen. D’Armiento noted an October 18 email from President Shafik that called attention to the experience of some students who had expressed views critical of Israel, and had later been “doxed,” with their personal information posted online and highlighted on large trucks on the edge of campus. The trucks identified these students as anti-Semites. Sen. D’Armiento said many students are disturbed by this harassment. She asked Joseph Defraigne Greenwell, senior vice president for student affairs, to say more on this subject.”
  - “Mr. Greenwell said a number of Columbia students had been doxed. Most of them are in one or two Columbia schools, but a number of schools have students in this group. Mr. Greenwell had met with several students and would be meeting on October 30 with a group of 19 students from one of the schools. He said he could share with the Senate that the University is working with experts on doxing and is collecting information that he expected to share with the students soon. Mr. Greenwell said his office had been working closely with Public Safety and making sure that students know what they can do if they have been directly doxed, including informing the New York Police Department. Students have expressed reservations about dealing with the NYPD, but he still recommended taking that step, particularly for students who have seen their own faces on the truck. Mr. Greenwell said students have asked whether there is a particular person that they can work with. The liaison for them is Daniel Ayala, associate director for investigations in the Office of Public Safety. Mr. Greenwell said he would be sharing this information with students and deans of students. Mr. Greenwell said he himself had also been doxed at another institution, and though he was not an expert, he was getting there. He would also offer to meet with students to share his own experience. Mr. Greenwell said his office would also be learning what steps Harvard and other institutions had taken under similar circumstances. . . Mr. Greenwell said he would put his email address in the Chat and make himself available to talk to anyone.”
  - “Mr. Greenwell added that his office would also be on the lookout for other acts of bias and discrimination in this difficult moment. He said there are several mechanisms in place for this purpose. Aside from Public Safety, there are a number of relevant policies. He urged students to report violations of these policies. He said he works with the Office of Student Conduct, as well as with bias response programs for students, and

<sup>203</sup> [redacted student], October 27, 2023.

<sup>204</sup> Columbia University Senate, "November 17, 2023 Plenary." [https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US\\_Plenary%20Binder\\_20231117\\_PP.pdf](https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US_Plenary%20Binder_20231117_PP.pdf).

Columbia University Senate, "December 8, 2023 Plenary." [chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US\\_Plenary%20Binder\\_20231208-PP.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmninnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US_Plenary%20Binder_20231208-PP.pdf).

Huddleston, "Shafik, Rosenbury announce Doxing Resource Group."

he partners closely with the EOAA office. He said any report would get reviewed. He said the more detailed the information received—though he understood that that could be difficult—the more Columbia administrators could do to help.”

- At 2:10 PM Associate Dean for Student and Family Support Matthew Patashnick emailed a student who was doxxed by the Accuracy in Media (AIM) doxxing truck on October 25, 2023 in an email titled “checking in.” This student had sent an email earlier that day asking Dean Kromm for support. The student wrote: “My name is Matthew Patashnick and I’m the associate dean for student & family support at Columbia. I am reaching out to follow up about the doxing concerns you have reported. Let me first say that I am so sorry this is happening to you. I understand how difficult this moment is for you and I am here to help. I am working with senior leadership from the University on some anti-doxing support and resources. I will be able to share a more comprehensive update in the next few hours and will reach out to set up some time to speak with you. Please know that we are here for you and will be in touch very soon.”<sup>205</sup>
- At 9:30 PM Dean Kromm reached out to a student who was doxxed on October 25, 2023 by the AIM doxxing truck. Dean Patashnick had emailed earlier that day: “my apologies for the delay – I do understand the urgency of your situation. I am so sorry to hear of your disappointment, frustration, and lack of feeling cared for. As an Arab and Muslim, I assure you that I, and many of my colleagues throughout the University do see you as a priority. I also understand Matthew Patashnick, Associate Dean of Student and Family Support, reached out to you today, and you were able to connect. He’s working with you on a number of fronts – a connection with Public Safety regarding a safety plan, a connection with CCE, and will remain in touch about University resources, regarding doxxing as soon as they are available – as we’ve been informed the University is working with consultants to ensure we have the most accurate information available. I’ve also learned that you are working with your advising dean. . . regarding classes. . . Please confirm this was helpful?”<sup>206</sup>
- “Israel Current Events” chat.<sup>207</sup>
  - The chat records show that in late October, chat members suggested to Israeli officials that they should hold a private New York City screening of “Bearing Witness,” the IDF film featuring graphic footage recorded by Hamas as they attacked Israel, for members of the media.
  - Joseph Sitt, founder of the retail chain Ashley Stewart and the global real estate company Thor Equities, wrote in a message to the group on October 27, 2023 that Israeli officials wanted to thank them “for coming up with the concept of the press event in NYC.”

#### October 28, 2023:

- At 11:50 PM the student Dean Patashnick and Dean Kromm emailed October 27, 2023 responded to Dean Kromm: “Yes, I finally received a call from Matthew yesterday and Joseph Greenwell and feel slightly more reassured. The most support I have been receiving has been from alumni and other students who have also helped me get into contact with the right people. This was helpful to hear as well. I am glad there is some action being taken. I am hoping the trucks will be removed as well and I won’t have to rely on the student body to cover my face on the truck. In addition, I know the truck is planning to go in front of people’s houses. I cannot understand how this isn’t a form of harassment or stalking? I mean if this was a random person doing this, I would probably be able to get some sort of restraining order on them. I simply cannot understand how the school cannot do anything about it. The lack of urgency with the entire situation has been the most shocking part. Soon enough, many of the people on this list can be added to the canary list which introduces a much bigger problem. There is certainly some sort of policy where the school is meant to take some sort of measure to protect their students. How can I take the subway knowing I can be the target of the next hate crime? I am sure that must violate something. If that was your child on the doxxing truck, what would you do? Would you sit back and wait until the university took action? With the current way the university has been going about the situation? The stress this has been causing my parents has been putting a hole in my heart. They can’t sleep at night. They are older now, they do not need this stress in their lives, this is the last thing I would ever want to put on them. They have worked too hard for me and my siblings to be dealing with this. I don’t want to have to be constantly asking the university for help. The university should be constantly comforting them saying that they will take care of these things. My family along with others have had to beg for answers and help. They have worked too hard for me and my siblings to be dealing with this. I don’t want them to have to be constantly asking the university for help. The university should be constantly comforting them

<sup>205</sup> Matthew Patashnick, October 27, 2023.

<sup>206</sup> Christin Kromm, October 27, 2023.

<sup>207</sup> Natanson and Felton, "Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show."

saying that they will take care of these things. My family and along with others have had to beg for answers and help. I have worked too hard to get to ‘prestigious’ university to be dealing with this. I am a Muslim, I am an Arab, it is hard enough going about my daily life in this country. I thought a University that promotes diversity and inclusion would have acted so quickly to protect their minority students. It is already hard enough balancing being a student-athlete. Adding an entire doxxing case which I have been navigating alone doesn’t help that. I mean Minouche didn’t even mention the doxxing trucks outside campus. All because the school is scared to lose a couple donors. Truly shows how money is more important than the lives of their students. I am hoping this will be addressed soon.”<sup>208</sup>

### October 30, 2023:

- At 11:45 AM Dean Kromm responded re [redacted student]’s October 28, 2023 email: “I am glad you are feeling more reassured and getting from the community. The immediate next step to arrange additional support from the University, which you already discussed with Matthew, is sitting down with Public Safety to determine a safety plan. Matthew will be the best point of contact and guidance for you and your family in terms of steps the University may/is taking. I do recognize there is significant stress, worry, and fear for you and your family right now – and I really wish I had answers and could be more helpful here.”<sup>209</sup>
- At 4:57 PM SJP leadership emailed University Life Director Turini “Access to Lionlink”: “Just reaching out to get approval to access our funds through Lionlink. [Redacted student] requested access to the account but still hasn’t been accepted. Let us know if there’s anything else we need to do.”<sup>210</sup>
- At 5:04 PM University Life Director Turini responded to SJP leadership “Re: Access to Lionlink”: “I just added [redacted student] and she now has access to the Finance tab. You might need to log out and back in or let it take a few hours to update. Just an FYI- Lionlink does not send me notifications when you submit or request anything, so when you are ready to spend and start submitting Purchase Requests (also known as FTFs) remember to send me an email with the number. I will then log in and review it, otherwise I won't know it's sitting in the queue!”<sup>211</sup>
- At 5:08 PM SJP leadership responded to University Life Director Turini “Re: Access to Lionlink”: “Fantastic! Thank you. Also, would we be able to get approved to use that money for bus tickets to DC for the demonstration this weekend? Let us know.”<sup>212</sup>
- At 5:18 PM SJP leadership responded to University Life Director Turini “Re: Access to Lionlink”: Additionally, 2 things: Would it be possible to get a large room (150+ people) for Thursday from 5:30-8pm? We got last minute confirmation from a guest who wants to come speak and EMS doesn't have any options for that date/time. If not, are there any alternatives? Also, for that event, could we get approval to get food from an outside vendor that's not on Columbia's list? Apologies for the sporadic emailing just trying to do our due diligence.”<sup>213</sup>
- Barnard Events Management confirmed November 2 “Let’s Talk Palestine” event with Palestinian writer and poet Mohammed El-Kurd. This event was organized by SJP and co-sponsored by the Barnard Center for Research on Women.<sup>214</sup>
- Faculty at Columbia and Barnard released “An Open Letter from Columbia University and Barnard College Faculty in Defense of Robust Debate About the History and Meaning of the War in Israel/Gaza” condemning the backlash students received after they signed an October 9, 2023 statement about the conflict.<sup>215</sup>
  - “We ask Columbia University’s leadership, our faculty colleagues, Columbia alumni, potential employers of Columbia students, and all who share a commitment to the notion of a just society to join us in condemning, in the strongest of terms, the vicious targeting of our students with doxing, public shaming, surveillance by members of our community, including other students, and reprisals from employers.”
  - The letter demanded that the University stop “issuing statements that favor the suffering and deaths of Israelis or Jews over the suffering and death of Palestinians, and/or that fail to recognize how challenging this time has been for all our students, not just some.”

<sup>208</sup> [redacted student].

<sup>209</sup> Kromm.

<sup>210</sup> Columbia SJP, October 30, 2023.

<sup>211</sup> Marnie Turini, October 30, 2023.

<sup>212</sup> Columbia SJP, October 30, 2023.

<sup>213</sup> Columbia SJP.

<sup>214</sup> Huddleston and Mendell, "Columbia suspends SJP and JVP following 'unauthorized' Thursday walkout."

<sup>215</sup> Emily Forgash and Amanda Chapa, "Hundreds of faculty sign open letters in debate around free speech, student safety following Palestinian solidarity statement," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 1, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/01/hundreds-of-faculty-sign-open-letters-in-debate-around-free-speech-student-safety-following-palestinian-solidarity-statement/>.

- The letter also called on University leadership to condemn “the vicious targeting of our students with doxxing, public shaming, surveillance by members of our community, including other students, and reprisals from employers.”
- Over 170 faculty signed.
- Another faculty open letter, “An Open Letter from Columbia University and Barnard College Faculty on the Campus Conversation About Hamas’ Atrocities and the War in Israel and Gaza,” was published in response to the first faculty open letter published October 30, 2023.<sup>216</sup>
  - The letter condemned the previous letter’s attempts to “‘recontextualize [Hamas] as a salvo,’ as the ‘exercise of a right to resist’ occupation, or as ‘military action.’”
  - “We are astonished that anyone at Columbia would try to legitimize an organization that shares none of the University’s core values of democracy, human rights, or the rule of law. . . We ask the entire University community to condemn the Hamas attack unambiguously. We doubt anyone would try to justify this sort of atrocity if it were directed against the residents of a nation other than Israel.”
  - Over 300 faculty signed.
- In an open letter directed at Columbia’s administration, alumni across all of Columbia’s schools called for immediate action to address anti-Palestinian sentiment on campus.<sup>217</sup>
  - The letter was distributed via emails and hand-delivered to deans and other officials across campus.
  - Over 1,100 alumni signed.
- Henry Swieca, Business ’83, the founder of Talpion Fund Management, resigned from the Columbia Business School board. In his resignation letter, Swieca described his resignation as “an expression of [his] deep concern for the direction in which the university is heading. . . With blatantly anti-Jewish student groups and professors allowed to operate with complete impunity, it sends a clear and distressing message that Jews are not just unwelcome, but also unsafe on campus.” Swieca wrote that statements from the University criticizing antisemitism on campus carry little weight, and that “any other minority group on campus would never have to face anything close to this level of intimidation and hatred of Jewish and pro-Israel students.”<sup>218</sup>

### October 31, 2023:

- SSI Executive Board emailed University Life administrators, Mullenix, Trulby, and Greenwell, and Public Safety about a silent event scheduled for the next day, November 1, 2023. SSI requested a waiver of the event policies 10-day review requirement to proceed with the event, but this was denied. SSI was told that there likely would be “individual and student group accountability” if the event took place. SSI elected to cancel the event.<sup>219</sup>
- At 12:25 AM University Life Director Turini “Re: Access to Lionlink”: “Happy to help. 1- Travel booking- let me get back to you on that first thing tomorrow. The process for domestic trips usually normally takes two weeks out to plan but if it’s a small group might be manageable. How many folks would you be hoping to send? 2-If there is nothing available in EMS because the spaces are used by other groups at that time, there’s unfortunately no other rooms that we have access to. If there is nothing in EMS because you are within 5 days from the event to book through EMS so it’s just blocking the whole date, I’d need to know more about the guest and the event to see if we need an event review, and therefore a 10 day planning window. . .”<sup>220</sup>
- SIPA announced the creation of the SIPA Task Force on Doxing and Student Safety since several “SIPA students and faculty [had] been subjected to doxxing campaigns.” The Task Force said it would work with the University and local government personnel to prevent doxxing, protect students’ identities, and “develop proposals to reduce tensions among various students and student organizations.” Dean Yarhi-Milo did not announce the members of the Task Force but wrote that it would be made up of various students, faculty, and administrators.<sup>221</sup>
- The most senior development associate on staff for the Columbia College Fund, one of the main funds responsible for the College’s fundraising efforts, voluntarily resigned. In a Spring 2024 lawsuit, the associate stated:

<sup>216</sup> Forgash and Chapa, “Hundreds of faculty sign open letters in debate around free speech, student safety following Palestinian solidarity statement.”

<sup>217</sup> Daniela Ospino Pallares, “Alumni call for University action in support of Palestinian rights in open letter,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 1, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/01/alumni-call-for-university-action-in-support-of-palestinian-rights-in-open-letter/>.

<sup>218</sup> Grace Hamilton, “Jewish billionaire Henry Swieca resigns from Columbia Business School board citing rise of antisemitism, inadequate University response,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 10, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/10/jewish-billionaire-henry-swieca-resigns-from-columbia-business-school-board-citing-rise-of-antisemitism-inadequate-university-response/>.

<sup>219</sup> *Students Against Antisemitism et. al. (amended)*.

<sup>220</sup> Turini.

<sup>221</sup> Apurva Chakravarthy, “SIPA creates Anti-Hate Task Force to address rising antisemitism and Islamophobia,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 14, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/14/sipa-creates-anti-hate-task-force-to-address-rising-antisemitism-and-islamophobia/>.

“Throughout the month of October, I was increasingly concerned that we were being asked to respond to complaints from donors and members of the general public that were openly racist, anti-Arab and Islamophobic. As a South Asian person who actively supports Palestine and Palestinian rights, it was extremely distressing to work in an office where these kinds of comments were being treated as valid concerns to be dealt with.” The associate expressed concern by email with CC Fund’s “response to these racist emails” to other development associates. On October 31, 2024, the associate was “called into a meeting with Human Resources and my union representative where I was informed that I was under investigation for my statements the days prior calling the donor a racist, which had hurt one of my colleagues. Immediately following the meeting, I decided that CC Fund was no longer aligned with my values and that the constant responsiveness to racist donors was causing a negative impact on my mental health, so I decided to quit.”<sup>222</sup>

- The associate was responsible for processing checks and donations, planning events for alumni donor and societies, writing newsletters, and providing support to individual donors by coordinating special access to Columbia events. The associate was also responsible for reviewing emails sent to the “CCFund@columbia.edu” email address (“CCF Email”). This email was the general inbox for people who wanted to communicate with CC Fund. Development associates were given access to this general inbox to ensure that people who reached out were either immediately receiving answers to their questions or were escalated to other staff members in the CC Fund.
- Prior to October 2023, the associate noted that the CCF email received fewer emails and did not regularly see complaints, threats, or other negative types of emails.
- The associate stated that starting around October 9, 2023 “the emails we received also changed from the usual content - almost all of the emails we received criticized Columbia for their lack of support of Israel, Columbia’s failure to condemn Hamas publicly, and its failure to respond more harshly to pro-Palestine advocacy. Many of these emails included anti-Arab and Islamophobic comments including reference to students as terrorists and assertions that Arab and Muslim students were not telling the truth about their negative experiences on campus.”
- “In most instances I was directed by my managers to connect donors with Robyn Guzman, who is the Director of Marketing for the Office of Alumni Development. Before October 9th, I had never interacted with Ms. Guzman, even when we received complaints in the past. When I emailed a complaint to Ms. Guzman, she would reply to some directly to on an email chain that I did not have access to. In other instances, I would be allowed to reply to the donor and make sure the donor knew that their concerns were being escalated and taken seriously. . . This was a new process for me as the senior most development officer.”
- “In other instances, I was a part of email discussions via the CC Fund email, that included the Dean of Columbia College, Joseph Sorett, directly communicating with donors who had brought complaints of antisemitism and anti-Zionism. I had never experienced involvement from the Dean of Columbia College in emails with donors prior to this period.”
- “Soon after October 9th, I received an email from one of my managers to all development associates that asked us to log any complaints from donors related to Israel or Palestine in a Google form. We were asked to log any complaints from donors, including the text of the email they sent, the donor’s information and manager, who they had been escalated to, and what follow up was necessary. We kept this information in a master Google Doc spreadsheet, which was shared amongst the CC Fund, Columbia College Alumni Relations and Development, and Arts and Sciences Fundraising.”
- “By October 31st, this Google Doc spreadsheet had logged over 80 specific complaints related to antisemitism, anti-Israel, anti-protest activity.”
- “Between October 9th and October 31st, I saw, catalogued, and escalated to Ms. Guzman at least 3 specific emails that demanded Columbia University shut down Students for Justice in Palestine. The emails asked for the groups to be ‘disbanded,’ ‘suspended’ and ‘not active on campus.’ The emails criticized the student groups for holding vigils early on and for their perceived support of Hamas.”
- “On November 10, 2023, when I saw the public announcement that Students for Justice in Palestine had been suspended from Columbia campus, I immediately associated it with the string of emails that we had received in my time at CC Fund.”

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<sup>222</sup> *Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, Columbia-Barnard Jewish Voice for Peace, Maryam Alwan, and Cameron Jones.*

## November 1, 2023:

- Dozens of SIPA students staged a walkout of at least four classes to express solidarity with doxxed students. The walkout was coordinated with classes, including the *Situation Room*, taught by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Dean Yarhi-Milo. Students organized this event, in part, because there was suspicion in the community that Columbia was providing names and photos to the doxxing organization, Accuracy in Media (AIM). AIM did use CampusGroups, an online social media platform used by SIPA as a centralized hub for its student groups and activities, to obtain students' information. The protesting students six demands included a call to investigate CampusGroups, which has a private community chat, and provide "immediate legal support for affected students."<sup>223</sup>
  - Students held up signs reading "SIPA Students Stand United."
  - SIPA Dean Yarhi-Milo and Professor Clinton were escorted out a side door as students left their classroom. After accompanying Clinton, Dean Yarhi-Milo returned to address gathered students.
  - Dean Yarhi-Milo: "I know this is an extremely difficult time for a lot of us, I know that many of you do not feel safe, do not feel supported. I am here with you. I feel your pain, I feel your anger. I am doing what I can with our community to get action as fast as possible with all of you. I am your dean and I promise you that for three weeks now I haven't slept, working on what I can do for you, both with the University, with law enforcement, with faculty, and with students. Every day I wake up and I say 'What else I can do?' and I try to do better because this community is precious to me, this community is so special, and this community can really lead the way." Students interrupted Yarhi-Milo's address throughout.
  - Student participants shouted: "If someone is going to come here and theorize us about being together, we should practice what we preach" and "Why are you speaking to us if you're not willing to listen?"
  - Before leaving, Yarhi-Milo stated: "You're now yelling at me. I don't think this is productive. Let's work on the task force that we put and let's do it together." Protestors chanted "Shame" as Dean Yarhi-Milo left.
  - The SIPA Student Association reiterated their commitment to collaborating with administration in a statement to *Spectator* after the walkout. While the group wrote that they appreciate SIPA administrators' efforts, the members "believe there is still room for addressing the safety and security concerns of our student body in a more comprehensive manner."
  - According to one protestor, Dean Yarhi-Milo was set to meet with SIPA Student Association, but when organizers informed her of their plans to walk out, Yarhi-Milo said she would refuse to meet with them if they followed through.
- President Shafik, President Rosenbury, and Teachers College President Thomas Bailey announced the creation of the Task Force on Antisemitism, to work on identifying both short and long-term solutions to "enhance support for all members of the Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College communities, particularly our Jewish students" with Professors Ester Fuchs, Nicholas Lemann, and David Schizer serving as co-chairs.<sup>224</sup>
- President Shafik and President Rosenbury announced the establishment of a resource group to serve as a central point of contact "for issues related to doxxing, harassment, and online security," and whose aim, according to the announcement, was to streamline communication regarding incidents of harassment, doxxing, and online security and to assist students in understanding available resources, refer reported incidents to external authorities when necessary, and listen to concerns and suggestions.<sup>225</sup>
  - According to a later announcement from Vice President Greenwell, a "technical issue" hindered email functionality for roughly a week after the Doxxing Resource Group was launched. The group was able to respond to all emails after fixing the issue.
- Barnard administration cancelled Mohammed El-Kurd poetry event scheduled for November 2, 2023 and previously confirmed by Barnard Events Management October 30, 2023 citing a new policy of "co-sponsorship" created without student and faculty consultation.<sup>226</sup>

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<sup>223</sup> Rebecca Massel and Daksha Pillai, "Dozens of SIPA students walk out in solidarity with doxxed students, confront Dean Yarhi-Milo," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 3, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/03/dozens-of-sipa-students-walk-out-in-solidarity-with-doxxed-students-confront-dean-yarhi-milo/>.

<sup>224</sup> Minouche Shafik, Laura Ann Rosenbury, and Thomas R. Bailey, "Announcing Task Force on Antisemitism " (Office of the President: Announcements, November 1, 2023). <https://president.columbia.edu/news/announcing-task-force-antisemitism>.

<sup>225</sup> Minouche Shafik and Laura Ann Rosenbury, "Announcing Doxing Resource Group," (Office of the President: Announcements, November 1, 2023). <https://president.columbia.edu/news/announcing-doxing-resource-group>.

<sup>226</sup> Huddleston and Mendell, "Columbia suspends SJP and JVP following 'unauthorized' Thursday walkout."

### November 2, 2023:

- At 3:37 PM University Life Director Turini emailed SJP leadership “SJP Event Tonight and Request for Meeting”: “I’m reaching out as I was surprised to learn about your advertised event with Mohammed El-Kurd and Columbia faculty Mahmood Mamdani this evening. On Monday, you shared with me that you were looking for space, but since then have shared no further details. Who is the event host? Where is the event occurring? I will need to know these details today by 1:00 p.m. As we have discussed, all student group events require a confirmed space before advertising. This particular event requires a minimum of a 10-business day review to ensure that the appropriate support could be provided. An email was sent out to all student groups on October 25th that included the updated student group event policy. Hosting this event will be considered unsanctioned by the University and you should anticipate individual and/or group follow up and accountability. This is the third event that you all have advertised as a group without going through the appropriate process. In order to maintain recognition as a group and to continue programming this year, we will need to meet as soon as possible to discuss, ideally before fall break. I would like at least 2 members who completed Club Refuel to join the meeting. Let me know a few times that work to meet tomorrow, or next week after the short break. Please suggest some times by 5pm today.”<sup>227</sup>
- A student featured on the doxxing truck on October 25, 2023 who had not signed the October 9, 2023 statement emailed the Doxxing Resource Group and asked for help. In a spring op-ed in *Spectator*, the student described their experience: “I was in communication with the dean of students, who seemed quite sick of me and told me to email the support group. So on November 2, 2023, I emailed them for help with my situation.” The student did not hear back until 15 days later on November 17, 2023.<sup>228</sup>
- New Barnard event policy went into effect, according to a version of the policy published via a Google document on Barnard’s Information for Protestors webpage.<sup>229</sup>

### November 4, 2023:

- At 1:30 PM [redacted Palestinian student] emailed Dean of Columbia School of Social Work in email titled “Financial Resources for Impacted Students”: “Hi, my name is [redacted] and I am a CSSW student impacted by the ongoing conflict in Gaza. 14 of my family members, Palestinian-Christians were killed in the church bombing. I have reached out to your office to set up a meeting but haven’t received a response. I am looking for financial support as it is challenging to work my job and be a student while grieving the loss of my family members. Please let me know what your schedule looks like so we can find a time to meet.”<sup>230</sup>

### November 7, 2023:

- At 10:30 PM University Life sent an email to student group leaders, including SJP and JVP leadership, “Event Planning Process, Policies and tips” asking them to “re-read the updated (as of October 24, 2023) University Event Policy and Student Group Event Policy and Procedure and the Vigil Policy, which outline university policy and timelines.” The email summarized the updated event policies.<sup>231</sup>
  - “As you return from the Election Day break, we want to provide you with guidance and resources as you plan events. As always, meeting with your advisor should be the first step in planning events. Meeting at least four weeks prior to an event is best practice, when time permits. In cases where you want to plan an event in less than four weeks it is even more important to be in frequent contact with your adviser to discuss the scale, scope and appropriate timeline for your events.”
  - “As you plan, here are a few resources that are applicable across all student groups (please ensure your members are also aware of all of this!)”
  - “Re-read the updated (as of October 24) University Event Policy and Student Group Event Policy and Procedure and the Vigil Policy, which outline university policy and timelines.”

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<sup>227</sup> Turini.

<sup>228</sup> Yusuf Hafez, “My final message to Columbia,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 6, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/05/06/my-final-message-to-columbia/>.

<sup>229</sup> Maya Stahl and Sarah Huddleston, “‘The trust is absolutely broken’: Barnard initiates disciplinary processes against students after ‘unauthorized’ protest,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 31, 2024.

<sup>230</sup> [redacted student], November 4, 2023.

<sup>231</sup> Undergraduate Student Life, November 7, 2023.

Huddleston, “Columbia updated its event policy webpages. Seventeen days later, it suspended SJP and JVP.”



- “All events require ‘UEM-confirmed’ status in EMS prior to advertising.”
- “Please note the policy which outlines classification criteria for special events that may require additional planning support and review: presence of press/media (invited or otherwise), advertised beyond Columbia’s campus, high attendance/capacity, serving of alcohol, potential for significant disruption, security concerns. If your event meets any one of these criteria, it may be classified as a special event, which requires an event review. Your adviser, in collaboration with campus support partners, will determine if an event review is required based on the details you provide.”
- “For special events, keep in mind that you may not advertise an event in advance of space confirmation, which will only occur after the event review takes place.”
- “This portion of the updated University policy is especially important: Sanctioning for Failure to Obtain Event Approval and/or Not Abiding by Terms of An Approved Event (Student Organization and Individual Accountability. One of many things made clear in this section is that individuals and unrecognized groups do not have the ability to reserve space on-campus.”
- “All student groups are required to follow all University policies and/or local, State, or Federal laws for events hosted on or off campus. Student groups recognized by ABC or SGB alleged to have violated policies may be referred to their governing board or the Student Group Adjudication Board (SGAB). Student councils may be referred to the SGAB. Individual students may be referred to the University Rules administrator or to the individual student’s school Conduct process.”
- “Our advisers are here to support you and your events! Please ensure all group members are aware of these processes, resources, and tips as well. We are best able to help your event succeed when you communicate openly with your adviser throughout the planning and hosting process.”
- The Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights issued a “Dear Colleague” letter regarding Title VI compliance.<sup>232</sup>
  - “As we witness a nationwide rise in reports of hate crimes<sup>1</sup> and harassment, including an alarming rise in disturbing antisemitic incidents and threats to Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian students on college campuses and in P-12 schools, the fulfillment of school communities’ federal legal obligations to ensure nondiscriminatory environments have renewed urgency.”
  - “It is in this context that I write to remind colleges, universities, and schools that receive federal financial assistance of their legal responsibility under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations (Title VI) to provide all students a school environment free from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics. It is your legal obligation under Title VI to address prohibited discrimination against students and others on your campus—including those who are or are perceived to be Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, or Palestinian—in the ways described in this letter.”
  - “All students, including students who are or are perceived to be Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, or Palestinian, as well as students who come from, or are perceived to come from, all regions of the world, are entitled to a school environment free from discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.”
  - “Title VI’s protection from race, color, and national origin discrimination extends to students who experience discrimination, including harassment, based on their actual or perceived: (i) shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics; or (ii) citizenship or residency in a country with a dominant religion or distinct religious identity.”
  - “Schools that receive federal financial assistance have a responsibility to address discrimination against Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist students, or those of another religious group, when the discrimination involves racial, ethnic, or ancestral slurs or stereotypes; when the discrimination is based on a student’s skin color, physical features, or style of dress that reflects both ethnic and religious traditions; and when the discrimination is based on where a student came from or is perceived to have come from, including discrimination based on a student’s foreign accent; a student’s foreign name, including names commonly associated with particular shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics; or a student speaking a foreign language.”
  - “Harassing conduct can be verbal or physical and need not be directed at a particular individual. OCR interprets Title VI to mean that the following type of harassment creates a hostile environment: unwelcome conduct based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics that, based on the totality of circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person’s ability

<sup>232</sup> United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, "Dear Colleague Letter," ed. Catherine Lhamon (November 7, 2023).

to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity. Schools must take immediate and effective action to respond to harassment that creates a hostile environment.”

- “Jewish students, Israeli students, Muslim students, Arab students, Palestinian students, and all other students who reside within our school communities have the right to learn in our nation's schools free from discrimination. Please be vigilant in protecting your students' rights under Title VI, understanding that we in OCR are and will be.”

### November 8, 2023:

- At 11:33 PM University Life Director Turini emailed SJP leadership and cc'd Dean Giles, Dean Grinage, and the Student Governing Board (SGB) “Advertised Walk-Out on 11/9”: “Today I'm reaching out as I am surprised again to learn about your plans for an upcoming ‘Shut It Down’ event calling for attendees to ‘head out to Low Steps for a peaceful protest art installation’ given the communications and conversations we have had about unsanctioned events and updated University policy. As has been shared on multiple occasions, all student group events require a confirmed space before advertising. This particular event requires a minimum of a 10 business day review to ensure the appropriate support is provided. As advisers, we are here to help support your events, but without any prior knowledge of the event, I am unable to do so. At this point, it is unclear how you will maintain recognition as a group and continue programming this year. As such, I've included Nikki Youngblood Giles and Dean Grinage from Barnard, in addition to SGB leadership, hoping they can encourage and/or compel you to meet today and/or postpone this event so that you can schedule it aligned with University policy.”<sup>233</sup>
- At 11:39 PM University Life Director Turini emailed JVP leadership and cc'd Dean Giles, Dean Grinage, and Dean Kromm “Advertised Walk-Out on 11/9”: “I'm reaching out in regards to your advertised ‘Shut It Down’ event this week, calling for attendees to head out to Low Steps for a peaceful protest art installation given the communications we have had about unsanctioned events and updated University policy. As has been shared, all student group events require a confirmed space before advertising. This particular event requires a minimum of a 10 business day review to ensure the appropriate support is provided. As advisers, we are here to help support your events, but without any prior knowledge of the event, I am unable to do so. As such, I've included Nikki Youngblood Giles and Dean Grinage from Barnard, and Dean Kromm from Columbia College, in addition to SGB leadership, hoping they can encourage and/or compel you to meet today and/or postpone this event so that you can schedule it aligned with University policy.”<sup>234</sup>
- Starting at 10:00 AM more than 50 students from the School of Social Work staged an over nine-hour sit-in in the Social Work Building in support of students and faculty who had faced retaliation for voicing solidarity with local and national Palestinian resistance movements. The University threatened protesting students with academic sanctions during the sit-in and CSSI reached out to students following the event.<sup>235</sup>
  - SEVP Rosberg called in University delegates, individuals appointed by the President or Rules Administrator, to tell students that they were in violation of a rule in the Rules of University Conduct which prohibits actions that “interrupt, shout down, or otherwise disrupt an event or to obstruct the view of the speaker.”
  - University delegates distributed cards requiring students to show their CUID and threatened students with academic sanctions if they did not stop their “disruption.” The cards read that a refusal to provide identification would be a further violation of school policy and students would be “subject to interim sanctions by the provost up to and including suspension for the rest of the semester.”
  - The University reported disruption to academic activities as a result of the sit-in.
  - In response to the sit-in, a School of Social Work spokesperson wrote to *Spectator*: “The Columbia School of Social Work respects students' right to peacefully protest, in accordance with the Rules of University Conduct. . . We also have an obligation to provide the education we promised to our students, free from disruption.”
  - The Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI) sent out an email to at least two students following the sit-in notifying them of a mandatory meeting that offered an “opportunity” for the students to provide their “perspective on the incident and respond to questions.” “This is not a disciplinary meeting, but your

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<sup>233</sup> Marnie Turini, November 8, 2023.

<sup>234</sup> Turini.

<sup>235</sup> Gelila Negesse and Joseph Zuloaga, "School of Social Work students hold sit-in, University threatens academic sanctions," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 10, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/10/school-of-social-work-students-hold-sit-in-university-threatens-academic-sanctions/>.

attendance and participation is mandatory in order for us to determine the next best steps in following up to this report.”

- Stacy Burdett, former Vice President for Government Relations, Advocacy, and Community Engagement for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, testified before the House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary in a hearing titled “Free Speech on College Campuses.” At the time, Burdett was a consultant for the Special Committee on Campus Safety.<sup>236</sup>
  - “I’ve developed policies and practical strategies to prevent and counter antisemitism and put those strategies into practice in corporate settings, higher education and in advocacy coalitions. I will share some learnings from that work, what new tools the government has at its disposal and propose some recommendations for what universities, individuals, and Congress can do.”
  - “Just because speech may be legal doesn’t mean it can’t be harmful. Universities have a serious duty of care to use all the tools they have to mitigate those harms and to keep students safe from harassment, intimidation and bigotry.”
  - “That’s exactly why, unlike governments or political parties or organizations, Universities are ideally not meant to take policy positions. Their mission is to educate and to manage a rich marketplace of ideas. Institutions like the University of Chicago adopted what are known as the Kalven Principles, under which they choose not to take policy stances in order to be able to stay faithful to the core mission: ‘the discovery, improvement, and dissemination of knowledge.’ Just because Universities don’t have policy positions doesn’t mean they don’t have values that must shape the learning environment. Just because they create space for free expression doesn’t mean they shouldn’t use rules to set parameters around when expression crosses a line into threats or harassment.”
  - “I’ve seen universities mobilize their tools in recent weeks. Campus public safety officers are in close touch with law enforcement, consulting with them about the threat landscape, how to keep protests safe and orderly. Some are enforcing or tightening rules around protests or taking actions that are unusual like closing parts of campus and requiring a school ID to prevent outsiders from disrupting student gatherings.”
  - “On most campuses, students are receiving a steady flow of information about services like escorts they can request, reminders encouraging them to contact campus authorities or report threats or antisemitic or bias incidents.”
  - “Universities have already stepped up in critical ways. The creation of antisemitism task forces and others on doxing are the kinds of actions advocates have been calling for years. These task forces should do a system wide assessment of how they can renew both their commitment, their policies and their tools. This includes not just enforcement of violations of campus codes but proactive solidarity building work.”
  - Burdett’s testimony contained a subheading titled “New Government Tools.”
  - Burdett described a “surge in antisemitic incidents following the Hamas attacks.”
  - “These are the eight federal agencies that pledged—for the first time in writing—that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits antisemitic discrimination in federally funded programs and activities. The Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, Treasury, and Transportation will also ensure that agency staff understand and are ready to respond. They will make clear that antisemitic discrimination is a violation. They committed to enforce protections within the federally funded programs they administer.”
  - “As recently as yesterday, the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights sent a Dear Colleague highlighting the ‘an alarming rise in disturbing antisemitic incidents and threats to Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian students on college campuses and in P-12 schools’ and reminded schools of their obligations under federal law to ensure nondiscriminatory environments in which all students can learn without discrimination. The Department has taken other steps including: - It revised its complaint form to specifically make clear that harassment because a person is Jewish, Muslim, Arab, Hindu, Sikh or of other shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics is prohibited by Title VI. - The Department has begun a listening tour to visit colleges and universities in addition to k-12 schools to hear about what students are experiencing. - The Department launched a broad education campaign focused on antisemitism to provide resources and technical assistance, collect data, spotlight champions, and build partnerships to raise awareness and combat antisemitism. None of this will be a quick fix. But the Department started putting the National Strategy into practice in multiple ways almost as soon as the ink was dry.”
  - One “practical action step” Burdett described: “When students call, make an investigator is there to answer. We should hold agencies like the Department of Education to account for the commitments they’ve made.”

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<sup>236</sup> House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, *Testimony of Stacy Burdett*, (2023).

But we have to give our government a fighting chance to be able to investigate an unprecedented volume of complaints by adding investigative capacity. By the time a student files a complaint to the Department of Education a lot of systems in our society have failed them, including their peers, their support networks, their school. At the end of all that, our federal complaints system needs to be able to respond in a timely way. In FY 2022 the Department of Education received 18,804 complaints, 12% more than the staggering total of 16,720 received in FY 2016. And we have good reason to expect that number to go up. Between 2016 and 2022, as complaints rose by 12%, the number of investigative staff went down by 18%. The problems are growing and they are complex. Our government needs to be able to protect the rights, safety and wellbeing of the students like those we have heard from today and Congress should resource the Department’s Office for Civil Rights (at least fully fund the FY 2024 Budget request of \$177.6 million).”

- “Please, look at this national strategy, and the key actions it recommends. The clock is ticking for Jewish students and the question isn’t whether but how quickly can Congress move to implement it.”
- “Institutions are taking action toward real transformation. I believe they will identify and close gaps in they think about and address antisemitism.”
- At 11:30 PM University Life Director Gomes emailed JVP leadership “Advertised Walk-Out on 11/9”: “Tonight I write to follow-up as Marnie did not hear from you in response to her earlier email. The advertising about tomorrow’s walk-out and unsanctioned gathering is still posted, which is a violation of policy. To be specific, you have not followed the University’s Student Group Event Policy and Procedure. To be clear, should you move forward with tomorrow/s unsanctioned event, JVP will be placed on a group interim administrative action, and students will be referred to their school conduct process and/or potentially Columbia Rules of University Conduct review process.”<sup>237</sup>
- At 11:14 PM University Life Director Gomes emailed SJP leadership “Advertised Walk-Out on 11/9”: “Tonight I write to follow-up as Marnie did not hear from you in response to her earlier email. The advertising about tomorrow’s walk-out and unsanctioned gathering is still posted, which is a violation of policy. To be specific, you have not followed the University’s Student Group Event Policy and Procedure. To be clear, should you move forward with tomorrow’s unsanctioned event, SJP will be placed on a group interim administrative action, and you will be referred to your school conduct process and/or potentially Columbia Rules of University Conduct review process. Marnie is available to meet with you tomorrow morning to discuss how we can support your organization within the existing student group policy framework. We look forward to a response from SJP leadership as soon as possible.”<sup>238</sup>

### November 9, 2023:

- At 12:05 AM University Life Director Gomes emailed JVP leadership “Re: Advertised Walk-Out on 11/9”: “All-my apologies- I intended to close out the communication to you with this: Marnie is available to meet with you this morning to discuss how we can support your organization within the existing student group policy framework. We look forward to a response from JVP leadership as soon as possible.”<sup>239</sup>
- At 12:00 PM Morningside campus access was restricted (CUID-only) in advance of planned demonstrations. Only the College Walk pedestrian gates and Wien Hall entrances were open. This closure marked the third restriction in advance of planned demonstrations on campus since October 7, including two protests organized by SJP and JVP.<sup>240</sup>
- At 2:00 PM hundreds of Pro-Palestinian students walked out as part of a national call to action and gathered for a “peaceful protest art installation” on Low steps as part of CUAD’s “Shut it Down for Palestine.”<sup>241</sup>
  - *Spectator* reported: “At one point during the rally, tensions rose when an unidentified individual began screaming antisemitic and anti-Black statements, then attempted to instigate fights with numerous students. The individual climbed over chains blocking off a grass area and continued yelling obscenities. Students at the walkout booed the unidentified individual, and five confronted the individual while the speaker on the megaphone denounced antisemitism. Two of those students. . . walked onto the grass and attempted to calm

<sup>237</sup> Aaron Gomes, November 8, 2023.

<sup>238</sup> Gomes.

<sup>239</sup> Aaron Gomes, November 9, 2023.

<sup>240</sup> Chris Mendell, "Hundreds of pro-Palestinian students walk out as part of national call to action, gather for 'peaceful protest art installation'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 10, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/10/hundreds-of-pro-palestinian-students-walk-out-as-part-of-national-call-to-action-gather-for-peaceful-protest-art-installation/>.

<sup>241</sup> Mendell, "Hundreds of pro-Palestinian students walk out as part of national call to action, gather for 'peaceful protest art installation'." Huddleston and Mendell, "Columbia suspends SJP and JVP following 'unauthorized' Thursday walkout."

the individual. The unidentified individual was then confronted by New York Police Department and Public Safety officers.”

- The individual was escorted away by Public Safety.
- After the incident, one of the students who had deescalated the situation walked to Low Steps and grabbed the megaphone to address the crowd and directly denounced the individual, saying, “Shame on the person who called [for] ‘death to Jews,’” which broke out into chants of “shame on you” from the demonstrators.
- Administration reported that the walkout disrupted the academic activities of the University.<sup>242</sup>
- Dozens of students rallied at the Sundial in solidarity with the hostages being held by Hamas in Gaza and to advocate for their release, wearing T-shirts that read “Bring Them Home Now.”<sup>243</sup>
  - At the rally, organizers read aloud seven messages written by family members of hostages. The organizers then read a list of the hostages’ names and ages.
  - Demonstrators wore T-shirts that read “Bring Them Home Now,” sponsored by the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, a global campaign to raise awareness and advocate for the return of the hostages.
  - The rally and t-shirt distribution were partially organized in response to “kidnapped” posters of the hostages being taken down around campus. The organizers handed out over 300 hostage flyers and encouraged attendees to continue to hang them up around campus.
  - At the end of the demonstration, the group sang Hatikva, Israel’s national anthem.

### November 10, 2023:

- SJP and JVP were suspended by SEVP Rosberg through a notice posted on the Office of the President’s website in which Rosberg claimed that SJP and JVP had “repeatedly violated University policies related to holding campus events” and that they “proceeded despite warnings and included threatening rhetoric and intimidation.” SEVP Rosberg issued this statement as Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety. This was the first public mention of this Committee.<sup>244</sup>
- A University spokesperson told *Spectator* that the Special Committee on Campus Safety has been meeting at least once per day since October 7, 2023.<sup>245</sup>
- At 2:48 PM Law School Professor Katherine Franke emailed SEVP Rosberg and cc’d SEVP and Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety Rosberg, Interim Provost Mitchell, and Dean Kromm “Clarification Regarding Suspension of SJP and JVP.”: “I have learned that your office has suspended two student groups for the rest of the fall semester, and will lift the suspension upon ‘demonstrating a commitment to compliance with university policies and engaging in consultations at a group leadership level with university officials.’ The students associated with these two groups have asked me, as their Advisor, to contact you to get a clearer sense of the meaning of the notice they received. We would appreciate clarification regarding 1) the alleged offenses to which you made reference in the suspension notification. You indicated that the suspension was provoked by holding events that ‘culminat[ed] in an unauthorized event Thursday afternoon that proceeded despite warnings and included threatening rhetoric and intimidation.’ Please clarify what was the ‘threatening rhetoric and intimidation,’ to which you refer? Which part, if any, of Sec. 443(a) of the Rules of University Conduct are being invoked as a justification for this suspension? 2. the Rules of Conduct set forth that ‘Delegates believing that an assembly or other demonstration is violating these Rules should, to the extent practicable in their sole judgement, immediately make all reasonable efforts to create separate areas for demonstrators whose actions are believed to violate the Rules and for those wishing to demonstrate permissibly, or to observe, or to report on, cover, photograph, or document the demonstration.’ Why was this not done in this case? 3) what does your office means by ‘demonstrating a commitment to compliance with university policies and engaging in consultations at a group leadership level with university officials.’ Could you clarify what the process of suspension rescission would amount to? 4) what is the ‘Special Committee on Campus Safety’. Who else is on this committee? What is the committee’s authority and charge? How were they Appointed and by whom? Did the Executive Committee of the University Senate do so? If so, when and by what instrument? 5) why is this matter being addressed outside the usual procedures set forth in the

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<sup>242</sup> Mendell, “Hundreds of pro-Palestinian students walk out as part of national call to action, gather for ‘peaceful protest art installation’.”

Huddleston and Mendell, “Columbia suspends SJP and JVP following ‘unauthorized’ Thursday walkout.”

<sup>243</sup> Rebecca Massel, “‘Bring Them Home Now’: Students rally for release of hostages in Gaza,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 12, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/12/bring-them-home-now-students-rally-for-release-of-hostages-in-gaza/>.

<sup>244</sup> Gerald Rosberg, “Statement From Gerald Rosberg, Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety,” (Columbia News: Announcements). <https://news.columbia.edu/news/statement-gerald-rosberg-chair-special-committee-campus-safety>.

<sup>245</sup> Huddleston and Mendell, “Columbia suspends SJP and JVP following ‘unauthorized’ Thursday walkout.”

Rules of University Conduct that give the Rules Administrator the primary responsibility for the administration of the Rules? 6) if this matter is being handled by the Special Committee on Campus Safety in a manner that departs from the rules and procedures contained in the Rules of University Conduct, please share with us the rules and procedures your Committee is charged with following. We would appreciate receiving a response to these questions by the close of business today, given the seriousness of the University's actions toward students who share the University's strong commitment to encouraging and protecting Columbia University as 'a place for ideas to be tested, for values to be questioned, and for minds to be changed with as few constraints as possible,' (quoting from Section 440, Affirmative Statement, of the Rules of University Conduct).<sup>246</sup>

- The administration faced scrutiny for suspending SJP/JVP from hundreds of affiliates.<sup>247</sup>
- Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine formed in response to the University's suspension of Columbia's chapters of SJP and JVP.<sup>248</sup>
- "Israel Current Events" chat:<sup>249</sup>
  - Real estate investor Joseph Sitt wrote in the chat that the Israeli government "arranged for us" to screen the film "Bearing Witness," a film depicting the October 7 attack, in Gotham Hall in New York on November 17, 2023. Sitt added in a later message the showing "will be listed as an IDF event not affiliated to Facts Peace to keep them separate."
- All four undergraduate colleges announced the extension of the pass/D/fail and course withdrawal deadlines with Administrators from Barnard, General Studies, and Columbia College citing "current challenges students are facing on campus" as the rationale behind the change.<sup>250</sup>

### November 12, 2023:

- At 9:57 AM SEVP Rosberg responded to Professor Franke "Re: Clarification Regarding Suspension of SJP and JVP" and cc'd Interim Provost Mitchell, Vice President Greenwell, and Dean Kromm: "I want to clarify that we took no action against individual students as part of the Rules of University Conduct at this time. The student groups have been suspended because they repeatedly violated the University's Event Policy and Student Group Event Policy and Procedure. You have raised a number of questions that go beyond the scope of the action we took on Friday and about which I would need to consult with others before responding. I will do that promptly with the hope of speaking with you early this week. We welcome any opportunity to engage with leaders of the groups on this subject."<sup>251</sup>
- Hundreds of students and faculty signed two open letters condemning the University's suspension of SJP and JVP, calling it a form of censorship. The first letter was titled "From Jewish Students and Faculty: Protecting the Free Speech of our Peers" and the second: "Jewish Faculty Denounce Columbia University's decision to suspend Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace."<sup>252</sup>
- Public Safety sent a recording to President Shafik of threats they had received in which someone discussed bringing guns to the next SJP rally to attack protesting students.<sup>253</sup>

### November 13, 2023:

- Barnard Administration changed its policy pertaining to political activity and website governance without student and faculty consultation. In the email announcing the change, Barnard's Provost "cited the acceptable use policy, which

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<sup>246</sup> Katherine Franke, November 10, 2023.

<sup>247</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>248</sup> Maya Stahl, "Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine calls attention to violence in Gaza, academic freedom concerns," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/01/19/faculty-and-staff-for-justice-in-palestine-calls-attention-to-violence-in-gaza-academic-freedom-concerns/>.

<sup>249</sup> Natanson and Felton, "Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show."

<sup>250</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Undergraduate schools extend course grading, withdrawal deadlines due to 'current challenges students are facing on campus'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 10, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/10/undergraduate-schools-extend-course-grading-withdrawal-deadlines-due-to-current-challenges-students-are-facing-on-campus/>.

<sup>251</sup> Gerald Rosberg, November 12, 2023.

<sup>252</sup> Grace Hamilton, "Hundreds of students, faculty sign open letters condemning University's suspension of SJP, JVP," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 14, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/14/hundreds-of-students-faculty-sign-open-letters-condemning-universitys-suspension-of-sjp-jvp/>.

<sup>253</sup> Minouche Shafik, "Interview," interview by Jeanine D'Armiento, September 23, 2024.

housed the new political activity policy” and stated that “users may not use College resources to: solicit, proselytize, or conduct political activity.”<sup>254</sup>

- Faculty responded to the email from Barnard’s Provost and requested clarification as to how the October 21, 2023 “Solidarity with Palestine” statement posted on the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) department website violated the political activity policy as it existed on October 21, 2023.<sup>255</sup>
- A student filed a lawsuit against the conservative media group Accuracy in Media (AIM) and its president Adam Guillette after their name and face appeared under the banner “Columbia’s Leading Antisemites” on the group’s doxxing truck. The lawsuit, filed in New York Supreme Court, stated that AIM created a website domain on October 23, 2023 under the student’s full name and claimed that he was “the leader of an organization that signed this hateful, antisemitic letter,” referring to an October 9, 2023 letter that the student was not involved in. The student formerly served as president of CU Turath, an undergraduate student group that “serves to promote Arab culture,” but had not been a member since May 2023. The student sued for violation of civil rights, defamation, and intentional infliction of emotional distress, and demanded compensatory and punitive damages “for damage to name, career and reputation, pain and suffering, emotional distress and mental anguish, embarrassment, and indignity.”<sup>256</sup>
- The CUAlumni4Palestine website posted an open letter with four primary demands: the reversal of the suspension of SJP and JVP, divestment from companies that profit from Israel, discontinuation of the dual-degree partnership with Tel Aviv University and the Tel Aviv Global Center program, and the protection of Palestinian students and their allies from “anti-Palestinian, anti-Muslim, and anti-Jewish harassment and hostility.”<sup>257</sup>

### November 14, 2023:

- The University announced it would be closing all Morningside campus entrances except for the College Walk and Wien Hall pedestrian gates and limiting access to campus to CUID holders. This was the fourth campus access restriction ahead of planned protests since October 7, 2023. Dozens of NYPD officers were present on campus in the hours before and during the protest.<sup>258</sup>
- Organizers relaunched Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD), a collective of over 80 student groups that signed on to several demands, including the University’s divestment from Israel and the reinstatement of SJP and JVP. Columbia students first formed CUAD in 2016. SWC-UAW voted to join CUAD.<sup>259</sup>
- At 4:30 PM hundreds of students, faculty, and affiliates protested at the Sundial in response to the University’s suspension of SJP and JVP, organized by DAR - the Palestinian Student Union at Columbia. The demonstration, held on behalf of the CUAD coalition, included representation from about 10 student groups, unions, and coalitions, including SWC-UAW and the Black Students Organization.<sup>260</sup>
- Stacy Burdett, former Vice President for Government Relations, Advocacy, and Community Engagement for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Board Member of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, testified before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development in a hearing titled “On Confronting the Source of Antisemitism on Campus.”<sup>261</sup>
  - Burdett, a consultant for the Special Committee on Campus Safety at Columbia, discussed Columbia’s policies in this hearing, including the suspensions of SJP and JVP.
  - In the hearing Burdett said that Universities have “responded to antisemitic incidents.” Examples given of this were that “Brandeis University and Columbia University have taken actions against groups that violated their rules. Columbia noted that Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) ‘repeatedly violated University policies related to holding campus events, culminating in an unauthorized

<sup>254</sup> Shea Vance, “Barnard altered its policies after removing a ‘Solidarity with Palestine’ statement from a departmental website. Faculty are calling it censorship,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 8, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/08/barnard-altered-its-policies-after-removing-a-solidarity-with-palestine-statement-from-a-departmental-website-faculty-are-calling-it-censorship/>.

<sup>255</sup> Vance, “Barnard altered its policies after removing a ‘Solidarity with Palestine’ statement from a departmental website. Faculty are calling it censorship.”

<sup>256</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, “Columbia student sues group behind ‘doxxing truck,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/13/columbia-student-sues-group-behind-doxxing-truck/>.

<sup>257</sup> John Towfighi and Saul Quintanar, “Alumni protest suspension of SJP and JVP,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 21, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/21/alumni-protest-suspension-of-sjp-and-jvp/>.

<sup>258</sup> Emily Forgash and Chris Mendell, “‘To shut us down, you have only made us stronger’: Hundreds of students, faculty protest suspension of SJP, JVP,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 15, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/15/to-shut-us-down-you-have-only-made-us-stronger-hundreds-of-students-faculty-protest-suspension-of-sjp-jvp/>.

<sup>259</sup> Venkat, “SWC-UAW passes resolution supporting BDS, commits to strike ‘should circumstances justify’.”

Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

<sup>260</sup> Forgash and Mendell, “‘To shut us down, you have only made us stronger’: Hundreds of students, faculty protest suspension of SJP, JVP.”

<sup>261</sup> *Testimony of Stacy Burdett*.

event Thursday afternoon that proceeded despite warnings and included threatening rhetoric and intimidation.” In her testimony, Burdett quotes from SEVP and Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety Rosberg’s statement suspending SJP and JVP. Rosberg later retracted the claim about “threatening rhetoric and intimidation” in a University Senate Plenary on November 17, 2023. Burdett was a consultant for this Committee, but did not disclose this in her Truth in Testimony Disclosure Form signed November 13, 2023. One of the questions on the Truth in Testimony Form asks: “are you a fiduciary—including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent—of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing? If so, please list the name of the organization(s) or entities.” Burdett only listed that she was a Board Member for the Jewish Council of Public Affairs.

- “Thank you, Chairman Owens and Ranking Member Wilson for the opportunity to lend my experience and expertise on strategies to confront antisemitism on campus that is reaching record levels and that has shocked the public conscience. This subcommittee has a vital role to play in making campuses a safer place for Jewish students and for all students facing rising levels of hate.”
- “Students at colleges where protests, antisemitic incidents and internal strife about the Israel Gaza war don’t have that luxury.”
- “So how is that applied to this moment when so many Jewish students, and other students in distress, feel threatened and vulnerable. And an issue that gets very little attention is how difficult it is for students to learn, to focus, to sleep properly and take care of their mental and physical health in times like these.”
- “I believe universities that are being the most responsive in this moment have appropriately understood that they are not in the mode of ‘business as usual.’ I have seen concrete action that balances a commitment to open, uninhibited debate with action to ensure that students do not fear for their physical safety from those who disagree with them.”
- “Universities and federal officials should apply and enforce their rules.”
- “If universities, and actors across society use this moment well to review and reimagine how to ensure that all students can learn and thrive in times of turmoil, Jewish students and all of our children will be safer.”

#### November 15, 2023:

- The University restricted campus access again ahead of two planned demonstrations, one led by faculty and one by two non-affiliated groups. The gate closures marked the fifth time since October 7 that campus access had been restricted.<sup>262</sup>
- Affiliates had to scan their CUIDs to access the Morningside campus, a change from previous closures during which affiliates presented their CUIDs to Public Safety officers. In a statement to *Spectator*, University spokesperson Samantha Slater wrote that scanning was “more efficient” and served as “an enhanced security measure to ensure that access to campus is limited to those with valid Columbia IDs.”<sup>263</sup>
- Hundreds of New York City residents and Columbia affiliates protested at “All Out for Gaza” demonstration off-campus outside the gates at 116<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway in solidarity with the suspended Columbia chapters of SJP and JVP. The protest was organized by Within Our Lifetime (WOL), a pro-Palestinian advocacy group based in New York City, and co-sponsored by the Jewish Law Students Association of the City University of New York (CUNY). This was the first Columbia-focused pro-Palestinian protest organized by city advocacy groups unaffiliated with the University since the October 7 attacks.<sup>264</sup>
- About 100 faculty and graduate workers gathered on Low Steps to rally following the University’s suspension of the Columbia chapters of JVP and SJP. The faculty members had five demands of the University: an affirmation of Columbia’s commitment to freedom of speech and the right to assembly, an overturning of the suspensions of the student groups, the withdrawal of recent policies that circumvent faculty consultation and oversight, a recognition that academic freedom protects all forms of political speech, and the creation of a joint commission for antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Arab racism.<sup>265</sup>

<sup>262</sup> Forghash and Mendell, “‘To shut us down, you have only made us stronger’: Hundreds of students, faculty protest suspension of SJP, JVP.” Chris Mendell, Daksha Pillai, and Ariel Yu, “Faculty protest against suspension of SJP, JVP,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 16, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/16/faculty-protest-against-suspension-of-sjp-jvp/>.

<sup>263</sup> Esther Sun, “Nonaffiliated organizations bring citywide pro-Palestinian protest outside locked campus, rallying against SJP, JVP suspension,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 15, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/15/nonaffiliated-organizations-bring-citywide-pro-palestinian-protest-outside-locked-campus-rallying-against-sjp-jvp-suspension/>.

<sup>264</sup> Sun, “Nonaffiliated organizations bring citywide pro-Palestinian protest outside locked campus, rallying against SJP, JVP suspension.”

<sup>265</sup> Mendell, Pillai, and Yu, “Faculty protest against suspension of SJP, JVP.”



- Former Consul General of Israel in New York Dani Dayan visited Columbia and spoke with interim University Provost Dennis Mitchell and leaders of the University’s Task Force on Antisemitism. Dayan later told *Spectator* that during their meeting, Dayan told Mitchell that the University failed to curtail antisemitism when it was in “stage I.” Dayan said instances, such as students chanting “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” during protests, are an example of stage I antisemitism. Dayan also visited Chabad at Columbia University for a town hall with students. At the town hall, Dayan described antisemitism as a “cancerous process” and criticized faculty and academics for creating “postcolonialism and settler-colonialist” slogans about Israel.<sup>266</sup>
- The Executive Committee of the Columbia chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) sent a letter to senior administration raising concerns about the changes to the Student Group Event Policy and Procedure and University Event Policy webpages: The faculty members questioned who wrote and approved the updated language in the sanctioning procedures. “This series of actions flagrantly contravenes University rules and procedures. . . We call upon the senior administration to recommit to shared faculty governance, and to nullify improperly authorized committees, actions, and policies that circumvent channels of governance at the University and the core principle of free speech.”<sup>267</sup>

### November 16, 2023:

- CU Jews for Ceasefire (J4C), a newly formed student group, demonstrated near the 116th Street and Broadway gates.<sup>268</sup>
- Dozens of Law School students staged a sit-in and read the names of Palestinian civilians killed in Gaza. The University reported disruption to academic activities as a result of the sit-in.<sup>269</sup>
- At 4:13 PM Lavine Family Director Cohen emailed the Columbia/Barnard Hillel community “A Message of Gratitude and Urgency to the Hillel Community”: “I want to take a moment to express our deep appreciation for your unwavering support of Columbia/Barnard Hillel. In the midst of the challenges and fears of the past few weeks, your commitment to our mission has been a beacon of hope, enabling us to provide essential services and programs, ensure the safety of Jewish students, and continue to foster vibrant Jewish life on campus. This week, over 130 students traveled with our professional team to Washington D.C. to participate in the March For Israel, the largest pro-Israel event in American history. It was an incredible opportunity for Columbia/Barnard students to join together with the greater Jewish community and our allies in standing up for Israel, and for Jewish people everywhere. Additionally, on Monday evening, more than 220 students packed Rennert Hall at the Kraft Center for a free concert featuring Matisyahu. His performance gave Jewish students a moment for celebration and a much-needed break from the stresses of campus life. Unfortunately, the situation on campus continues to deteriorate. Yesterday, University faculty gathered loudly on the Low Steps, condemning Israel in the name of ‘academic freedom’. Broadway was shut down as protesters from around the city gathered, referring to the Israeli Defense Forces as ‘savages’ and claiming that the ‘Holocaust’ was taking place in Gaza. Every day, Columbia/Barnard Hillel advocates for change directly to University administrators. We work closely with the students who hold press conferences and appear on national news outlets, and continue to engage major stakeholders on the urgency of these issues. Despite all our efforts, change is not happening quickly enough. I encourage you to email President Shafik and demand she meet with Jewish students to better understand the toll this is taking on their mental, physical, and academic wellbeing, and further demand that action be taken quickly to give our students the opportunity to thrive on campus. As always, we are here for Jewish students at Columbia and Barnard, and we will continue to show our solidarity with Israel as a strong, proud Jewish community. The work we do at Hillel has never felt more necessary or important. We are honored to do it and we are honored by your partnership.”<sup>270</sup>
- At 4:16 PM Lavine Family Director Cohen forwarded “A Message of Gratitude and Urgency to the Hillel Community” to Consultant to the Special Committee on Campus Safety Stacy Burdett, General Counsel Rosan, Interim Provost Mitchell, Executive Vice President for University Development and Alumni Relations Amelia

<sup>266</sup> Rebecca Massel, "Former Consul General of Israel in New York Dani Dayan visits Columbia amid rise in antisemitism on campus," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 19, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/19/former-consul-general-of-israel-in-new-york-dani-dayan-visits-columbia-amid-rise-in-antisemitism-on-campus/>.

<sup>267</sup> Huddleston, "Columbia updated its event policy webpages. Seventeen days later, it suspended SJP and JVP."

<sup>268</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, "New student group CU Jews for Ceasefire holds demonstration, unveils banner," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 16, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/16/new-student-group-cu-jews-for-ceasefire-holds-demonstration-unveils-banner/>.

<sup>269</sup> Chris Mendell and Dakasha Pillai, "Dozens of Law School students stage sit-in, read names of Palestinian civilians killed in Israel-Hamas war," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 19, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/19/dozens-of-law-school-students-stage-sit-in-read-names-of-palestinian-civilians-killed-in-israel-hamas-war/>.

<sup>270</sup> Brian Cohen, November 16, 2023.

Alverson, SEVP and Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety Rosberg, Executive Director of Media Relations Communications Samantha Slater, and Vice President for Communications Ben Chang and added: “I don’t know who needs to see these any more – feel free to forward if anyone wants to see it.”<sup>271</sup>

- The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights announced that it had opened an investigation into Columbia and six other institutions for “alleged shared ancestry violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), which prohibits race, color, or national origin discrimination, including harassment based on a person’s shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics” relating to antisemitic and anti-Muslim harassment.<sup>272</sup>

### November 17, 2023:

- About 50 Pro-Palestinian students and affiliates from Columbia, New York University (NYU), and City University of New York (CUNY) staged a one-hour sit-in at the Madison Avenue offices of JPMorgan Chase, at which demonstrators protested the bank’s financing of expansion projects in Israel at their respective universities.<sup>273</sup>
- Public Safety called the NYPD on a Palestinian student who was off campus taking down flyers that said “get Hamas off campus” on Broadway using a knife. The NYPD held the student for a few hours and then released them with a court summons for possession of a knife. This charge was eventually dismissed and sealed. On the same day, the student was told to leave their Columbia Residential apartment and was interim suspended. Despite ultimately being cleared by the University and the NYPD, the student was unable to register for the Spring 2024 semester until January 16, 2024.<sup>274</sup>
- The Black Law Student Association published a statement requesting the “immediate reassessment of campus security that acknowledges the safety of Black students as it relates to the NYPD.”<sup>275</sup>
- The Law School cancelled an event with Omar Shakir, the Israel and Palestine director at Human Rights Watch.<sup>276</sup>
- The Doxxing Resource Group responded to the student who had emailed them on November 2, 2023: “We apologize for the delayed response. There were technical issues. We encourage you to reach out to your Dean of Students who can help you to access University-provided resources.” The student had been referred to the Doxxing Resource Group by their dean.<sup>277</sup>
  - In an op-ed at the end of the academic year, the student described their experience: “This is a service you recommended, something that was supposed to help us. Why am I going around begging for someone to help me with this situation? Why? Tell me. Why is nobody reaching out and offering support? I felt like my life was ruined. I felt hopeless.”
- *Spectator* published an in-depth article on the revised events policy and the suspensions of SJP and JVP.<sup>278</sup>
- Knight First Amendment Institute Executive Director Jameel Jaffer published an open letter addressed to President Shafik expressing “concerns” over the Columbia administration’s decision to suspend SJP and JVP. Jaffer urged the administration to clarify pivotal aspects of this decision to the public due to “the seriousness of the sanction, and the impact the University’s action could have on the speech environment at Columbia and on the relationship between the administration and students in the future.”<sup>279</sup>
- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>280</sup>

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<sup>271</sup> Brian Cohen, November 16, 2023.

<sup>272</sup> Emily Forgash, "Department of Education investigating Columbia, peers over alleged antisemitic, anti-Muslim harassment," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 16, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/16/department-of-education-investigating-columbia-peers-over-alleged-antisemitic-anti-muslim-harassment/>.

<sup>273</sup> Chris Mendell, "Students host sit-in at JPMorgan Chase offices against financing of University expansion efforts in Israel," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 20, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/20/students-host-sit-in-at-jpmorgan-chase-offices-against-financing-of-university-expansion-efforts-in-israel/>.

<sup>274</sup> "Complaint Filed to University Senate," (November 17, 2024).

<sup>275</sup> Maya Stahl, "'An intimidation tactic': Students report feeling unsafe with increased NYPD, Public Safety presence," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 21, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/21/an-intimidation-tactic-students-report-feeling-unsafe-with-increased-nypd-public-safety-presence/>.

<sup>276</sup> @OmarSSHakir, X, November 20, 2023.

<sup>277</sup> Hafez, "My final message to Columbia."

<sup>278</sup> Huddleston, "Columbia updated its event policy webpages. Seventeen days later, it suspended SJP and JVP.."

<sup>279</sup> Daniela Ospino Pallares, "Knight First Amendment Institute challenges SJP, JVP suspension," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 19, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/19/knight-first-amendment-institute-challenges-sjp-jvp-suspension/>.

<sup>280</sup> Columbia University Senate, "November 17, 2023 Plenary."

Columbia University Senate, "December 8, 2023 Plenary."

Esha Karam and Shea Vance, "Year of protests, policy changes reignites debate on shared governance at Columbia," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 10, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/10/year-of-protests-policy-changes-reignites-debate-on-shared-governance-at-columbia/>.

- “Sen. D’Armiento welcomed senators and stressed the importance of the practice in an academic community of listening to each other and respecting each other.”
- A Senator presented remarks regarding the suspension of SJP and JVP: “What we know is that there is a gap between the process that the University administration *should have* taken, the process that *it did* take. And that has led to mistrust and frustration. While this is about a process that has impacted freedom of expression, it is important to talk about the content of that expression and the impact that the suspension is having and can have. . . And as a University, we should be able to fulfill our fourth purpose – to have dialogue across groups so that we can empathize with one another, and build community, and find ways to express without hurting. BUT, that cannot happen if we flout process, and fairness, and transparency to shut down one or two of those groups. This chills speech, it festers mistrust, and it prevents us from coming together.”
- The Rules Committee and Student Affairs Committee presented the Rules of University Conduct as a framework for regulation of public expression on campus.
- The Rules Committee issued a statement regarding the suspension of SJP and JVP: “We have concerns with the process through which this policy was implemented, the substance of the policy as written, and the lack of procedural protections embedded in this policy.”
  - “Process: As we understand it, *Columbia Spectator* reported this morning that the policy was updated on or about Oct. 24. To our knowledge, there was no consultation with SAC or any other Senate committee before these changes were made. These changes were not clearly communicated to our community, making it difficult for students to know what precisely is being asked of them in this regulation.”
  - “Due Process: It is unclear to us who wrote or who administers the University Event Policy. This makes it extremely difficult for students to know to whom they are responsible. The potential severity of the sanctions authorized in the Student Group Event Policy & Procedure, as well as the assertion in that policy that all sanctions are given to the sole discretion of the University and are unappealable undermines the principle of fundamental fairness. It is very difficult for students to do the cost-benefit analysis that is necessary to conform their behavior to what is being asked in regulation since the policy makes no distinction to be simple and serious violations and gives the University sole discretion to sanction any violation however it sees fit.”
  - “Substance: Free speech concerns. Second, regulations must also comply with strict scrutiny, which is to say that they must be narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling interest in the least restrictive means available. This means that even a regulation that is facially neutral, neutral in application, and pursues a compelling interest can run afoul of free speech if it imposes an “undue burden” on speech. This is the crux of our substantive concerns with the University Event Policy. We fully understand and support the University’s obligation to provide for the safety and security of everyone on our campuses. But the narrowly tailored prong demands that we are able to hold space for two things at once: We must provide for the safety of our community in a way that creates space for our students to challenge each other and in turn be challenged so that we can create dialogue and build understanding. The onerous requirements of the pre-approval process and the broad discretion afforded to the University to decide which events may proceed and which may not has had the effect of chilling speech in general across our campuses. This chilling effect creates isolation where there should be community and robs our students of the opportunity to understand each other. But what makes a chilling effect so insidious is that, once it sets in, it doesn’t even require action on the part of the regulator to perpetuate itself. Members of the community will simply decide not to say anything rather than try to navigate the labyrinthine burdens of an overly broad regulation. We are faced with a difficult moment for our community. But, to weather this storm, we must hold steadfast to the solid ground of our values and principles. So, let’s believe in who we are and, instead of fearing how we might fail, let’s imagine how we might grow and use this moment to teach our students to be the leaders of tomorrow that our world so desperately needs.”
- SEVP Rosberg confirmed that the administration had rewritten the events policies unilaterally, without notification to the University Senate and other community members. Rosberg also noted that the Special Committee on Campus Safety met daily. At this point, its membership was still not public.
  - SEVP Rosberg confirmed that the decision to suspend SJP and JVP came from “senior leadership of the University.”

- “We did it precisely because we thought we were in a very fraught moment in which it was essential that we be able to state rules as clearly and predictably as possible. There was no attempt to keep the changes secret.”
  - “We were trying to stay within that window referred to in the presentation as narrowly tailored restrictions. And we may have gotten that wrong.”
  - Rosberg said the decision to suspend SJP and JVP was made not “on the basis of the views that were being expressed, or how they were being expressed.”
  - Rosberg asked the plenary attendees “that we be honest with ourselves about how fraught the environment is in which we’re operating.”
  - Rosberg stated that the November 10 email’s citation of “threatening rhetoric” was “intended to be descriptive of the event and of the environment in which we were operating, not a basis on which the action was taken.”
  - “There was no insinuation, and if that’s how it was read, I really do regret that, but no insinuation that one group is threatening and the other group is not. I think my reading of the situation on campus overall, is that a very large proportion of our students are going about their affairs almost as if this isn’t happening and they’re doing fine. But there is a significant number of students on all sides who feel deeply, deeply threatened by what’s happening here.
  - While the protests have been “peaceful,” Rosberg said that “at the edges, the emotions are so raw that it has required a very significant presence” of Public Safety staff.
  - “All of us are proud of the fact that there hasn’t been violence so far, that these events have gone extremely well. We think that’s a reflection of successful implementation of event policies. I understand many of you won’t agree with that. But that’s what we thought we were doing.”
  - In response to questions asking for clarification on who is a member of the Special Committee on Campus Safety, Rosberg said that the group serves as “an administrative coordination mechanism,” and is not a policymaking body.
- Over 20 elected officials from New York State, including Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Jamaal Bowman, sent an open letter to President Shafik and SEVP Rosberg urging the University to reverse the suspension of the Columbia chapters of SJP and JVP.<sup>281</sup>
    - “We support the University’s stated desire to maintain an atmosphere that is safe and free of hate. However, suspending these student groups based on the pretext of ‘safety’ does the opposite.”
    - The letter stated that the University’s suspension of SJP and JVP was based on false pretenses and would ultimately make campus more dangerous. “Unfairly implying that JVP and SJP protesters engaged in ‘threatening rhetoric and intimidation’ at the November 9th event—a suggestion refuted by multiple sources, including the Columbia Spectator—aligns with the dangerous narrative that those who express empathy for the lives and dignity of Palestinians ... are antisemitic or inherently dangerous.”

#### November 19, 2023:

- SIPA students staged a six-hour sit in, demanding administrative action and divestment from Israel.<sup>282</sup>
- An administrator announced that the Morningside campus would close for a sixth time on November 20, 2023 ahead of a planned alumni “denouncement ceremony” demonstration.<sup>283</sup>

#### November 20, 2023:

- Morningside campus closed for a sixth time ahead of planned demonstration.<sup>284</sup>
- Approximately 200 alumni supporters with CUAlumni4Palestine demonstrated outside the 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue gates to protest the suspensions of SJP and JVP. CUAlumni4Palestine was a coalition group of alumni and affiliates of the University that formed in the wake of the University’s suspension of SJP and JVP.<sup>285</sup>

<sup>281</sup> Oscar Noxon, "Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, 20 other New York state elected officials call for lifting of SJP and JVP suspension," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 19, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/19/alexandria-ocasio-cortez-20-other-new-york-state-elected-officials-call-for-lifting-of-sjp-and-jvp-suspension/>.

<sup>282</sup> Amanda Chapa and Oscar Noxon, "SIPA students stage six-hour sit in, demand administrative action and divestment from Israel," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 29, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/29/sipa-students-stage-six-hour-sit-in-demand-administrative-action-and-divestment-from-israel/>.

<sup>283</sup> Mendell, "Students host sit-in at JPMorgan Chase offices against financing of University expansion efforts in Israel."

<sup>284</sup> Mendell, "Students host sit-in at JPMorgan Chase offices against financing of University expansion efforts in Israel."

<sup>285</sup> Towfighi and Quintanar, "Alumni protest suspension of SJP and JVP."

- The Law School canceled an event with Omar Shakir, the Israel and Palestine director at Human Rights Watch, for a second time, citing a lack of “security approvals.” Shakir posted on X: “For the second time, @ColumbiaLaw cancelled my talk in 30 mins – claiming that security approvals not raised were required. But we’ll hold this talk soon – as we did at Harvard, Yale, Stanford & elsewhere. Those suppressing discussion of Israeli apartheid are on wrong side of history.”<sup>286</sup>

#### November 22, 2023:

- *Spectator* reported “‘An intimidation tactic’: Students report feeling unsafe with increased NYPD, Public Safety presence.”<sup>287</sup>
  - The Barnard-Columbia Abolition Collective, formed in 2022 to organize community-based models of care and safety without police, prisons, and the carceral state on campus, wrote in a statement that they had “heard from many Black and Brown students that the presence of police on campus has been extremely triggering and actively makes them feel unsafe.”
  - According to a University spokesperson, Columbia was receiving additional information from other security consultants regarding events on campus and in New York City: “The NYPD, FBI, and our security consultants provide us daily, specific intelligence updates on activities taking place both on and off campus in the community and wider city.”

#### November 29, 2023:

- SIPA students staged a six-hour sit-in inside of the International Affairs Building as part of the United Nations’ International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The sit-in, organized by Columbia University SIPA Divest, featured speeches and chants, some of which were aimed at SIPA Dean Yarhi-Milo and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The sit-in took place on the same floor where Clinton and Yarhi-Milo taught the class *Inside the Situation Room*.<sup>288</sup>
  - One protestor: “We are gonna stay here in our sit-in until the Dean Yarhi-Milo comes and talks to us about our demands. We will show up every single day for Palestinian people and oppressed people everywhere.”
  - Public Safety officers were posted at the building’s entrances to ensure entry was restricted to Columbia ID holders with swipe access.
  - Demonstrators read their demands aloud at the sit-in, which called for Yarhi-Milo to apologize for her previous statements on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, the end of the dual degree program with Tel Aviv University, and the cancellation of the planned opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center. Demonstrators also condemned the suspension of the Columbia chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace and demanded an end to the increased presence of the New York Police Department on campus.
  - Students demanded Yarhi-Milo acknowledge what they called the Israeli government’s “genocide against the Palestinian people,” and issue an apology for “rhetoric framing the Palestinian narratives as terrorism” in her October 9, 2023 statement and for “misusing the phrase ‘from the river to the sea’ as a call for a Jewish massacre.”

#### November 30, 2023:

- At 9:00 AM SJP, JVP, and Professor Franke met with administrators, including SEVP and Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety Rosberg, to discuss the events around their suspension and the statement announcing the suspension stating the groups used “threatening rhetoric and intimidation.” Other attendees included Dean Kromm, Vice President Greenwell, and 4 University Senators.<sup>289</sup>
- SIPA held an event, “The War in Gaza: Constructive Campus Conversations,” with SIPA Dean Yarhi-Milo and Amaney Jamal of Princeton’s School of International and Public Affairs in Low Rotunda. Trustee Claire Shipman moderated the event. CUAD and the Princeton chapter of SJP demonstrated outside on the steps of Low for SJP/JVP reinstatement.<sup>290</sup>

<sup>286</sup> @OmarSSHakir.

<sup>287</sup> Stahl, “‘An intimidation tactic’: Students report feeling unsafe with increased NYPD, Public Safety presence.”

<sup>288</sup> Chapa and Noxon, “SIPA students stage six-hour sit in, demand administrative action and divestment from Israel.”

<sup>289</sup> Gerald Rosberg, November 29, 2023.

<sup>290</sup> Joseph Zuloaga and Amanda Chapa, “SIPA holds event with Princeton dean promoting civil discourse on Israel-Hamas,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/03/sipa-holds-event-with-princeton-dean-promoting-civil-discourse-on-israel-hamas-war-dozens-of-protesters-form-hallway-of-shame-outside/>.

- At one point during the event, Trustee Shipman acknowledged the activity outside Low: “We can hear [the protests] outside.”
- CUAD “protested the tree lighting ceremony, advertising as “Joy is canceled.” Protestors stood behind the performers on Low steps. A handful of counterprotesters gathered next to the demonstration, holding Israeli flags and signs, including one reading “No ceasefire until the hostages are returned & Hamas is destroyed.” The Office of the President sent a request to the Columbia College Student Council (CCSC), the General Studies Student Council (GSSC), and Engineering Student Council (ESC)’s advisors asking to have Shafik speak at the ceremony. The councils denied this request. The councils also decided not to invite the deans of student life: Cristen Kromm, Leslie Grinage, and Marlyn Delva.<sup>291</sup>
- The Student Governing Board (SGB) condemned the suspensions of JVP and SJP: “The actions taken by the University to unilaterally suspend student groups and implement policy decisions without the consultation and input of student leadership is unprecedented and moreover communicated a fundamental distrust of the role students have in University decision making. As such, we find that the University’s actions to be untenable with the purpose and mission of the Student Governing Board.”<sup>292</sup>

### December 1, 2023:

- 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM: Around 100 people attended an SSI, Aryeh, and J Street CU gathering near South Lawn. Student leaders in SSI, Aryeh, and J Street CU spoke around an empty Shabbat table set with the photos and names of those being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza. Speeches from student leaders concluded at around 2:25 PM.<sup>293</sup>
- CUAD submitted a proposal to the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing (ACSRI) advocating for divestment from Israel.<sup>294</sup>
  - “Columbia University Apartheid Divest calls upon Columbia University to withdraw financial support from Israel. For over 75 years, with no resource or redress, the State of Israel’s occupation of Palestine has unleashed immeasurable violence on the Palestinian people. United Nations officials, human rights experts, social justice activists, and members of civil society have documented and criticized Israel’s dispossession of Palestinian land, crimes against humanity, war crimes, apartheid, and genocide of Palestinians. Universities, including Columbia, have profited from such violence through their investments in the State of Israel. Columbia’s current investment portfolio enables and lends legitimacy to Israel’s violations of international law. Columbia is both morally obligated and compelled by the overwhelming consensus of the University community to divest from companies that publicly or privately fund or invest in the perpetuation of Israeli apartheid and war crimes.”

### December 2, 2023:

- The Student Governing Board (SGB) announced that its Executive Board internally voted to recommend noncooperation with “contested University Policy” in an email sent to all of its recognized student groups. The email explained that noncooperation does not override the enacted University policy and that SGB does not condone policy violations—the decision is “instead a stance taken by the SGB on the instatement of said policy.”<sup>295</sup>
- In a separate email to its recognized student groups, the SGB executive board condemned the University’s “overstepping of the SGB and student government more broadly in its decision to suspend” SJP and JVP. “By

<sup>291</sup> Dakasha Pillai and Joseph Zuloaga, “‘Joy is canceled’: Columbia University Apartheid Divest holds protest during Tree Lighting celebration,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 30, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/11/30/joy-is-canceled-columbia-university-apartheid-divest-holds-protest-during-tree-lighting-celebration/>.

<sup>292</sup> The Student Governing Board of Columbia University, “The Student Governing Board’s historic vote on noncooperation to protect student speech,” *Columbia Spectator*, October 9, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2023/12/08/the-student-governing-boards-historic-vote-on-noncooperation-to-protect-student-speech/>.

<sup>293</sup> Eden Stranahan, “Student groups organize empty Shabbat table to honor hostages held by Hamas, call for their return,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 4, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/04/student-groups-organize-empty-shabbat-table-to-honor-hostages-held-by-hamas-call-for-their-return/>.

<sup>294</sup> Sarah Huddleston, Chris Mendell, and Shea Vance, “Students walk out in ‘emergency protest’ following alleged chemical spray at Friday demonstration,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/01/24/students-walk-out-in-emergency-protest-following-alleged-chemical-spray-at-friday-demonstration/>.

Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) on behalf of 89 student organizations, “ACSRI Proposal: Divestment from Israeli Apartheid, Occupation, and Genocide,” (December 1 2023). <https://www.finance.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/ACSRI/12.1.2023%20CUAD%20ACSRI%20Divestment%20Proposal.pdf>.

<sup>295</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Maya Stahl, “Student Governing Board declares noncooperation with ‘contested’ University event policy,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 8, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/08/student-governing-board-declares-noncooperation-with-contested-university-event-policy/>.

proposing individual disciplinary action against student leaders for violations of university event policy, the University puts students' freedom of speech at risk. . . The restriction and silencing of the free speech of campus organizations goes against the ideals of academic freedom and erodes the integrity of our institution, and the removal of student leadership from the disciplinary process only further damages relations between the administration and its students."<sup>296</sup>

#### December 5, 2023:

- Harvard President Claudine Gay, University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill, and MIT President Sally Kornbluth testified before House Committee on Education and the Workforce about antisemitism on campus. President Shafik was summoned but was traveling and unable to attend the hearings.<sup>297</sup>
- At the end of a town hall for its more than 100 member organizations the Student Governing Board (SGB) voted “with an overwhelming bipartisan majority” and for the first time in its’ history to enact the noncooperation clause in its by-laws in response to contested University Event policy.<sup>298</sup>
- Conservative author and radio host Dennis Prager spoke at Columbia College Republicans event “Israel and Morality” in Lerner Roone Arledge Cinema. Prager, a staunchly pro-Israel voice, is co-founder of PragerU, a conservative nonprofit that “promotes American values through the creative use of educational videos.”<sup>299</sup>

#### December 7, 2023:

- Following December 5, 2023 Congressional hearings, Columbia updated its Event Policy and Campus Resources FAQ page to clarify that calls for genocide against Jewish people violated the University’s code of conduct: “Calls for genocide against the Jewish community or any other group are abhorrent, inconsistent with our values and against our rules. . . Incitement to violence against members of our community will not be tolerated.” The site did not clarify how the University defined calls for genocide, nor the actions it would take upon identifying such speech.<sup>300</sup>
- The Student Governing Board (SGB) announced to the community that it had declared noncooperation with changes to the University’s Student Group Event and Procedure policy after the vote had passed December 5, 2023 at a town hall: “This is the first time the by-law has been enacted in the SGB’s more than 50-year history. . . The vote recognizes as invalid a University policy implemented on October 24th through improper channels which we believe significantly undermines the ability of student groups and leaders to organize on campus.”<sup>301</sup>

#### December 8, 2023:

- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>302</sup>
  - Executive Committee chair’s report: “Sen. D’Armiento said many in the audience had heard discussion about the University’s new event policy and the Rules of University Conduct governing political rallies and demonstrations. She encouraged all present to read an article in that morning’s *Spectator* about the new event policy. She said the Senate would now hear from its Rules Committee to help everyone to understand the Rules and their place in the University Statutes. Sen. D’Armiento said “the Rules and Statutes build the legitimacy of Columbia’s shared governance. During contentious times, the University can rely on these procedures to help assure transparency. And when there's uncertainty about the University’s policies and questions about their development and implementation, adherence to procedures builds trust in the system, which is essential to maintaining a strong Columbia community.”
  - The names of the members of the Special Committee on Campus Safety were announced: Senior Executive Vice President Gerry Rosberg, the chair, David Greenberg, Executive Vice President for University

<sup>296</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "Student Governing Board declares noncooperation with 'contested' University event policy."

<sup>297</sup> President Shafik participated in the UN Climate Change Conference COP 28, hosted in the United Arab Emirates, during this time.

Rachel Treisman, "Lawmakers grill the presidents of Harvard, MIT and Penn over antisemitism on campus," *National Public Radio (NPR)*, December 5, 2023, <https://www.npr.org/2023/12/05/1217459477/harvard-penn-mit-antisemitism-congress-hearing>.

<sup>298</sup> University, "The Student Governing Board's historic vote on noncooperation to protect student speech."

Huddleston and Stahl, "Student Governing Board declares noncooperation with 'contested' University event policy."

<sup>299</sup> Cameron Spurr, "College Republicans host conservative commentator Dennis Prager for 'Israel and morality' talk," December 7, 2023,

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/07/college-republicans-host-conservative-commentator-dennis-prager-for-israel-and-morality-talk/>.

<sup>300</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>301</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "Student Governing Board declares noncooperation with 'contested' University event policy."

University, "The Student Governing Board's historic vote on noncooperation to protect student speech."

<sup>302</sup> Columbia University Senate, "December 8, 2023 Plenary."

Columbia University Senate, "February 2, 2024 Plenary."

Facilities and Operations; Shailagh Murray, Executive Vice President for Public Affairs; Felice Rosan, General Counsel; Jessica Fenton, Associate General Counsel; Dennis Mitchell, Interim Provost, Joseph Defraigne Greenwell, Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, and Susan Glancy, Chief of Staff to President Shafik. The Senate discussed the absence of faculty or student representation on the committee.

- A statement regarding the presence of NYPD on campus was read from the Commission on Diversity.
- An overview of the Rules of Conduct was provided. “In sum, the Rules are designed to provide accessible, prompt, and fair methods of investigation and resolution of incidents of misconduct. They apply University wide, provide for one system that governs the disciplinary process, and are designed to provide due process protections.”
- A resolution from the Rules Committee was passed to “Seek to Reconcile the University Event Policy with the Principle of Freedom of Expression Embodied in the Rules of University Conduct.”

#### **December 9, 2023:**

- Spectator published “Campus Discourse through University administrators’ words.”<sup>303</sup>

#### **December 10, 2023:**

- Barnard Dean Grinage and Senior Vice President Gillman emailed the Barnard community that they had “been made aware of a protest planned on the Barnard campus for Monday afternoon. The protest has not been authorized. . . We also want to make sure that all students are aware of Barnard’s Student Code of Conduct and that those affiliated with unauthorized protests or events are subject to the potential consequences.”<sup>304</sup>
- In an email, Dean Grinage announced revisions to the Student Code of Conduct. These revisions were made sometime between September 26, 2023 and Grinage’s email on December 10, 2023. The amended code stated: “the College may amend this Policy periodically as needed,” included new language defining violations such as “disruptive behavior,” and effectively barred students from access to legal representation during disciplinary hearings.<sup>305</sup>

#### **December 11, 2023:**

- 8:30 AM: In anticipation of a protest scheduled that day, Barnard’s campus was restricted to CUID holders, with students and affiliates scanning for entry.<sup>306</sup>
- Over a hundred students gathered for SJP and JVP protest “Barnard 4 Palestine” at Barnard campus, demanding President Rosenbury call for a permanent ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war on behalf of the college.<sup>307</sup>
  - The protest started in the quad, where several people hung Palestinian flags out of their dorm windows.
  - Pro-Israel counterprotestors brought a large speaker that played loud music and danced.
  - SJP and JVP protestors attempted to read a list of names of people killed in Gaza.
  - At least 19 students underwent disciplinary proceedings starting in January 2024 for allegedly participating in the unauthorized event.
- At 4:14 PM Professor Davidai posted on X about the “Barnard 4 Palestine” protest: “Friday: @Columbia University announces that chants understood as a call for genocide are against school policy. Today, at @BarnardCollege: Student organizations calling for ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free’ @Columbia: What do you plan to do about this?”<sup>308</sup>
- At 5:46 PM Professor Davidai posted on X about the “Barnard 4 Palestine” protest: “‘Intifada, intifada, long live the intifada!’ @Columbia has two choices: (1) Expel organizations that explicitly call for violence against Jews and

<sup>303</sup> Forghash, "Campus discourse through University administrators’ words."

<sup>304</sup> Stahl and Huddleston, "‘The trust is absolutely broken’: Barnard initiates disciplinary processes against students after ‘unauthorized’ protest."

<sup>305</sup> Stahl, "One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president’s controversial tenure so far."

<sup>306</sup> Chris Mendell, "SJP and JVP protest on Barnard’s campus to demand permanent ceasefire," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 11, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/11/sjp-and-jvp-protest-on-barnards-campus-to-demand-permanent-ceasefire/>.

<sup>307</sup> Stahl, "One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president’s controversial tenure so far."

<sup>308</sup> Mendell, "SJP and JVP protest on Barnard’s campus to demand permanent ceasefire."

<sup>308</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, December 11, 2023, <https://x.com/ShaiDavidai/status/1734320861832675617>.



Israelis (2) Show the world it can't/won't enforce its own rules (and face legal consequences for unequal enforcement)"<sup>309</sup>

- At 11:40 PM Professor Davidai posted on X about the “Barnard 4 Palestine” protest: “Every journalist needs to see this. Today, at @ColumbiaUniversity 1. An UNAUTHORIZED EVENT took place 2. Protestors chanted CALLS FOR VIOLENCE AND GENOCIDE of the Jews 3. SJP and JVP (who hosted the event) BROKE THE RULES OF THEIR SUSPENSION. It’s time for expulsions.”<sup>310</sup>

### December 13, 2023:

- A student who was studying abroad in Fall 2023 received a letter from Columbia’s Student Conduct Team stating that they “may have violated University policy by posting inappropriate content on social media.” This student would meet with CSSI on January 9, 2024.<sup>311</sup>
- The University released a list of the 15 faculty to serve on the Antisemitism Task Force: Professor of International and Public Affairs and Political Science Ester Fuchs, Professor of Journalism and Dean Emeritus Nicholas Lemann, Professor of Law and Economics and Dean Emeritus David Schizer, Professor of History Deborah Valenze, Professor of Psychology and Education Peter Coleman, Professor of Jewish and Israel Studies Clémence Boulouque, Professor of Yiddish Language Jeremy Dauber, Professor of Finance and Economic and Dean Emeritus R. Glenn Hubbard, Professor of American Jewish History Rebecca Kobrin, Dean of Columbia School of General Studies Lisa Rosen-Metsch, Health Policy and Management Professor Magda Schaler-Haynes, Professor of Medicine Nir Uriel, Professor of Law Matthew Waxman, and Professor of Electrical Engineering Gil Zussman. It is unclear how members were chosen.<sup>312</sup>
- Alumni Victor Muslin posted in “Columbia Alumni for Israel” group chat: “Hey @~Gil Zussman, congratulations on being named to the Task Force! Will any of the task force’s recommendations be mandatory? And what about enforcement, compliance and disciplinary components for the violations? I am cynical but has anyone run the rest of the names through Canary Mission database?”<sup>313</sup>
  - Professor Gil Zussman thanked Muslin and wrote, “I believe that the enforcement is really important” and that “several of the videos that have been shared in the past weeks” were from current students on campus, including his son, a doctoral candidate in computer science.
  - Muslin’s son asked if any members could share any evidence they have of a student being in a leadership position in an organization, including “any emails she’s sent, etc.”
  - On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors” about the chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia’s interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.
  - Victor Muslin is the founder of CU-Monitor, an online web page run by “a group of Columbia University and Barnard College alumni, faculty, students and their parents who are fed up with the relentless Zionophobic propaganda and activity on campus,” according to the group’s website. In the group chat, Muslin shared X posts by Documenting Jew Hatred on Campus, a web page and X account that posts

<sup>309</sup> @ShaiDavidai, December 11, 2023, <https://x.com/ShaiDavidai/status/1734343916873486390>.

<sup>310</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, December 11, 2023.

<sup>311</sup> Spencer Davis, Aleka Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Tulasi Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of 'Tedeschi Rights'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/01/khymani-james-files-suit-against-columbia-alleging-discrimination-breach-of-teseschi-rights/>.

<sup>312</sup> Noah Bernstein, "Shafik declined to testify before Congress, citing a scheduling conflict. But Columbia remains under national scrutiny.," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 24, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/24/shafik-declined-to-testify-before-congress-citing-a-scheduling-conflict-but-columbia-remains-under-national-scrutiny/>.

Columbia News, "University Announces Members of the Task Force on Antisemitism," news release, December 13, 2023, <https://news.columbia.edu/news/university-announces-members-task-force-antisemitism>.

<sup>313</sup> Huddleston, "In leaked messages, members of 'Columbia Alumni for Israel' group chat work to identify, punish pro-Palestinian protesters." Lennard and Lacy, "The Columbia Network Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protesters."

photos and videos of students it accuses of antisemitic actions. When one chat participant asked whether any members had connections to Canary Misson, another user replied, “Victor is an honorary bird.”

#### **December 14, 2023:**

- In the evening, University Seante leadership organized a meeting between President Shafik and Student Body Presidents. The group planned to discuss the climate on campus, group event policies, and the Special Committee on Campus Safety.<sup>314</sup>

#### **December 15, 2023:**

- SJP and JVP leadership met with Dean Kromm regarding their suspension and reinstatement.<sup>315</sup>

#### **December 19, 2023:**

- The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) sent a letter to Barnard President Rosenbury “expressing concern” with recent college policy changes that required departments to submit materials for administrative review before publishing them on departmental websites.<sup>316</sup>

#### **December 20, 2023:**

- President Shafik and Interim Provost Mitchell launched four initiatives designed to address “bigotry, intimidation, and harassment” at Columbia. The initiatives included listening forums hosted by the Office of the President to provide opportunities for students to communicate directly with senior University administrators, including Shafik; a “Dialogue Across Difference” initiative designed to “strengthen the critical skills necessary to confront competing viewpoints and to hold challenging conversations with mutual respect”; and an enhanced reporting initiative “to make reporting more comfortable and to ensure a rapid response process for allegations of hate speech, harassment, and other forms of disruptive behavior.” Shafik and Mitchell also announced a review, conducted alongside the University Senate, of events policies and the Rules of University Conduct—both of which had seen heightened attention amid conversations regarding freedom of expression, academic freedom, and faculty and student self-governance.<sup>317</sup>
- The deans of Columbia’s faculties and 17 schools published “Dean’s Message on Columbia and Community”: The statement discusses “campus culture” and cites specific chants used by pro-Palestinian activists, calling on community members to “acknowledge that hearing chanted phrases such as ‘by any means necessary,’ ‘from the river to the sea,’ or calls for an ‘intifada’—irrespective of intentions and provenance—is experienced by many Jewish, Israeli, and other members of our community as antisemitic and deeply hurtful.” The statement also urged readers to acknowledge “that the fear of being labeled as antisemitic or as a supporter of terrorism for expressing anguish about the loss of Palestinian lives in Gaza or the West Bank makes people fearful for expressing their concerns.”<sup>318</sup>

#### **December 21, 2023:**

- At 7:46 PM Dean Kromm emailed 2 redacted leaders of JVP and SJP regarding their reinstatement and cc’d Aaron Gomes: “I know SEVP Rosberg shared a response to you and I wanted to follow-up to outline the consultations necessary for reinstatement: - A meeting with me ([redacted student] , you and I already had this meeting on December 15, when you brought 1 other student as well); , I welcome a chance to connect with you (and additional leadership if you like). • A meeting with me, Aaron Gomes, Executive Director of Student Engagement on my team,

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<sup>314</sup> [redacted student], December 14, 2023.

<sup>315</sup> Christin Kromm, December 21, 2023.

<sup>316</sup> Stahl, “One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president’s controversial tenure so far.”

<sup>317</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, “Columbia launches initiatives to address ‘bigotry, intimidation, and harassment,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, December 20, 2023, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2023/12/20/columbia-launches-initiatives-to-address-bigotry-intimidation-and-harassment/>.

<sup>318</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Columbia launches initiatives to address ‘bigotry, intimidation, and harassment’.”

and SGB leadership to ensure we are all on the same page. • A ‘club re-fuel’ meeting with the 4 leaders of your group and your adviser. You have shared worries about doxxing and privacy. We can talk about what is reasonable to meet your needs and ours, but we certainly will need a minimum of four leaders who will be our go-to. Although USL keeps a list of group leaders for internal purposes, we can keep your names private, available only to me, Aaron Gomes, and your adviser. Of these 4 leaders, ideally at least two will be CC/SEAS undergraduates as our go-to contacts. We may only need 1 or 2 to work in virtual EMS to reserve space, to work with facilities to reserve tables, meet with us and campus partners for event reviews, etc. This is likely a better discussion. If you like, we can schedule these meetings now, and host them virtually over the break (perhaps the week of January 8) so that, assuming conversations move forward as I anticipate they will, I can confirm for senior University Leadership that you have met the requirements for reinstatement. Given the semester we just had- we could also set these up now for the first week of classes if you are feeling like you need to unplug entirely over the break. Let me know what you are thinking, if you have questions, etc. If you are interested, look forward to re-opening lines of communication and supporting your groups as USL has in the past.”<sup>319</sup>

- At 1:26 PM SEVP and Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety Rosberg emailed SVP and JVP “SJP and JVP Statement Following Meeting”: “Thank you again for your letter of December 4. It was good to meet with you on November 30 and hear your perspectives on the developments leading up to the suspension of Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP), as well as to hear about the impacts that the current campus climate, including the suspension, is having on your experience at Columbia this semester. I appreciate your sharing that information with me and hope that you are taking advantage of the resources that are available to help. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Joseph Greenwell in University Life if you would like further information about University resources. While I disagree with your characterization of several things that I said during our meeting, I do agree that it is important for all involved to maintain an open dialogue and to work together to rebuild trust and find constructive ways forward. In that spirit, I want to reiterate that the reason SJP and JVP were suspended was because the groups violated Columbia’s Event Policies, which are among the ways the University ensures that all members of the Columbia community can avail themselves of the benefits of learning, living, and working here. Consistently enforcing the Event Policies, particularly at a charged time such as this, enables the University to have a campus environment in which debate and protest can take place – including events sponsored by SJP, JVP, and other student groups – while also ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of our community. Applying the Event Policies uniformly to all groups, regardless of the content of their views, is the only even-handed way for us to guarantee that all voices and viewpoints can be heard on campus. As to your groups’ reinstatement, the path to reinstatement is stated in the notice of suspension – namely for the groups to “demonstrate[e] a commitment to compliance with University policies and engag[e] in consultations at a group leadership level with University officials.” Should the groups wish to pursue reinstatement, the process necessarily begins by working closely with your assigned advisor in Undergraduate Student Life. We have designated Dean Christen Kromm and the USL advisor as the University officials to confirm your groups’ commitment to comply with University policies, including the events policy, and we have asked her to reach out to you about the consultations with her and her team. The decision on reinstatement, like the suspension, will be made by senior University leadership, once we see that the groups are engaged in consultations at a group leadership level. I also wanted to be sure that you understand that while we hope you will meet with Dean Kromm on the process for reinstatement, the University will not agree to your particular conditions.”<sup>320</sup>

### December 22, 2023

- Professor Davidai posted on X: “This is why we must all ask Congresswoman @virginiafoxx to issue a subpoena and force the President of @Columbia to testify in front of the U.S. Congress”<sup>321</sup>

### December 26, 2023:

- At 4:25 PM JVP emailed SEVP and Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety Rosberg and Barnard and Columbia administrators and leadership including President Shafik, Dean Sorett, Dean Rosen-Metsch, Vice Dean of Barnard College Nikki Youngblood Giles, Barnard Dean Grinage, Barnard President Rosenbury, Office of the Secretary, Interim Provost Mitchell, Chief of Staff to the President Susan Glancy, Dean Chang, Executive Vice

<sup>319</sup> Kromm.

<sup>320</sup> Gerry Rosberg, December 21, 2023.

<sup>321</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, December 22, 2023.

President for Public Affairs Shailagh Murray, Whalen Turini, University Life, Former University President Lee Bollinger, Knight First Amendment Institute, Student Governing Board (SGB), Vice President Greenwell, Dean Kromm, Director Gomes, and Chair of the University Senate Executive Committee Jeanine D'Armiento, redacted students, and redacted professors “Re: SJP and JVP Statement Following Meeting”: “Dear Mr. Rosberg and all respective administrators, Despite the long wait and continual public facing lies in the interim period, we appreciate the University’s response to our letter. While we share the objective of ‘rebuilding trust and finding constructive ways forward,’ rebuilding trust becomes impossible if the administration outright dismisses all of our conditions – conditions we consider to be the bare minimum after the abuse the University has subjected us to. The assertion that the event policy is the sole reason for our suspension is an act of bad faith, given that our suspension notice included allegations of ‘threatening rhetoric and intimidation.’ Whether or not these accusations contributed to our suspension, the Special Committee’s statement strongly implies their significance to this day. If you, Mr. Rosberg, representing the Committee, can admit at a University Senate Plenary that you all ‘may have gotten that wrong’ with regards to the administration overstepping its bounds, you all should similarly publicly acknowledge wrongdoing. If you believe that we ‘mischaracterized’ what you said in a meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>, why not clarify in writing now? Notably, you refused to respond to our written questions prior to the meeting. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot continually internally claim that you value free speech and that you made a mistake in a pointless attempt to gain approval while simultaneously doing the opposite publicly. Is it not embarrassing to you that your own Institute has condemned you for suppressing free speech? But regardless of personal animosity, Mr. Rosberg, we are aware that you are merely the face of the senior leadership involved in order to offload the backlash. Columbia was once upheld as a bastion of not just free speech, but critical thinking, debate, and academic rigor. This has changed in recent months. We would like to reiterate what we said in the meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>, namely, that we felt even more compelled to protest when the University canceled our attempts to engage pedagogically with the genocide. Delivering speeches was the only way in which we could make our voices heard. We, too, do not agree with the University’s proposed conditions, and eagerly await demonstrated willingness on your part to work constructively with us. We’re sure that you are all aware that the Student Governing Board has declared non-compliance. As such, we are recognized by what we view as the real University – the University community – and not the people who happen to run it. We kindly direct the University to our official response whereby we declared that our suspension was illegitimate, posted publicly in the way that you yourselves have continued to make public posts (and talk) about us without communicating directly. While we would like to be reinstated and hope that University officials will come to the negotiating table, our organizing is not contingent on official reinstatement after a suspension that superseded existing policies. Until a sincere willingness to engage in good faith negotiations is demonstrated on your part, we find no reason to continue any form of communication as individual representatives. When the University wishes to negotiate and engage further with our horizontal organizations, Jewish VOICE for Peace and Students for Justice in Palestine, we ask that you email [columbiabarnardjvp@gmail.com](mailto:columbiabarnardjvp@gmail.com) and [columbiasjp@gmail.com](mailto:columbiasjp@gmail.com) with all the people CC’d on the December 4<sup>th</sup> email included for accountability purposes. Senior leadership should equally know that over 100 faculty members were BCC’d on the email that was sent at noon on November 9, 2023, attached below in PDF format. Thank you for the kind wishes and the reference to University resources. In addition to the rest of the top of this ivory tower, you and Mr. Greenwell – who repeatedly lied about being on the ‘Special Committee on Campus Safety’ – yourselves have made it a ‘difficult’ and indeed traumatizing semester for us and many others.”<sup>322</sup>

### December 28, 2023:

- At 10:57 AM Board of Trustees Co-Chair Shipman texted President Shafik about a *New York Times* Article, “How Columbia’s President Has Avoided Fallout Over Israel-Gaza Protests”: “The piece was pretty amazing given the moment. Headline terrific. Love all of the reminder about your extraordinary bio. Victor really pushed the political neutral point! The package as all in there and the Dean’s letter. I think all things considered you and the university seem wise! And most critically I think it heavily inoculates us for a while from that capital hill nonsense and threat. I spent a fair amount of time badgering her and refusing to be on the record unless she made her slant plain. In the end she said it was balanced but I didn’t really believe her until I read it. I do think we should think about how to unsuspend the groups before semester starts to take the wind out of that. And then how to do some things with Rashid. Events. That won’t be popular in some groups but he is a respected academic. Also. I loved the last quote

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<sup>322</sup> [redacted student], December 26, 2023.

from the head of Hillel. We need to embrace people like him. Maybe the students can all unite in their hatred of us!”<sup>323</sup>

#### Spring 2024: the new year

#### **January 2024 (specific date unknown):**

- Barnard students who participated in the December 11, 2023 protest began receiving either “inquiry meeting” emails from Campus Life and Student Experience about their alleged involvement, or emails from Residential Life and Housing claiming they violated a policy that prohibits the placement of items on “window ledges.”<sup>324</sup>
  - One email reads: “We have information to suggest that you may have coordinated or participated in this event, thereby failing to comply with event policies and the directives of College officials, which is in violation with Barnard’s Code of Conduct.”
  - The inquiry email sent out to students stated that they “may have coordinated or participated” in the December 11, 2023 “unauthorized” protest but did not clarify which action each student was accused of.
  - Two email recipients said that they did not attend the December 11, 2023 protest at all.
  - Students expressed confusion to *Spectator* as to how administrators identified them.
  - An incident report obtained by *Spectator* stated that “the student(s) of concern were positively identified either by onsite administrative personnel or via social media images.”
- A student told *Spectator* they were identified as engaging in “disruptive behavior” in January through a combination of CCTV footage, CUID swipes, and physical descriptors. The student’s case file, which *Spectator* reviewed and contained over a dozen documents, included screen grabs from surveillance footage showing them entering different buildings, a CCTV clip, Public Safety incident reports, and discrimination reports. The student was sanctioned to academic probation and warned that if they were caught breaking University policy again, the sanction could progress to suspension or expulsion, according to their disciplinary outcome notification.<sup>325</sup>

#### **January 4, 2024:**

- At 6:05 PM President Shafik texted Board of Trustees Co-Chairs Shipman and Greenwald: “Spoke to Chuck Schumer who was very positive and supportive (and quite the storyteller). He said he would try to come speak to trustees in DC himself if schedule works - I mentioned dinner on 1 March. Easier for him if subset of trustees comes to his office on the Thursday. Let’s see – I will send a letter inviting him and Shailagh’s team will chase.”<sup>326</sup>
- At 6:15 PM President Shafik texted Board of Trustees Co-Chairs Shipman and Greenwald: “He also said universities political problems are really only among Republicans. His staffer was of the view that best strategy is to keep heads down!”<sup>327</sup>
- At 6:17 PM Trustees Co-Chair Shipman responded to President Shafik and Trustees Co-Chair Greenwald: “Yes. Makes sense. Did they have any view about the need to meet with republicans while there?”<sup>328</sup>
- At 6:25 PM President Shafik responded to Board of Trustees Co-Chairs Shipman and Greenwald: “No. They seemed to think that reason had little to do with the problem.”<sup>329</sup>
- At 6:44 PM Trustees Co-Chair Greenwald responded to President Shafik and Co-Chairs Shipman: “If we are keeping our head down, maybe we shouldn’t meet with Republicans. That being said we are likely in their sights already. We should have a plan in case the attention focuses on us.”<sup>330</sup>

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<sup>323</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed,” (Committee on Education & the Workforce, U.S. House of Representatives, October 31, 2024).

<sup>324</sup> Stahl and Huddleston, “‘The trust is absolutely broken’: Barnard initiates disciplinary processes against students after ‘unauthorized’ protest.”

<sup>325</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Maya Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protesters,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 12, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/12/inside-columbias-surveillance-and-disciplinary-operation-for-student-protesters-3/>.

<sup>326</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>327</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>328</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>329</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>330</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

### January 7, 2024:

- At 10:43 AM Trustees Co-Chair Greenwald texted Chair Emeritus Lavine a *New York Times* article: “House Republicans to Broaden Higher Education Inquiry Beyond Antisemitism” and added “Here’s the article I was referring to.”<sup>331</sup>
- At 10:44 AM Chair Emeritus Lavine responded to Trustees Co-Chair Greenwald: “Let’s hope the Dems win the house back.”<sup>332</sup>
- At 10:45 AM Trustees Co-Chair Greenwald responded to Chair Emeritus Lavine: “Absolutely.”<sup>333</sup>

### January 8, 2024:

- SJP and JVP leadership met with Dean Kromm regarding their suspension and reinstatement.<sup>334</sup>

### January 9, 2024:

- A student participated in a virtual meeting with an associate director of CSSI in response to a December 13, 2023 letter that stated that they “may have violated University policy by posting inappropriate content on social media.” The student livestreamed the meeting on their Instagram. In the meeting, the student and the individual from CSSI discussed a statement that the student had previously made: “I don’t fight to injure or for there to be a winner or a loser, I fight to kill.” The CSSI director asked about the “fight to kill” comment: “Do you see why that’s problematic in any way?” No,” the student responded. “Zionists don’t deserve to live,” the student said during the meeting. “Be grateful that I’m not just going out and murdering Zionists.” A later lawsuit filed by the student stated that this meeting was “not a formal disciplinary hearing,” and that the student livestreamed the meeting “due to his own powerful sense of being endangered.”<sup>335</sup>

### January 10, 2024:

- At 2:46 PM Dean Kromm emailed 7 redacted student leaders of SJP and JVP regarding their reinstatement and cc’d Director Gomes and Director Turini “Follow-up from Monday’s meeting”: “Thank you for Monday’s conversation. I left with the understanding that you as representatives want to pursue reinstatement although you first need to bring that to a vote given your group structure. Prior to your vote, you asked me to clarify the terms of the process for reinstatement. Assuming that the votes are in favor of making a commitment to reinstatement then, consistent with USL established procedures, the next step will be a meeting with Aaron. In moving forward, you would be confirming to us that SJP and JVP are committed to compliance with all University policies and the steps of the Club Re-Fuel process as in place going forward and without any of the conditions referred to in your prior correspondence to us and to keeping lines of communication open with Aaron and USL more broadly. As discussed, when you meet with Aaron, you’ll determine a meeting structure that makes sense for your groups and Aaron, as we expect of all groups we advise. Assuming the meeting with Aaron goes as well, and is in good faith, as we agreed Monday’s conversation was, and that there’s full compliance by your groups with University policies during this period, I would then report to the University my conclusion that the requirements for reinstatement have been met. There would be no need for further meetings, nor any new conditions to be satisfied, and the reinstatement would be confirmed. I hope we can move forward in this direction and look forward to working with you this spring.”<sup>336</sup>

### January 16, 2024:

- Professor Davidai shared an email template on X addressed to President Shafik, Senior Vice President Rosberg, and General Counsel Rosan targeting two students and encouraged his large social media following to use it: “Send this

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<sup>331</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>332</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>333</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>334</sup> Christin Kromm, January 10, 2024.

<sup>335</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of 'Tedeschi Rights'."

<sup>336</sup> Kromm.

email (written by @EndJewHatred) to @Columbia's administration urging them to maintain the suspension of SJP and JVP."<sup>337</sup>

- "I write with great concern over the looming expiration of the November 10 suspension of student groups "Students for Justice in Palestine" (SJP) and "Jewish Voice for Peace" (JVP). These groups' re-admission to campus should be barred because (1) they have openly violated their suspension order by continuously operating on campus during the time of their suspension through alignments with other student groups that "cover" for them and do their bidding; and (2) these groups are under the direction of two national organizations with ties to designated terrorist organizations and they therefore present an enormous danger to the Columbia community and violate the material support prohibitions of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1996, 18 U.S.C. § 2339a."
- "On or about December 7, soon after Columbia suspended SJP and JVP, National SJP conducted a workshop where one of the speakers was a Columbia student who introduced herself as '[redacted Palestinian student], an organizer of Columbia SJP and Columbia University Apartheid Divest.' She listed her title as '[redacted Palestinian student], Columbia SJP.' In a December 19, 2023 opinion piece by [redacted Palestinian student] in the Columbia Spectator, the author of the piece identifies herself as an 'SJP organizer.'"
- "With [redacted Palestinian student] wearing one hat as the leader of Columbia SJP, and another hat as a leader of CUAD Coalition, coupled with her unwillingness to 'expose' the organizational structures of each, and her colleagues' admission that SJP and JVP run the coalition, there is but one conclusion to be reached: SJP and JVP are the master puppeteers of CUAD Coalition, which acts as a cover for SJP. As [redacted Palestinian student] openly acknowledged, 'SJP can't host protests anymore' and this new arrangement is a mechanism for violating the suspension order with impunity. The noncompliance should not be countenanced, and reinstatement of SJP and JVP should be denied on this basis."
- "While SJP's failure to comply with the suspension order is disabling in and of itself, in addition to their open violation of this reinstatement condition of compliance, SJP's open support of terrorism, and receipt of funds from terrorist organizations, is an equally compelling and more than adequate basis to continue their suspension. In particular, [redacted Palestinian student] stated at the December 7 National SJP workshop that she 'insist[s] on using 'from the river to the sea' in our protests. This slogan was called out by the United States Congress (a month before [redacted Palestinian student]'s remarks at the National SJP workshop) as an explicit call for the genocide of the Jewish people. Alarming, through [redacted Palestinian student], SJP continues -- in the face of federal censure stemming from the use of this term and acknowledgement of it as a call for genocide -- to 'insist' on its use on Columbia's campus, placing every Jewish student in danger and mortal fear. No group should be permitted on campus that, upon hearing our federal government define a slogan as a genocide call, states they insist on the entitlement to instill fear in fellow students by the open and notorious use of the phrase."
- Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine at Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College launched a poster campaign that called attention to the "war on academia and intellectual life in Gaza" in an Instagram post.<sup>338</sup>

#### January 17, 2024:

- The Columbia Academic Freedom Council, a faculty-led initiative, launched and adopted a "Statement of Responsibilities," outlining a commitment to "intellectual diversity" on Columbia's campus. The inaugural Council had around 70 Columbia faculty members.<sup>339</sup>

#### January 18, 2024:

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<sup>337</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, January 16, 2024.

Columbia SJP Suspension, January 16, 2024.

<sup>338</sup> Stahl, "Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine calls attention to violence in Gaza, academic freedom concerns."

<sup>339</sup> Shea Vance, "Faculty form council on academic freedom, commit to 'open inquiry, intellectual diversity, and civil discourse'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 18, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/01/18/faculty-form-council-on-academic-freedom-commit-to-open-inquiry-intellectual-diversity-and-civil-discourse/>.

- University of Chicago Astrophysicist Angela Olinto appointed University Provost, effective April 1, 2024.<sup>340</sup>

### January 19, 2024:

- First day of classes of the Spring 2024 semester.
- Barnard faculty sent a letter to President Rosenbury, Dean Grinage, and Barnard Provost and Dean Bell calling for the cancellation of all planned disciplinary action concerning the December 11, 2023 unauthorized Barnard protest.<sup>341</sup>
- Barnard held “day of dialogue.” SJP and JVP called for a boycott of the “day of dialogue” and called for students to attend the “Divestment Now” protest instead.<sup>342</sup>
- Approximately 100 members of CUAD, the Barnard-Columbia Abolition Collective, and Student-Worker Solidarity held “Divestment Now” rallied on the steps of Low demanding the University divest from companies with ties to Israel and calling for a tuition strike.<sup>343</sup>
  - A University spokesperson wrote to *Spectator* that “the University alerted participants that this was an unsanctioned event held by an unrecognized student coalition and that is a violation of university policies and procedures.”
  - University delegates distributed flyers to students at the rally demanding students stop their “disruption,” threatening “interim sanctions by the Provost up to and including suspension for the rest of the semester.”
  - A smaller group of counterprotesters stood in front of the pro-Palestinian demonstrators, holding signs displaying information about Kfir Bibas, the youngest Israeli hostage kidnapped on October 7.
  - Pro-Palestinian protestors reported being called “Jew killers” and terrorists” at the rally.
  - During the event, protestors were sprayed with an odorous substance according to students who described a foul smell, physical symptoms, or property damage. Several students reported seeking medical attention in the week following the protest. In preparation of this report the University Senate received six medical records from students that sought medical care after the incident, some of which document a diagnosis of “chemical exposure” after presenting to the ER. Students reported dizziness, headaches, severe nausea, blurred vision, irritated eyes and skin, and worsened autoimmune disorder symptoms.
  - According to a Barnard College student who was at the protest, people were protesting peacefully when at least two men sprayed them with a foul-smelling liquid: “Halfway through the protest, we started smelling this horrible smell.” Students provided their clothes to Public Safety.
  - *Spectator* conducted interviews with four students, testimonials from eight protest attendees, and reviewed 12 reports submitted to Columbia’s SJP. 18 students reported a putrid smell during or after the protest. 10 reported physical symptoms such as burning eyes, headaches, and nausea. 3 sought medical attention. 8 reported damage to their personal belongings.
  - Students who attended the rally believed the odorous substance sprayed was “Skunk,” a military-grade chemical used by the Israeli military against demonstrators in the West Bank.
- In the evening, Columbia’s Vice President for Communications and Spokesperson Ben Chang, Executive Vice President of Facilities and Operations David M. Greenberg, Associate Vice President of Internal Communications Robert Hornsby, and Vice President of Public Safety Gerald Lewis all corresponded about the spraying incident.

<sup>340</sup> Minouche Shafik, "Announcing Angela V. Olinto as Provost of Columbia University," (Office of the President: Announcements, January 18, 2024). <https://president.columbia.edu/news/announcing-angela-v-olinto-provost-columbia-university>.

<sup>341</sup> Stahl and Huddleston, "The trust is absolutely broken": Barnard initiates disciplinary processes against students after 'unauthorized' protest."

<sup>342</sup> Shea Vance, "Rosenbury addresses academic freedom, campus activism, and Barnard's next steps in sit-down with Spectator," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/05/rosenbury-addresses-academic-freedom-campus-activism-and-barnards-next-steps-in-sit-down-with-spectator/#:~:text=Barnard%20held%20a%20%20Day%20of,the%20community%20announcing%20the%20event>.

<sup>343</sup> Chris Mendell, "Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 22, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/01/22/protesters-allegedly-sprayed-with-hazardous-chemical-at-pro-palestinian-rally-nearly-two-dozen-report/>.

Gabriella Gregor Splaver, "In Focus: Rally on Low Steps demands divestment, supports tuition strike," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/photo-essays/2024/01/19/in-focus-rally-on-low-steps-demands-divestment-supports-tuition-strike/>.

Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Gaya Gupta, "At Columbia, Student Protesters Say They Were Attacked With Chemicals: After pro-Palestinian students said they had been sprayed with a foul-smelling substance during a demonstration, the university began an investigation and barred those accused from campus.," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 22, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/22/nyregion/palestinian-protest-columbia-university.html>.

Wyatt King et al., "Serious crimes": A pro-Palestinian rally turned site of police investigation, in photos and videos," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/videos/2024/01/24/serious-crimes-a-pro-palestinian-rally-turned-site-of-police-investigation-in-photos-and-videos/>.



Chang had seen pro-Palestinian social media posts about a “stink bomb” at the rally and asked the others if they had detected or heard about it, as he had not. The other administrators confirmed they had not.<sup>344</sup>

- At 7:40 PM Vice President for Communications Chang emailed Greenberg, Hornsby, and Lewis.
- Greenberg responded: “I didn’t notice a smell either nor did I see any reaction in the crowd to a strong smell being sprayed or applied at any time.”
- Hornsby responded that he had not either and he had “moved around the crowd from all sides during the entire event.”
- Lewis responded: “I was in the thick of the rally with my personnel and to my knowledge this is untrue. We also have not had any reports of such actions from our personnel.”
- Public Safety received at least one initial complaint about spraying incident.<sup>345</sup>
- Following the “Divestment Now” rally, Barnard used surveillance technologies to identify a first-year student who allegedly participated in the demonstration. At a later conduct meeting for an alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct, administrators played CCTV footage of what they said was the first-year walking from Columbia onto Barnard’s campus surrounded by a group of around a dozen people, according to a video of the meeting obtained by *Spectator*. Less than two weeks after the meeting, she received an email stating that, upon reviewing her ID swipes, the corresponding CCTV footage, and a Public Safety officer’s account, Barnard administrators had determined it “more likely than not” that she had been properly identified in the footage and had violated Barnard policies. The college found her responsible for “disruptive behavior” and “unauthorized entry” for allegedly climbing over and removing barricades around Alma Mater during the rally, according to her disciplinary outcome email, which *Spectator* obtained. The first-year was sanctioned to two years of disciplinary probation, is expected to serve 50 hours of community service upon her return to campus, and must submit a reflection paper following completion of her community service hours. Her outcome notification email warned that “a future violation of College or University policy will result in more severe sanctions.” In a statement to *Spectator* on the day before she received her disciplinary outcome email, the first-year wrote that she had decided to leave campus for the remainder of the Spring 2024 semester “due to the distress that this has caused me, as well as end[ing] up in the hospital last week for the damage that this level of surveillance has caused to my mental and physical well-being.”<sup>346</sup>

#### January 20, 2024:

- Following the January 19, 2024 spraying incident, a student visited City MD West 88 Street and was diagnosed with “exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals,” “nausea,” “sensation of irritation of eye proper,” “fatigue,” and “headache.” The student was treated with ondansetron and ketorolac 0.5%.<sup>347</sup>
- The New York chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations condemned the January 19, 2024 alleged spraying attack and “demanded law enforcement investigate the incident as a possible hate crime.”<sup>348</sup>
- At 3:51 PM [redacted student] emailed General Studies Student Council (GSSC) “Unsafe on Campus”: “After hearing about the skunk incident at yesterday’s protest, I feel unsafe on campus. I worry that, as a visibly Arab and Muslim student, I will be assaulted by one of the perpetrators, who are all Columbia students. As the elected student council members of my school, the same school that admitted these violent perpetrators, I urge you to take action. I cannot continue to attend classes on campus in this hostile and unsafe environment. This is a direct detriment to my education, and that of fellow Arab students. We ask that the perpetrators of the assault be immediately expelled from Columbia.”<sup>349</sup>
- At 4:53 PM [redacted General Studies student leader] emailed General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch, Dean Rodgers, Dean of Academic Affairs Caroline Marvin, and cc’d [redacted University Senator] “Assault on Students Yesterday”: “I apologize for the email on the weekend. As you may or may not know, there was a release of chemicals onto the protesters (undergraduate students, graduate students, and staff) yesterday that has raised quite an alarming amount of concern regarding safety for Muslim and Arab students on campus. The following email was just sent to council, and I have already been texted by multiple people in one way or another about this. I hope I don’t have to explain the fear that students have regarding being deliberately targeted in the future, especially with anything more serious. Outside of what has currently been circulating publicly, I have been told that there exists

<sup>344</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>345</sup> Mendell, “Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report.”

<sup>346</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protesters.”

<sup>347</sup> City MD West 88th, “Summary of Visit,” (January 20, 2024).

<sup>348</sup> Mendell, “Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report.”

<sup>349</sup> [redacted student], January 20, 2024.

video evidence that one of the students who did this is a currently enrolled GS student. As far as I have told others and am aware, the testimonies and evidence have been reported to the university. However, I am gravely concerned about GS students assaulting other University affiliates, including other GS students, and I would hope that you are planning to address this to the student body. Please let me know if you would like to discuss more. I am available over email or phone this weekend.”<sup>350</sup>

### January 21, 2024:

- Columbia’s SSI released a statement condemning “any actions of any individuals who may engage in behaviors with the intent to cause physical or psychological harm to other Columbia students.”<sup>351</sup>
- Early in the day, a Columbia University official confirmed that the University was “aware of social media posts on an alleged incident” and “conferring with the NYPD.” At the time, Public Safety had received one complaint, according to the official.<sup>352</sup>
- Public Safety received additional complaints about the spraying incident.<sup>353</sup>
- Public Safety announced it was “investigating incidents reported in connection with Friday’s protest that are of great concern.” They said they had been “actively working with local and federal authorities in this investigation, with the NYPD taking a lead role. . . While the investigation is proceeding, we continue to seek the university community’s support: Reporting is essential so that the proper authorities -- including the NYPD -- can track down the facts and take action as necessary. . . It is important for people to come forward if they have any information, and we are grateful to the members of our community who already have.”<sup>354</sup>
- In the afternoon, a NYPD spokesperson told *Spectator* that it received one report and was investigating the incident, but no arrests had been made.<sup>355</sup>
- At 3:06 PM Columbia Public Safety’s Assistant Vice President of Operations and Investigations Brian McPherson sent the FBI an e-mail with the University’s findings to date on the incident. McPherson claimed that a medical inquiry conducted by Columbia Public Safety found that no students had sought medical care at Mt. Sinai Hospital with corresponding symptoms, that no complaints were made to Columbia University EMS, and that no reports were made to NYPD of students claiming to have been sprayed at the protest. McPherson reported that one student complainant reported the incident to Columbia Public Safety and her coat was examined by the NYPD whose investigation “did not reveal any odors which would be indicative of a ‘skunk spray.’” The complainant noted that she had attempted to clean her coat after the protest.<sup>356</sup>
- President Shafik stated that according to her advisers, attempts were made to contact affected students by January 19, 2024 spraying incident, but none replied.<sup>357</sup>
- Columbia charged the students accused of spraying protestors on January 19, 2023 with disruptive behavior, harassment, and endangerment under CSSI and placed the students on an immediate interim suspension.<sup>358</sup>

### January 22, 2024:

- At 8:38 AM [redacted Palestinian student] reached out to Lavine Family Director Cohen, SEVP and Chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety Rosberg, Vice President Greenwell, Dean Begg, Assistant Dean and Director of the Advising Department at CSSW Moira Curtain in an email titled “What is going on?”: “Using ‘incident of great concern’ is not an appropriate terminology for chemical weapons used on students. It is appalling that the university hasn’t even provided guidance on what to do if impacted. I am having to throw away my sheets, blankets,

<sup>350</sup> [redacted student], January 20, 2024.

<sup>351</sup> Mendell, "Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report."

<sup>352</sup> Mendell, "Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report."

<sup>353</sup> Mendell, "Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report."

<sup>354</sup> Mendell, "Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report."

<sup>355</sup> Mendell, "Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report."

<sup>356</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

Noah Bernstein and Rebecca Massel, "House committee publishes internal administrative communications, disciplinary information in new antisemitism report," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 31, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/31/house-committee-publishes-internal-administrative-communications-disciplinary-information-in-new-antisemitism-report/>.

<sup>357</sup> Shafik, interview.

<sup>358</sup> Emily Forgash and Chris Mendell, "Student accused of alleged chemical spray sues Columbia, claims substance was ‘non-toxic fart spray’," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/16/student-accused-of-alleged-chemical-spray-sues-columbia-claims-substance-was-non-toxic-fart-spray/>.

and many of my clothes because they smell like raw sewage and they burn my skin when I touch them. Columbia is one of the wealthiest institutions in the country and administration cannot provide basic financial support or guidance for students. This needs to be addressed immediately.”<sup>359</sup>

- A NYPD spokesperson told *Spectator* that the department had received six reports of assault regarding the spraying incident. The NYPD did not publicly release any information about potential suspects.<sup>360</sup>
- Interim Provost Mitchell shared an update on January 19, 2023 “Divestment Now” rally spraying incident, reporting that alleged perpetrators were immediately banned from campus while the NYPD took the lead in investigation. In the same announcement, the University noted that it considered the “Divestment Now” rally where the incidents occurred an unsanctioned event, held by an unrecognized student coalition, and it was, therefore, considered a violation of university policy and procedures. Two students were later charged under the CSSI discipline process in connection with this spraying incident and suspended from campus. According to October 2024 House Republican Staff Report, Columbia subsequently reached a \$395,000 settlement with one of the two sanctioned students.<sup>361</sup>
- A student who attended the January 19, 2024 rally visited Mount Sinai Morningside Emergency Department and was diagnosed with chemical exposure and given the medication albuterol (PROVENTIL). The student also made contact with Columbia Health Medical Services.<sup>362</sup>
- Another student who attended the January 19, 2024 rally visited Mount Sinai Morningside Emergency Department and was diagnosed with eye pain and treated with fluorescein, ibuprofen, ondansetron, and tetracaine HCL.<sup>363</sup>
- A third student who attended the January 19, 2024 rally visited Mount Sinai Morningside Emergency Department and was diagnosed with “chemical exposure” and treated with acetaminophen, ketorolac tromethamine, lactated ringers Iv Bolus, metoclopramide HCL, and ondansetron.<sup>364</sup>
- A student who attended the January 19, 2024 rally reported to *Spectator* that they continued to vomit and still smelled the odor on their clothes and hair, even after nearly a dozen showers.<sup>365</sup>
- All Barnard inquiry meetings related to the December 11, 2023 Barnard protest were postponed without a clear reason, according to Najam Haider, chair of the religion department. They proceeded again the next day, January 23, 2024.<sup>366</sup>
- Barnard Vice President Gillman and Marina Catalozzi, Vice President for Health and Wellness and Chief Health Officer, addressed the spraying incident in an email to the Barnard community.<sup>367</sup>

#### January 23, 2024:

- At 5:08 PM, a student emailed their student government representative in GS: “One of the men seen in the videos deploying the chemical grade weapon is currently in the GS lounge. Recognizing him, I did a double-take and he responded with a wave-- as though to affirm his identity and his presence. It was not a friendly wave. Instead, I feel threatened, intimidated, and fearful. I left the lounge and notified public safety. Based on the university-wide email we received on Sunday, I was under the assumption that the students connected with the ‘incident’ have been barred from campus. ... My desire to ever return to the GS lounge has been utterly diminished. I have been stripped of my sense of safety in a space specifically designated for students like myself. ... There are hundreds of Arab, Muslim, and pro-Palestinian students that are in direct danger; hundreds of students whose education is disrupted due to unnecessary fear and intimidation. Fear propelled by emboldened, violent students with no fear of consequences for their actions.”<sup>368</sup>

<sup>359</sup> [redacted student], January 22, 2024.

<sup>360</sup> Mendell, "Protestors allegedly sprayed with hazardous chemical at pro-Palestinian rally, nearly two dozen report."

King et al., "'Serious crimes': A pro-Palestinian rally turned site of police investigation, in photos and videos."

<sup>361</sup> Emily Forcash and Chris Mendell, "'Alleged perpetrators' banned from campus following reported chemical spraying incident," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/01/22/alleged-perpetrators-banned-from-campus-following-reported-chemical-spraying-incident/>.  
Dennis A. Mitchell, "A Message from Interim Provost Dennis Mitchell," (Office of the Provost: Announcements).  
<https://provost.columbia.edu/news/message-interim-provost-dennis-mitchell>.

"Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>362</sup> Mount Sinai Morningside Emergency Department, "After Visit Summary", ed. Redacted student 1 (January 22, 2024).

Columbia Health Medical Services, "Verification of Medical Services Contact," (January 22, 2024).

<sup>363</sup> Mount Sinai Emergency Department, "After Visit Summary," ed. Redacted Student 2 (January 22, 2024).

<sup>364</sup> Mount Sinai Emergency Department, "After Visit Summary."

<sup>365</sup> Gupta, "At Columbia, Student Protesters Say They Were Attacked With Chemicals: After pro-Palestinian students said they had been sprayed with a foul-smelling substance during a demonstration, the university began an investigation and barred those accused from campus.."

<sup>366</sup> Stahl and Huddleston, "'The trust is absolutely broken': Barnard institutes disciplinary processes against students after 'unauthorized' protest."

<sup>367</sup> Huddleston, Mendell, and Vance, "Students walk out in 'emergency protest' following alleged chemical spray at Friday demonstration."

<sup>368</sup> Redacted Student, January 23, 2024.

- At 5:43 PM, a student emailed the General Studies Student Council (GSSC) community: “I am writing with deep concern for the safety of my Arab and activist friends, particularly those who use GS spaces, as many are GS students. I understand that there is only so much a school council can do, and that many people within GSSC have to be very careful about what is expressed publicly and how you all navigate representing the Columbia GS community. That being said, it is not only embarrassing that the two students involved in committing acts of terror on campus against peaceful protestors feel safe in places like the GS Lounge while they are actively banned from campus (yes, one of them was in the GS lounge today). It is embarrassing to be a GS student, to be affiliated with the acceptance of this kind of violence, and it is embarrassing to be a part of a school that tolerates hateful, racist, violent actions on its own campus. I am also very afraid of the safety of not only my Arab friends, but my Jewish friends on campus, and anyone else associated with the peaceful protests organized on or near campus.”<sup>369</sup>
- At 5:58 PM [redacted General Studies student leader] emailed Dean Rosen-Metsch, Dean Rodgers, and Dean Caroline Marvin: “I have received two messages already indicating that one of the perpetrators of the attacks was in the lounge today and has resulted in multiple students fearing for their lives. The Provost’s message indicated those students were banned from campus. Now students are terrified and I am worried this is going to cause widespread panic. Please address this with the student body before someone ends up getting seriously hurt or killed.”<sup>370</sup>
- At 7:13 PM Dean Delva responded to [redacted General Studies student leader]’s message from earlier in the day: “Thank you for altering us to this incident. I have contacted Public Safety to investigate and respond.”<sup>371</sup>
- Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine at Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College published a statement on Instagram in response to the spraying incident, expressing support for students affected. It also demanded that the University acknowledge the incident as a hate crime, provide care to impacted students, and reinstate SJP and JVP.<sup>372</sup>
- At 7:30 PM Dean Rosen-Metsch responded to [redacted General Studies student leader]’s message from earlier in the day: “Just want to add to Dean Delva’s email that we will have a public safety officer in Lewisohn who will be checking IDs.”<sup>373</sup>
- SJP’s national chapter released a statement in response to the alleged spraying attack. The statement expressed solidarity with JVP, Columbia’s chapter of SJP, and CUAD “as they demand immediate action from Columbia University.” The statement stated that “constant hateful attacks” are an “immediate threat” on campuses across the United States and called on the University to protect Pro-Palestinian speech, protect “Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim” students, and meet the demands of CUAD. Nearly 200 organizations from across the United States signed on to the statement.<sup>374</sup>
- The Law School Senate voted to deny official recognition of a proposed Law Students Against Antisemitism group. Students proposed the group to “raise awareness and educate about both historical and contemporary antisemitism.” The group faced criticism for adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism which notes that manifestations of antisemitism “might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived of as a Jewish collectivity.” The two main complaints raised before and during the Senate meeting about Law Students Against Antisemitism were that the organization would suppress speech and that the Alliance’s definition of antisemitism conflated antisemitism with anti-Zionism. On February 11, 2024, the Senate voted to recognize the group.<sup>375</sup>
- Barnard-Columbia Abolition Collective, Student-Worker Solidarity, and Columbia-Barnard Youth Democratic Socialists of America announced in an Instagram post that they were not moving forward with a previously planned tuition strike following a vote among students who filled out the pledge form. The groups were still collecting pledges from students to withhold donations to the University.<sup>376</sup>

## January 24, 2024:

<sup>369</sup> Redacted Student, January 23, 2024.

<sup>370</sup> [redacted student], January 23, 2024.

<sup>371</sup> Maryln Delva, January 23, 2024.

<sup>372</sup> Huddleston, Mendell, and Vance, “Students walk out in ‘emergency protest’ following alleged chemical spray at Friday demonstration.”

<sup>373</sup> Lisa Rosen-Metsch, January 23, 2024.

<sup>374</sup> Huddleston, Mendell, and Vance, “Students walk out in ‘emergency protest’ following alleged chemical spray at Friday demonstration.”

<sup>375</sup> Rebecca Massel, “Law School Student Senate denies approval of Law Students Against Antisemitism group,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/01/law-school-student-senate-denies-approval-of-law-students-against-antisemitism-group/>.  
Rebecca Massel, “Law School senate approves Law Students Against Antisemitism organization after revote ” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/23/law-school-senate-approves-law-students-against-antisemitism-organization-after-revote/>.

<sup>376</sup> Huddleston, Mendell, and Vance, “Students walk out in ‘emergency protest’ following alleged chemical spray at Friday demonstration.”

- At 12:00 AM Columbia and Barnard both restricted Morningside campus access to CUID holders. The University required affiliates to scan their IDs upon entry to campus, which was limited to the Broadway and Amsterdam gates on either side of College Walk, the gate on Broadway near Earl Hall, the gate on 114th Street near John Jay, and the gate near Wien Hall between Amsterdam Avenue and Morningside Drive.<sup>377</sup>
- *Spectator* published material documenting the January 19, 2024 spraying incident.<sup>378</sup>
  - University officials requested access to photos and videos referenced in *Spectator*'s coverage to assist in their investigation, but *Spectator* denied the request.
  - *Spectator* instead published the exclusive visual material that—alongside student sources, University statements, and information from the NYPD—served as the basis for their reporting.
  - All of the footage and photography taken by *Spectator* reporters, photographers, and videographers on the afternoon of “Divestment Now” protest was presented in chronological order, with timestamps.
  - Some of the material revealed previously unseen imagery of individuals that matched protesters’ descriptions of those they accused of the alleged attack.
- Over 100 students participated in an “emergency protest” at the Sundial, “No Safety Without Divestment,” organized by CUAD and several other groups in response to the January 19, 2024 alleged spraying incident.<sup>379</sup>
  - “WALK OUT IF YOU HAVE CLASS—NO BUSINESS AS USUAL DURING A GENOCIDE,” wrote CUAD on Instagram, tagging Student Workers of Columbia, Barnard-Columbia Abolition Collective, DAR Palestine at Columbia University, and Columbia’s chapters of SJP and JVP.
  - Prior to the beginning of the protest, CUAD released a statement on Instagram recognizing the “security concerns for today’s protest,” but encouraged students to “show up in the face of repression,” outlining “security guidelines” which were also repeated at the commencement of the protest.<sup>380</sup>
  - Protesters chanted “Columbia, Columbia, why so silent? Do you condemn Zionist violence?,” “Minouche Shafik, you must pay, medical bills are on the way,” “Minouche Shafik, what do you say, how many boots did you lick today?,” “Say it loud, say it clear, we don’t want no IOF [Israeli Occupation Forces] here,” and “from New York to Gaza, globalize the Intifada.”
  - Organizers called on Columbia to “divest from genocide, apartheid and occupation” in a flyer distributed at the protest.
  - At around 3:00 PM protesters began marching around South Lawn before heading up the stairs by Kent Hall. The protesters moved around the back of Low Library before pausing at its west side, chanting “Minouche Shafik you can’t hide, none of us will let this slide.”
  - Students who spoke at the protest focused on the January 19, 2024 alleged spraying incident and the University’s response to it.

### January 25, 2024:

- Barnard President Rosenbury responded to a January 19, 2024 faculty letter demanding all planned disciplinary action concerning the December 11, 2023 Barnard protest be cancelled that she had “the utmost confidence in the integrity of our conduct process as administered by Dean Grinage, whose team is responsible for the process. The process is fair and unbiased, and Dean Grinage and her team consistently respect the individual dignity of each student and the educational mission of the College as a whole. . . To that end, our process favors informal educational resolutions whenever possible.”<sup>381</sup>
- Democracy Now! interviewed Professor Franke about alleged spraying incident. Professor Franke stated “and it’s something that many of us were concerned about, because so many of those Israeli students, who then come to the Columbia campus, are coming right out of their military service. And they’ve been known to harass Palestinian and other students on our campus. And it’s something the university has not taken seriously in the past. But we’ve never seen anything like this.”<sup>382</sup>

<sup>377</sup> Huddleston, Mendell, and Vance, “Students walk out in ‘emergency protest’ following alleged chemical spray at Friday demonstration.”

<sup>378</sup> King et al., “‘Serious crimes’: A pro-Palestinian rally turned site of police investigation, in photos and videos.”

<sup>379</sup> Huddleston, Mendell, and Vance, “Students walk out in ‘emergency protest’ following alleged chemical spray at Friday demonstration.”  
Bwog Staff, “CUAD Holds Walkout At Sundial Following Alleged Chemical Attack,” *Bwog*, January 24, 2024.

<sup>380</sup> Huddleston, Mendell, and Vance, “Students walk out in ‘emergency protest’ following alleged chemical spray at Friday demonstration.”

<sup>381</sup> Stahl and Huddleston, “‘The trust is absolutely broken’: Barnard initiates disciplinary processes against students after ‘unauthorized’ protest.”

<sup>382</sup> Katherine Franke, “Professors Slam Columbia’s Response to Chemical Skunk Attack on Students at Pro-Palestine Protest,” interview by Amy Goodman, *Democracy Now!*, January 25, 2024, [https://www.democracynow.org/2024/1/25/columbia\\_palestine\\_protest\\_attack](https://www.democracynow.org/2024/1/25/columbia_palestine_protest_attack).

### January 26, 2024:

- Following the January 19, 2024 spraying incident, one student who had visited Mount Sinai Emergency Department and made contact with Columbia Health Medical Services January 22, 2024 returned to visit Mount Sinai Morningside Emergency Department for continued leg pain, vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea and was diagnosed with “nausea and unspecified vomiting.” The student was treated with alum-mag hydroxide simeth, famotidine (PEPCID), ondansetron ODT (Zofran ODT), sodium chloride 0.9% Iv Bolus, and acetaminophen (TYLENOL).<sup>383</sup>

### January 28, 2024:

- CNN reported “Pelosi faces criticism for suggesting some pro-Palestinian protestors are connected to Russia.”<sup>384</sup>
  - Former House Speaker Pelosi: “I think ... some of these protestors are spontaneous and organic and sincere. . . Some, I think, are connected to Russia. And I say that having looked at this for a long time now, as you know.”
  - “I think some financing should be investigated, and I want to ask the FBI to investigate that.”

### January 29, 2024:

- A student visited City MD West Harlem following the January 19, 2024 spraying incident and was diagnosed with exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals and nasal congestion.<sup>385</sup>

### January 30, 2024:

- Cas Holloway was appointed Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective February 5, 2024.<sup>386</sup>
- Accuracy in Media (AIM) announced the return of the doxxing truck in a news release. The news release also “urges employers to utilize a database launched by Canary Mission,” a website that lists students, professors, professionals, and organizations “that have espoused hateful, antisemitic beliefs on college campuses and beyond.”<sup>387</sup>
- A “doxxing truck” circled the Morningside campus as part of “national days of activism on college campuses across the country to stand up against antisemitism.” Driving down Broadway, the truck displayed names and photos of Columbia affiliates under the words “Columbia’s Leading Antisemites.” The truck also promoted a new website that “features a petition that urges employers to blacklist applicants,” alongside the words “Boycott, Divest, & Sanction These Antisemites.” AIM deployed doxxing trucks to six college campuses. The group cited these specific universities as places “where reports of concerning antisemitic behavior are on the rise.”<sup>388</sup>
- *Spectator* reported that at least 19 students underwent disciplinary proceedings in January for allegedly attending an “unauthorized” December 11, 2024 protest on Barnard’s campus. Unlike students at Columbia, Barnard students were not allowed to bring a practicing attorney with them to their inquiry meetings.<sup>389</sup>

### January 31, 2024:

- Professor Davidai posted on X: “This poster seen today on campus depicts all Israelis as skunks. If any other group was depicted as animals, the school would have already called the @FBI to investigate. What’s next? All Jews are vermin? @Columbia University – What the fuck are you waiting for?”<sup>390</sup>

### February 2024 (specific date unknown):

<sup>383</sup> Mount Sinai Morningside Emergency Department, "After Visit Summary," ed. Redacted student (January 26, 2024).

<sup>384</sup> Aileen Graef, "Pelosi faces criticism for suggesting some pro-Palestinian protestors are connected to Russia," *CNN Politics*, January 28, 2024, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/01/28/politics/pelosi-criticism-palestinian-gaza-protests-russia/index.html>.

<sup>385</sup> City MD West Harlem, "Summary of Visit," (January 29, 2024).

<sup>386</sup> Minouche Shafik, "Cas Holloway Appointed Chief Operating Officer," (Office of the President: Announcements, January 30, 2024). <https://president.columbia.edu/news/cas-holloway-appointed-chief-operating-officer>.

<sup>387</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, "Conservative media group behind 'doxxing truck' returns to Columbia, launches new website," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, January 31, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/01/31/conservative-media-group-behind-doxxing-truck-returns-to-columbia-launches-new-website/>.

<sup>388</sup> Zuloaga, "Conservative media group behind 'doxxing truck' returns to Columbia, launches new website."

<sup>389</sup> Stahl and Huddleston, "'The trust is absolutely broken': Barnard initiates disciplinary processes against students after 'unauthorized' protest."

<sup>390</sup> @ShaiDavidai, January 31, 2024.

- Beginning in February 2024, members of the Antisemitism Task Force reached out to the deans of every school and through their offices invited all students from every Columbia school, as well as Teachers College and Barnard College, to formal listening sessions. The Task Force also held three listening sessions at the Kraft Center for Jewish Life.<sup>391</sup>
- Law Professor Katherine Franke hired the firm Outten & Golden LLP to represent her in response to the University's investigation of comments she made during a January 25, 2024 Democracy Now! Interview that were alleged to have violated Title VI.<sup>392</sup>

### February 1, 2024:

- At 1:00 PM Barnard restricted campus access to CUID holders in anticipation of Barnard President Rosenbury's inauguration the next day.<sup>393</sup>

### February 2, 2024:

- At 11:45 AM @ADL\_NYNJ posted on X "We are appalled to see a flier on @Columbia's campus comparing Israel and Israelis to skunks. This does nothing to further peace. It only villainizes Jewish and Israeli students on campus and fosters an increasingly hostile environment. The Columbia administration should call out this rhetoric immediately."<sup>394</sup>
- Barnard restricted campus access to CUID holders until 8:00 PM in anticipation of Barnard President Rosenbury's inauguration.<sup>395</sup>
- Columbia restricted access to its Morningside campus ahead of a planned Within Our Lifetime (WOL) protest off campus outside the 116th Street and Broadway gates. The protest was organized by WOL, the national chapter of SJP, and several other pro-Palestinian student groups. Both Barnard and Columbia saw an increased NYPD presence.<sup>396</sup>
- At 3:00 PM WOL, the national chapter of SJP, and several other pro-Palestinian student groups protested off campus outside the 116th Street and Broadway gates. The NYPD arrested three pro-Palestinian protestors and charged 12 with "disorderly conduct."<sup>397</sup>
- Laura Rosenbury was inaugurated as Barnard's ninth president.<sup>398</sup>
  - The event drew over a dozen protesters and a sparse crowd following calls by pro-Palestinian student groups CUAD, SJP, and JVP for a boycott of the ceremony.
  - Ten protesters planted throughout the audience sequentially interrupted Rosenbury's inaugural speech, shouting "Shame on you, Laura" and were escorted outside by security.
  - As the protesters were removed from the church by security guards, Rosenbury told them, "Feel free to speak."
  - Rosenbury asked one protestor: "We are obviously not always going to see eye to eye, and the question is how do we channel that? How do we channel our differences? How do we create a space where we can have civil discourse? Where we can channel our activism productively, the way that Barnard always has?"
- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>399</sup>

<sup>391</sup> Task Force on Antisemitism, *Report #2: Columbia University Student Experiences of Antisemitism and Recommendations for Promoting Shared Values and Inclusion* (August 2024), <https://www.columbia.edu/content/report-2-task-force-antisemitism>.

<sup>392</sup> Emily Pickering, "Law professor Katherine Franke, BC' 81, files ethics complaint against law firm after withdrawal of representation," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/22/law-professor-katherine-franke-bc-81-files-ethics-complaint-against-law-firm-after-withdrawal-of-representation/>.

<sup>393</sup> Apurva Chakravarthy et al., "Rosenbury inaugurated as ninth Barnard president against backdrop of protesters," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/02/rosenbury-inaugurated-as-ninth-barnard-president-against-backdrop-of-protesters/>.

<sup>394</sup> @ADL\_NYNJ, February 2, 2024.

<sup>395</sup> Chakravarthy et al., "Rosenbury inaugurated as ninth Barnard president against backdrop of protesters."

<sup>396</sup> Chakravarthy et al., "Rosenbury inaugurated as ninth Barnard president against backdrop of protesters."

<sup>397</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, "Task Force on Antisemitism issues first report, raises concern over enforcement of protest policies," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 4, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/03/04/task-force-on-antisemitism-issues-first-report-raises-concern-over-enforcement-of-protest-policies/>.

<sup>398</sup> Stahl, "One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president's controversial tenure so far."

<sup>399</sup> Columbia University Senate, "February 2, 2024 Plenary."

- University Senate adopted Resolution Reconfirming our Commitment to the Principles of Academic Freedom and Shared Governance (Faculty Affairs, Academic Freedom and Tenure, and Student Affairs)
  - “Whereas — We, the Columbia University Senate, accordingly understand academic freedom to be a set of rights and responsibilities governing both faculty and University leaders that protect faculty’s rights to teach, conduct and publish research, and speak and write both on campus and off, and that are crucial to ensuring our students receive the highest quality education possible.”
  - “We, the Columbia University Senate, believe that the protections of academic freedom allow and oblige all faculty to pursue their teaching, research and clinical endeavors and communicate to a wider public in ways that strengthen our society and affirm the social importance of higher education.”
  - Therefore, be it resolved that the Columbia University Senate is committed to the following principles of academic freedom and shared governance: Academic activities at Columbia are subject to review set by normal institutional processes in accordance with best professional practice; and Faculty speech and expression, including in the press and via social media, are subject to the protections and restrictions laid out in the Affirmative Statement §440, including “the right to speak, to study, research, to teach, and to express their own views” and the obligation to “allow others in the community to do the same”, except in cases of genuine threat of harassment, unjustifiable invasion of individual privacy, or false defamation; and The University and its leaders should refrain from taking political positions in their institutional capacity, either as explicit statements or as the basis of policy, except in the rare case when the University has a compelling institutional interest, such as a legal obligation, that requires it to do so; and Both principles of academic freedom and obligations of institutional stewardship permit inquiry into whether the University’s corporate activities remain compatible with “paramount social values”; and, University policy in general should arise from mechanisms of shared governance, and should not be set by, or in deference to, entities external to the institution or those mechanisms; and Matters of university policy that touch on or may benefit from areas of academic expertise should be informed by that expertise, and consultative bodies should be appointed with deference to the University’s strengths in faculty expertise and knowledge; and, The University Senate, as the representative body of all University constituencies and the statutory policy-making body of the University concerning matters of academic freedom as provided by in the University Statutes §23(c), has an historic and vital role to play in convening and fostering further discussion, articulation, and/or ratification of principles around academic freedom and the rights and responsibilities that obtain to it.”

**February 5, 2024:**

- COO Holloway first day.<sup>400</sup>
- Document shared in April 28, 2024 post on X by @ColumbiaSJP alleged that “On February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Dean Lisa Rosen-Metsch organized official meetings exclusive to students from the TAU Dual BA Program to discuss the quality of the Dual BA program. Dean Rosen-Metsch has not previously arranged similar meetings to discuss the quality of any other Dual BA programs in this exclusive manner. However, during these meetings, Dean Rosen-Metsch addressed the campus climate and the specific challenges faced by TAU students. She conveyed that the administration and donors were actively supporting them and encouraged them to report concerning behaviors from other students to her, promising to take appropriate actions.” The document later stated: “Dean Rosen-Metsch’s instructions for students to report their peers to her raise significant concerns about surveillance and the potential suppression of free speech on campus.”<sup>401</sup>
- At 7:27 PM Chair Emeritus of Columbia’s Board of Trustees Jonathan Lavine texted Board of Trustees Co-Chair Greenwald: “I also think if we put in a great time, place, [and manner] protest policy and then have the antisemites on the Senate in charge of discipline and enforcing it it will also fail. I expressed that to Gerry.”<sup>402</sup>
- At 7:44 PM Trustee Co-Chair Greenwald responded to Chair Emeritus Lavine: “You should expect pushback from Claire who said to me today that it is important to listen to the other side ... M told us that no one has been put

<sup>400</sup> Shafik, "Cas Holloway Appointed Chief Operating Officer."

<sup>401</sup> @ColumbiaSJP, X, April 28, 2024.

<sup>402</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."



through the senate rules process since 2017 and we have to give them a chance. If they do not take appropriate action against students we will revisit. We pushed back but she insists we have to give the senate a chance.”<sup>403</sup>

- At 7:48 PM Chair Emeritus Lavine responded to Trustee Co-Chair Greenwald: “What happens if they disproportionately discipline Jews. Also there is another side to supporting rape and terrorism? Did she take the other side of the Social Work attacking us on BLM.”<sup>404</sup>

#### February 6, 2024:

- Document shared in April 28, 2024 post on X by @ColumbiaSJP alleged that “On February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Dean Lisa Rosen-Metsch organized official meetings exclusive to students from the TAU Dual BA Program to discuss the quality of the Dual BA program. Dean Rosen-Metsch has not previously arranged similar meetings to discuss the quality of any other Dual BA programs in this exclusive manner. However, during these meetings, Dean Rosen-Metsch addressed the campus climate and the specific challenges faced by TAU students. She conveyed that the administration and donors were actively supporting them and encouraged them to report concerning behaviors from other students to her, promising to take appropriate actions.” The document later stated: “Dean Rosen-Metsch’s instructions for students to report their peers to her raise significant concerns about surveillance and the potential suppression of free speech on campus.”<sup>405</sup>

#### February 7, 2024:

- A group of social psychology graduate students from the Society of Personality and Social Psychology, of which Professor Davidai is a member, submitted a letter to the academic society’s executive committee calling for a sanction on Professor Davidai and for the opening of a “formal investigation into Dr. Davidai’s behavior.”<sup>406</sup>
- COO Holloway first day.<sup>407</sup>

#### February 8, 2024:

- At 3:00 PM [redacted student] emailed President Shafik, Interim Provost Mitchell, Dean Yarhi-Milo, and Associate Dean Yee “If I Must Die: A Letter from a SIPA Student to the Columbia Administration”: “I start this email with the words of the great Palestinian poet Refaat Alareer. They have not been Refaat’s words alone, as these words have been whispered, scrawled, and cried by Palestinian, Arab, Jewish, and other anti-Zionist students here at Columbia over the last few weeks. Take a moment to let that sink in. We have students writing letters to one another about what they want the world to know if they are killed on this campus, all because this administration has shown us that you do not care if we live or die. . . You – the Columbia administration – have fostered an environment of censorship, repression, incitement to violence, and a criminally negligent lack of accountability for those who inflict harm on students, staff, and faculty who support the Palestinian struggle for liberation. . . The administration continues to feign concern for us, the harmed students, while doing nothing material to repair the harm done or address our demands for safety. In reality, you have violated the very ethos of our demands. . . You sanctioned hundreds of NYPD officers to brutalize your own students. The next time NYPD, Public Safety, a professor or a student attacks one of us on campus, know that we have warned you countless times, and the blood of our martyrs in Palestine as well as the blood of any anti-Zionist student, staff, or faculty harmed on this campus is on your hands. I urge you not to waste time with a meeting intended to placate us while providing us no direct response to any of our demands. Dean Yarhi-Milo has already tried this and it has failed. Do not think that you can wait us out until our leaders graduate – we are a coalition of hundreds of organizations and thousands of leaders, are we are only growing larger by the day. Do not think that you can repress, and censor, and silence us because the more you try to silence us, the louder we will be.”<sup>408</sup>

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<sup>403</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>404</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>405</sup> @ColumbiaSJP.

<sup>406</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, “SJP petition calls for termination of Business School professor Shai Davidai,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/17/sjp-petition-calls-for-termination-of-business-school-professor-shai-davidai/>.

<sup>407</sup> Shafik, “Cas Holloway Appointed Chief Operating Officer.”

<sup>408</sup> [redacted student], February 8, 2024.

### February 9, 2024:

- Boycott, picket, and disruption of SIPA Institute of Global Politics' "Preventing and Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence" talk with former Secretary of State and SIPA Professor Hillary Clinton and Linda Thomas Greenfield. Calls to boycott the event were posted online. There was a picket line outside. Staggered disruptions happened inside the event. Students stood up and made brief speeches arguing Clinton and Greenfield were hypocritical and ignored violence against Palestinian women and were then escorted outside by security. Once everything was calm and speakers started again, the next student would disrupt the talk.<sup>409</sup>
- Two University delegates submitted a "disruption report" to the Assistant Rules Administrator to identify individuals who walked out of the SIPA "Preventing and Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence" event. One individual was identified and charged with six violations of the Rules of University Conduct, on the basis of the delegates' disruption report, a Public Safety investigation that identified over 30 individuals, and six videos supplied by another delegate, according to an investigation report obtained by *Spectator*.<sup>410</sup>

### February 11, 2024:

- The Law School Senate voted to officially recognize Law School Students Against Antisemitism as a campus organization after initially denying the group official recognition.<sup>411</sup>
  - At the initial Senate meeting in January, the organization received criticism for adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s working definition of antisemitism, which mentions that manifestations of antisemitism "might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity."
  - There were also concerns about a provision in the organization's constitution stating that "disruptive conduct at an organization-sponsored event, or the intent to engage in such conduct" may be grounds for the Law Students Against Antisemitism board to vote to revoke the membership privileges of the student.
  - Prior to the revote, the organization removed the provision that those with "intent" to disrupt an event could be voted to have their membership from the organization revoked but they decided not to change the definition of antisemitism that they had initially adopted.

### February 12, 2024:

- The House Committee on Education and the Workforce announced an investigation into "Columbia University's response to antisemitism and its failure to protect Jewish students," and requested documents, including communications, relating to "antisemitic acts or incidents" starting from January 1, 2021.<sup>412</sup>
- A School of Social Work (SWS) student filed a lawsuit against Columbia, alleging that the University violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and "violated federal and state antidiscrimination laws that prohibit discrimination and retaliation against Jewish persons." The lawsuit alleged that the student experienced "unlawful discrimination and retaliation against her because of her status as a Jew, specifically an Orthodox Jew and sabbath observer."<sup>413</sup>

### February 13, 2024:

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<sup>409</sup> Avian Muñoz, "Protesters interrupt Institute of Global Politics 'Preventing and Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence' event," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 13, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/13/protesters-interrupt-institute-of-global-politics-preventing-and-addressing-conflict-related-sexual-violence-event/>.

<sup>410</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia's surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."

<sup>411</sup> Massel, "Law School senate approves Law Students Against Antisemitism organization after revote."

<sup>412</sup> Rebecca Massel et al., "House committee launches investigation into antisemitism at Columbia, requests documents and communications," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 12, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/12/house-committee-launches-investigation-into-antisemitism-at-columbia-requests-documents-and-communications/>.

U.S. Congress Committee on Education & the Workforce, "Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed, Education and the Workforce Committee Releases Report," news release, October 31, 2024, <https://edworkforce.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=412025>.

<sup>413</sup> Rebecca Massel, "School of Social Work student sues Columbia, alleges antisemitic discrimination," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/13/school-of-social-work-student-sues-columbia-alleges-antisemitic-discrimination/>.

- Approximately 100 SJP and CUAD protestors dyed snow red on South Lawn using Kool-Aid powder as part of an “all eyes on Rafah” emergency rally.<sup>414</sup>
  - The rally was organized in response to Israel’s attacks on the city of Rafah, the displacement of millions of Palestinians as a result of the Israel-Hamas war, and ongoing calls for the University to divest from Israel according to an Instagram post about the demonstration by SJP, CUAD, and other student groups.
  - During the protest, the doors of Butler were locked by Public Safety, leaving only a side door for access.
  - A Butler glass door panel was broken by an apparent protestor.
  - Columbia cleared the dyed snow off South Lawn with trucks and snowblowers.
- At 6:10 PM Lavine Family Director Cohen emailed President Shafik, Chief of Staff Glancy, Chair of the Antisemitism Task Force Professor Schizer, Chair of the Antisemitism Task Force Professor Fuchs, Chair of the Antisemitism Task Force Professor Lemann, General Counsel Rosan, Chair D’Armiento, SEVP Rosberg, Consultant to the Special Committee on Campus Safety Stacy Burdett, Vice President Chang, and Director Slater “Issue today”: I received a call this afternoon from a student who was locked inside Butler Library. Apparently, the SJP protest that took place today made its way to Butler Library. The protestors stood right outside the doors (see attached from the SJP Instagram story) and may have tried to enter Butler. Public Safety did the right thing and locked the doors of the library. Students tried to leave Butler as the protestors were making so much noise the students could not concentrate. When they tried to leave, they could not since the doors were locked. Eventually a side door was opened by public safety and students were able to exit. ‘Just as all members of the University community have the right to speak, to study, research, to teach, and to express their own views, so must they allow others in the community to do the same. The right to demonstrate, for example, cannot come at the expense of the right of others to counter-demonstrate, to teach, or to engage in academic pursuits requiring uninterrupted attention.’ I hope there will be consequences for actions like this. Without any fear of discipline, these actions will continue to get worse, just as they have with each month since October.”<sup>415</sup>
- [Redacted Palestinian student] reported another student that they believed was “watching” them. The Palestinian student felt he was being stalked and reported it to the University. In response, CSSI told the Palestinian student that they had to attend a “mandatory” meeting to discuss the situation. At the meeting, CSSI told the Palestinian student that they needed mediation to resolve their conflict with the other student. If the Palestinian student refused, they were told they would go through a CSSI hearing for misconduct. The Palestinian student was subsequently put through a misconduct hearing by CSSI.<sup>416</sup>
- At 11:38 PM [Redacted Palestinian student] emailed Doxxing Resource Group and cc’d Assistant Dean Curtain and Associate Director of Advising Barbara Victome in an email titled “Doxxed Student”: “My name is [redacted] and I was doxxed by a professor at Columbia University, Shai Davidai, who posted the video for your reference. What support is the school offering? Will this faculty member face any consequences for doxxing me?”<sup>417</sup>

#### February 17, 2024:

- At a listening session for the Task Force on Antisemitism, a student reported that students received pushback when they asked that the Task Force define antisemitism. “I was there to listen, but the member who chaired that session indeed yelled at us repeatedly after we had insisted on a definition of antisemitism, which we thought was, of course, necessary to furnish our experiences of such.” The student also reported that the session “devolved further into an attack about our belongingness in the University” and that the Task Force member leading the session said that “you’re not fit to be students.” Professor Ester Fuchs, co-chair of the Antisemitism Task Force, disputed the students account of the session, saying that other students left crying as they were “intimidated and bullied” by the students asking questions.<sup>418</sup>

#### February 18, 2024:

<sup>414</sup> Emily Forgash and Chris Mendell, “Protestors dye snow red on South Lawn during ‘all eyes on Rafah’ rally,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 14, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/14/protestors-dye-snow-red-on-south-lawn-during-all-eyes-on-rafaq-rally/>.

<sup>415</sup> Brian Cohen, February 13, 2024.

<sup>416</sup> “Complaint Filed to University Senate.”

<sup>417</sup> [redacted student], February 13, 2024.

<sup>418</sup> Esha Karam, “University senators clash with Task Force on Antisemitism co-chairs over second report at plenary,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 25, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/25/university-senators-clash-with-task-force-on-antisemitism-co-chairs-over-second-report-at-plenary/>.

- Trustee Victor Mendelson donated to Representative Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. This occurred less than a week after the committee announced its' investigation into Columbia and requested documents.<sup>419</sup>

#### February 19, 2024:

- Columbia released the Interim Safe Demonstration Policy.<sup>420</sup>
  - The policy included new disciplinary procedures for policy violations and outlined separate, three-tiered disciplinary processes for student groups and individuals accused of violating the policy. A student's first two violations would be disciplined through CSSI with warnings and the third would go to UJB for discipline ranging from conditional disciplinary probation to suspension and expulsion.
  - This policy also created designated times and places for protest and demonstrations (South Lawns or at the Sundial, from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM on weekdays while classes were in session).
  - The policy prohibited student groups and their individual members from advertising demonstrations before they were approved and established a viewpoint-neutral registration and approval process with a two-day advance registration requirement.
- The Barnard administration announced a new demonstration policy, which restricted demonstrations to the grassy area of Futter Field between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM from Monday through Friday and shortened the required notice time from 28 days to 48 hours.<sup>421</sup>

#### February 21, 2024:

- Students Against Antisemitism et. al. filed a lawsuit against Columbia in the federal courts.<sup>422</sup>
- 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM: the University Senate's Committee on the Rules of University Conduct held its first of three listening forums as part of the Senate's rules review. The listening forums, which were open to all CUID holders with online registration, are required by Section 452(d) of the Rules of University Conduct, which states that the committee "shall, at least every four years, facilitate a public discussion, engaging faculty, students, and staff, about whether revision of the Rules is merited." The initial two forums were conducted over Zoom and the last one was in person.<sup>423</sup>

#### February 22, 2024:

- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: the University Senate's Committee on the Rules of University Conduct held its second of three listening forums as part of the Senate's rules review. The listening forums were open to all CUID holders with online registration. This forum was conducted over Zoom.<sup>424</sup>

#### February 23, 2024:

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<sup>419</sup> Noah Bernstein, "Top Columbia administrators donated overwhelmingly to Democrats in 2024 and 2020," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/17/top-columbia-administrators-donated-overwhelmingly-to-democrats-in-2024-and-2020/>.

<sup>420</sup> "Interim University Policy for Safe Demonstrations Is Issued," (Columbia News: Announcements, February 19, 2024). <https://news.columbia.edu/news/interim-university-policy-safe-demonstrations-issued>.

"Student Group Event Policy and Procedure," <https://universitypolicies.columbia.edu/content/student-group-event-policy-and-procedure>. Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>421</sup> Maya Stahl, "Barnard professors revive AAUP chapter amid concerns of academic freedom, faculty governance," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/29/barnard-professors-revive-aaup-chapter-amid-concerns-of-academic-freedom-faculty-governance/>.

<sup>422</sup> *Students Against Antisemitism et. al. (amended)*.

<sup>423</sup> Ariel Yu, "University Senate Rules Committee to hold listening forums, seek feedback as part of rules review," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 21, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/21/university-senate-rules-committee-to-hold-listening-forums-seek-feedback-as-part-of-rules-review/>.

<sup>424</sup> Yu, "University Senate Rules Committee to hold listening forums, seek feedback as part of rules review."

- Barnard announced a new policy that banned dorm decorations. The rationale given for the policy was to avoid the “unintended effect of isolating those who have different views.” Students had to apply for religious exemptions.<sup>425</sup>
- 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM: the University Senate’s Committee on the Rules of University Conduct held its last of three listening forums as part of the Senate’s rules review. This forum was held in person in Altschul Auditorium in the International Affairs Building.<sup>426</sup>
- CSSI disciplinary hearing held for two students accused of January 19, 2024 spraying incident.<sup>427</sup>
- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>428</sup>
  - The Interim Demonstration Policy was introduced.
  - The Chair of the Executive Committee of the Senate acknowledged the consultative role played by the Executive Committee in the creation of the policy. There was an understanding that the policy was temporary and would expire at the end of the Spring 2024 semester. The Executive Committee understood that the Administration wanted a quick temporary time, place, and manner policy restriction in place prior to a more fully deliberated change in the Rules of University Conduct. The Executive Committee provided advice fully understanding that the policy would not move through the Senate as deliberations had not occurred.
  - President Shafik stated that she believed administrators should maintain a position of neutrality because otherwise “it constrains the freedom of speech of faculty and students.”
  - President Shafik responded to questions about the administration’s unilateral change of the event policy for the first time. “I think what was done in the autumn was in haste, frankly, and, you know, in the rush, you know, we were facing a crisis. And we should have probably consulted and communicated better as to the change in the event policy. The only change was that there were enforcement mechanisms which were specified, but the fundamentals of the event policy, 10 days notice, etc. have been around for decades. . . I think the other problem is that we haven’t used our systems very well.”

#### February 28, 2024:

- A law firm representing the University, Henker Fink LPP, requested that the February 22, 2023 *Students Against Antisemitism et. al.* Title VI case be “designated as related” to another case regarding antisemitism brought by a Social Work student February 12, 2023. This request was denied.<sup>429</sup>
- SIPA co-sponsored an event with the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life, hosting Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. The event, titled “The Rise of Global Antisemitism and What It Means for Democracy and Stability,” featured a conversation between Lipstadt and Professor Ester Fuchs, co-chair of the University’s Task Force on Antisemitism. SIPA Dean Yarhi-Milo introduced the pair.<sup>430</sup>

#### February 29, 2024:

- Barnard Resident Life began to put paper notices on students’ doors “Dear Resident(s), We noticed that you still have adornments on your door. As requested, please remove it or request an exemption following the process outlined in Dean Grinage’s email. Thank you. – Residential Life & Housing”<sup>431</sup>

<sup>425</sup> Caroline Capozzi and Eden Stranahan, “Students and professors raise concerns over Barnard’s new residence hall door decor policy,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/main/2024/03/03/students-and-professors-raise-concerns-over-barnards-new-residence-hall-door-decor-policy/>.

<sup>426</sup> Yu, “University Senate Rules Committee to hold listening forums, seek feedback as part of rules review.”

<sup>427</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>428</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

Columbia University Senate, “March 22, 2024 Plenary.”

Ariel Yu, “Shafik delivers president’s report at University Senate plenary, addresses strategic priorities,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/26/shafik-delivers-presidents-report-at-university-senate-plenary-addresses-strategic-priorities/>.

<sup>429</sup> Rebecca Massel, “Title VI lawsuit against Columbia, Barnard amended to add 32 more Jewish students,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/03/title-vi-lawsuit-against-columbia-barnard-amended-to-add-32-more-jewish-students/>.

<sup>430</sup> Eden Stranahan, “Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt and professor Ester Fuchs discuss antisemitism and democracy at SIPA event,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/main/2024/03/03/ambassador-deborah-lipstadt-and-professor-ester-fuchs-discuss-antisemitism-and-democracy-at-sipa-event/>.

<sup>431</sup> Bwog Staff, “Barnard Bans Personal Dormitory Door Decorations,” *Bwog*, February 24, 2024, <https://bwog.com/2024/02/barnard-bans-personal-dormitory-door-decorations/>.

- ACSRI rejected CUAD’s December 1, 2023 divestment proposal, citing a failure to “meet the broad consensus test required for consideration of divestment.” The committee wrote that consensus is “a purposefully high bar” as the University has a “general aversion to using divestment for political purposes.”<sup>432</sup>
- Student and President of the Columbia chapter of SSI, spoke at a congressional roundtable about on-campus antisemitism organized by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. This student joined students from eight other universities. The student spoke of their experience facing antisemitism at Columbia: “We have been attacked with sticks outside of our library, we have been surrounded by angry mobs, and we have been threatened to, quote, ‘Keep fucking running’. . . How many more times must it be proven that unreprimanded, violent rhetoric can lead to physical violence?”<sup>433</sup>

#### March 2024 (specific date unknown):

- We are Tov, a Zionist organization “dedicated to combating antisemitism” and “debunking misinformation,” organized a petition supporting Professor Davidai after he announced the University was formally investigating his online conduct. It garnered around 40,000 signatures.<sup>434</sup>

#### March 1, 2024:

- At a graduate student listening session of the Task Force on Antisemitism, several anti-Zionist Jews demanded to know what the definition of antisemitism would be according to the Task Force. According to a letter from four students following the event, Task Force Co-Chair Fuchs interrupted the students and became hostile after they asked this question. In the letter, addressed to President Shafik and other senior administrators, the students called on Professor Fuchs to be replaced on the Task Force by an anti-Zionist. In response to these students concerns, Professor Fuchs replied that the students “attempted to disrupt the session and ignore its purpose — to listen to students’ concerns and experiences with antisemitism on campus.”<sup>435</sup>

#### March 3, 2024:

- Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) approved a referendum to be sent to undergraduates in the college asking whether the University should divest from “companies and academic institutions that profit from or engage in the State of Israel’s acts of occupation, apartheid, and genocide” and cancel the Tel Aviv University (TAU) dual degree program. CUAD presented the referendum to the Council. The referendum passed at the council’s general body meeting with 28 in favor, two opposed, and three abstentions.<sup>436</sup>
- CCSC also approved a second resolution that pledged to put CCSC’s discretionary budget, roughly \$450,000, “solely to ethical uses” and boycott “companies that support the Israeli Apartheid state.”<sup>437</sup>

#### March 4, 2024:

- Barnard SGA approved a referendum to be sent to undergraduates in the college asking whether the University should divest from Israel and cancel the Tel Aviv University (TAU) dual degree program. Following a presentation

<sup>432</sup> Grace Hamilton, “GSSC votes against holding referendum on divestment from Israel,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/06/gssc-votes-against-holding-referendum-on-divestment-from-israel/>.

Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

Emily Forgash and Joseph Zuloaga, “As Shafik’s legacy looms, Armstrong faces a tumultuous road ahead,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/17/as-shafiks-legacy-looms-armstrong-faces-a-tumultuous-road-ahead/>.

<sup>433</sup> Rebecca Massel, “House committee chairs pen letters to Columbia, Barnard requesting information about preparations for future protests,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/30/house-committee-chairs-pen-letters-to-columbia-barnard-requesting-information-about-preparations-for-further-protests/>.

<sup>434</sup> Zuloaga, “SJP petition calls for termination of Business School professor Shai Davidai.”

<sup>435</sup> Sharon Otterman, “What is Antisemitism? A Columbia Task Force Would Rather Not Say,” *The New York Times*, March 21, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/21/nyregion/columbia-antisemitism-israel-gaza-protests.html>.

<sup>436</sup> Oscar Noxon and Noah Bernstein, “CCSC approves referendum on divestment from Israel, adopts boycott policy,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 4, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/03/04/ccsc-approves-referendum-on-divestment-from-israel-adopts-boycott-policy/>.

<sup>437</sup> Noxon and Bernstein, “CCSC approves referendum on divestment from Israel, adopts boycott policy.”

from CUAD at the meeting, Barnard SGA held a closed vote and the ballot measure passed by an undisclosed margin.<sup>438</sup>

- The Task Force on Antisemitism published “Report #1, Columbia University’s Rules on Demonstrations.”<sup>439</sup>
  - “This report reflects the research and analysis of members of the Task Force’s rules working group: David M. Schizer (Co-Chair, Law School), who drafted the report, as well as R. Glenn Hubbard (Business School), Magda Schaler-Haynes (Mailman School of Public Health), Matthew C. Waxman (Law School), and Gil Zussman (Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science).”
  - “In the course of its work, the Task Force has heard of the isolation and pain many Jewish and Israeli Columbia affiliates have experienced in recent months. While mourning Hamas’s unspeakable atrocities on October 7, some Jewish and Israeli Columbia affiliates have been the object of racist epithets and graffiti, antisemitic tropes, and confrontational and unwelcome questions, while others have found their participation in some student groups that have nothing to do with politics to be increasingly uncomfortable.”
  - “Israeli Columbia affiliates have been criticized and stereotyped for serving in the military, something most Israelis are required to do. Some Jewish students have felt isolated in supporting Israel, while others have felt isolated in criticizing Israel. While there is strong support among Jewish and Israeli Columbia affiliates for the right to protest, as well as widespread heartbreak about the tragic loss of civilian life in Gaza, many have heard chants at protests like ‘Globalize the Intifada’ and ‘Death to the Zionist State’ as calls for violence against them and their families.”
  - “The University’s rules on demonstrations must accomplish three critical goals: first, safeguarding every Columbia affiliate’s right to protest, regardless of their viewpoint; second, ensuring that protests do not interfere with the rights of other Columbia affiliates to speak, teach, research, and learn; and, third, combating discrimination and harassment, including antisemitic harassment.”
  - “To protect every Columbia affiliate’s right to protest, while also ensuring that protests do not interfere with the free speech rights and academic freedom of others, the University must regulate the timing and location of protests.”
  - “Although we generally agree with the language of the University’s rules, we have serious concerns about their enforcement. The University generally has not tried to stop violations as they have occurred, and instead has focused on imposing discipline after the fact. The priority during protests has been to avoid violence and escalation. In our view, avoiding violence is necessary, but not sufficient. The University also needs to keep protests from interfering with the rights of others to speak, teach, research, and learn. So the University should do more to stop unauthorized protests as they occur, using approaches that are effective but not confrontational.”
  - “In addition to doing more to stop rule violations as they occur, the University needs to be more effective at investigating and enforcing violations after the fact. We recommend a simpler process for filing complaints, more flexible deadlines for adjudicating them, more effective use of informal processes, and aggregate reporting on the results.”
  - “In addition to free speech rights and free speech responsibilities, the University’s rules ban discrimination and harassment, as required under Title VI and other laws. Since the University’s legal team is responsible for legal compliance, they should clarify what speech contributes to a hostile learning or working environment.”
  - “Indeed, to comply with the law, the University must be consistent in its treatment of different protected classes. For example, if members of a protected class say that particular phrases or comments interfere with their ability to learn and work, should the University defer to them? Or should the University focus instead—not on how the protected class hears these words—but on what the speakers intend in saying them? In recent years, it has become increasingly common at Columbia to defer to a protected class’s views. But when some Israeli and Jewish Columbia affiliates have complained about phrases or comments in recent months, the response has been different, defending the intentions and free speech rights of the speakers.”
  - “In writing this report, the Task Force has benefited enormously from repeated consultations with the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, University Life, faculty members of the University

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<sup>438</sup> Eden Stanahan, “Barnard SGA becomes second student council to approve ballot measure on divestment from Israel,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 6, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/03/05/barnard-sga-becomes-second-student-council-to-approve-ballot-measure-on-divestment-from-israel/>.

<sup>439</sup> Zuloaga, “Task Force on Antisemitism issues first report, raises concern over enforcement of protest policies.” Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors.” Task Force on Antisemitism, *Report #1: Columbia University’s Rules on Demonstrations* (March 2024).

- Senate, the Kraft Center, and members of task forces at other universities, as well as deans, senior administrators, faculty members, alumni, staff, and students from across the University, including in listening sessions we have been holding across the campus.”
- “While we generally agree with the language of the University’s rules, we have serious concerns about their enforcement. To the University’s credit, a senior team of administrators with different expertise and responsibilities has been meeting regularly to prepare for demonstrations, making daily (and at times even more frequent) judgments about staffing and other aspects of the University’s response. This degree of coordination is impressive. It signals how seriously the University takes these issues.”
  - “First, our understanding is that investigating incidents has been a challenge in part because many demonstrators have been masked. A more proactive effort is needed to identify them during demonstrations, as noted above.”
  - “While the rules provide for formal disciplinary processes, they also offer the option of informal resolutions. . . Given these mutual benefits, the rules should do more to encourage informal resolutions.”
  - “Unlike most other universities, Columbia uses a separate process, coordinated by the University Senate, when individuals are charged with violating rules governing protests. Although a version of this process has existed for many years, it has been used only a handful of times since it was significantly modified in 2015, and not at all during the Fall Semester. In contrast, the University’s other disciplinary processes are used much more regularly.”
  - “Another reason why some are not reporting violations is that they believe nothing will happen. This is problematic not only in discouraging reporting, but also in shaping perceptions of the University among important stakeholders, including current and potential students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents. Even more importantly, this perception may induce students to violate rules. As a result, the University needs to share more information about the results of disciplinary processes.”
  - “Under FERPA, the University cannot share information about specific individuals. But there is no bar on aggregate reporting. On a regular basis, the University should share information about the number of disciplinary investigations underway, the number of adjudications, and the range of consequences administered, while also ensuring that this reporting is done in a way that respects the privacy of the individuals involved. Consistent with FERPA, the University also should communicate with those who have filed complaints, reassuring them that their concerns have been taken seriously.”
  - “So although the University must protect speech vigorously, it does not do so absolutely. While we all pledge to tolerate speech that we consider misguided or even offensive—in a collective commitment to protect everyone’s right to speak their minds and pursue the truth—the University does not tolerate speech that constitutes discrimination or harassment against protected classes.”
  - “Indeed, a key function of the University’s antidiscrimination rules is to comply with Title VI, as well as with other federal, state, and local laws. While the University has latitude to offer more protection against discrimination than the law requires, it cannot offer less.”
  - “The University’s antidiscrimination rules are administered by the University’s general disciplinary processes (“dean’s discipline” for students, and human resources processes for faculty and staff under the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office or “EOAA”), not the special rules for protests (such as the Senate’s Rules of University Conduct and the new Interim Demonstrations Policy). This division of labor reflects the reality that antidiscrimination rules enforce federal, state, and local law, so the Office of the General Counsel and the Administration need to take the lead in drafting and administering them.”
  - “As a result, the student conduct standards expressly provide that ‘behavior listed in this section [including discriminatory harassment] that occurs in conjunction with’ alleged violations of rules governing protests ‘may be adjudicated’ through dean’s discipline.”
  - “The same is true when assumptions are made about Israeli faculty members, students, and staff, including those in joint programs with Israeli universities, just because these Columbia affiliates have served in the military. Since most Israelis are required to serve in the military, calls to exclude Israeli veterans from campus apply to nearly all Israeli Columbia affiliates. Making assumptions about Columbia affiliates based solely on their country of origin or military service can constitute discrimination based on national origin or military service under the University’s rules.”
  - “The University also has said that calls for genocide, like other incitement to violence, violate the rules. . . While we agree with this principle, the application of it should be clarified. Obviously, the chants ‘gas the Jews’ and ‘Hitler was right’ are calls to genocide, but fortunately no one at Columbia has been shouting these phrases (though there are reports that these chants were used at another university). Rather, many of



- the chants at recent Columbia protests are viewed differently by different members of the Columbia community: some feel strongly that these are calls to genocide, while others feel strongly that they are not.”
- “At some point, courts and the Department of Education are likely to offer additional guidance illuminating the Title VI implications of these chants, as well as other speech and conduct at protests. This would be helpful. In the interim, the University’s legal team should provide more guidance on this issue.”
  - “The University has an office that investigates and adjudicates gender-based harassment and discrimination under Title IX (the Office of Gender-Based Misconduct), and different offices that investigate and adjudicate harassment and discrimination under Title VI (the EOAA process for faculty and staff and the dean’s discipline process for students). It is important to ensure that comparably rigorous levels of training are provided to these colleagues, and that consistent standards are used for different protected classes.”

### March 7, 2024:

- CSSI sent a letter to the student who had livestreamed their January 9, 2023 CSSI meeting and said “Zionists don’t deserve to live” alleging that the student may have engaged in conduct that violated University policy by livestreaming the meeting.<sup>440</sup>
- *Inside Higher Ed* reported “Columbia Has Changed Its Protest Policy – Again: The university established controversial demonstration guidelines after Oct. 7. Now, it has implemented new ones – this time incorporating student feedback.”<sup>441</sup>
  - “Criticism of the policy mounted in November after Columbia suspended two pro-Palestinian student groups for violating it just two weeks after it was introduced.”
  - “Four months later, the university has released new guidelines, called the Interim University Policy for Safe Demonstrations. It was born in part out of concerns that the previous iteration had been established too ‘hastily,’ said Dr. Jeanine D’Armiento.”
  - “Unlike its predecessor, the new policy was created with input from the [Executive Committee of the] University Senate.”
  - “Columbia’s University Senate was most concerned about revising the sanctions described in the Student Group Event Policy and Procedure, which D’Armiento said contradicted existing student conduct rules because they could not be appealed and didn’t utilize the University Judicial Board, the traditional avenue for reviewing student misconduct charges.”
  - Chair D’Armiento: “We don’t believe in times of crisis you change your rules that had ... stood the test of time. . . We had protests all the time at Columbia; it’s a university that embraces protest.”

### March 8, 2024:

- *A Wall Street Journal* article accused Mailman Professor Abdul Kayum Ahmed of pro-Palestinian “political indoctrination” in his classroom.<sup>442</sup>

### March 9, 2024:

- At 6:17 PM @ColumbiaSJP posted on X: “BREAKING: LEAKED audio from Columbia University Vice President Gerry Rosberg talking about student protests.”<sup>443</sup>
  - In the recording, Senior Vice President Rosberg says: “I could imagine... that an Israeli student being told that their state is an apartheid state, a racist state committing genocide seems to them like an incitement of violence against them.”

### March 10, 2024:

<sup>440</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of 'Tedeschi Rights'."

<sup>441</sup> Johanna Alonso, "Columbia Has Changed Its Protest Policy—Again," *Inside Higher Ed*, March 7, 2024.

<sup>442</sup> Douglas Belkin, "Some Columbia Professors Accused of Pro-Palestinian Indoctrination," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 8, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/some-columbia-professors-accused-of-pro-palestinian-indoctrination-002013fc>.

<sup>443</sup> @ColumbiaSJP, X, March 9, 2024, <https://x.com/columbiasjp/status/1766604257166328182?s=46&t=H0LUMWyIV63M71OQoB7yimg>.

- At 9:32 PM @ColumbiaSJP posted on X: “BREAKING: LEAKED audio from a ‘Listening Forum’ session at Columbia University. President Minouche Shafik addresses many Columbia students including a Black Jewish member of Columbia’s Jewish Voice for Peace.”<sup>444</sup>
  - In the recording, President Shafik says: “In the Jewish community they’re saying well this is hypocritical, we’re saying this offends us. And let’s just be honest if someone uses the n-word, that’s considered unacceptable. But yet you’re allowed to say things that threaten them, right? That’s the criticism that would be inconsistent.”

### March 11, 2024:

- At 4:35 PM @ColumbiaSJP posted on X: “BREAKING: LEAKED audio of Barnard College President Laura Rosenbury justifying her decision to leave out the Palestinian death toll in a student body email. Rosenbury did this after Palestinian students at Columbia University lost family members.”<sup>445</sup>
- Vice Dean of Education Michael Joseph and Director of the Master of Public Health Core Curriculum Matthew S. Perzanowski informed Mailman Professor Ahmed that he would no longer be able to teach the human rights module in the Core Curriculum as he had done in Fall 2023.<sup>446</sup>
- The House Committee on Education and the Workforce announced that President Shafik would testify in April in a hearing titled “Columbia in Crisis: Columbia University’s Response to Antisemitism,” alongside Board of Trustees Co-Chairs Claire Shipman, CC ’86, MIA’94, and David Greenwald, Law ’83.<sup>447</sup>

### March 13, 2024:

- New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) and Palestine Legal filed a lawsuit in NY State Court on behalf of SJP and JVP against Columbia for suspending SJP and JVP on November 9, 2023. The suit claimed that there were several documented instances “where Columbia violated its own policies in order to punish SJP/JVP, as well as baselessly and irresponsibly accusing the groups of threats and intimidation – raising grave concerns that its actions were improperly motivated by the student groups’ political stance in support of Palestinian rights.” The lawsuit alleged that the University’s suspensions of SJP and JVP violated Article 78 of the New York State Civil Practice Law and Rules and that the groups were unlawfully singled out among 20 other participating student groups associated with the November 9, 2023 protest. Article 78 is “the appropriate method for review of private university disciplinary decisions.” The lawsuit sought a reversal of both groups’ suspension.<sup>448</sup>
- The University notified the students accused of the January 19, 2023 spraying incident they had been found responsible for charges of disruptive behavior, harassment, and endangerment. Columbia suspended both accused spray incident perpetrators for a year and a half. The interim suspensions they had been placed under on January 21, 2023 became effective through May 31, 2025.<sup>449</sup>

### March 18, 2024:

- Interim Provost Mitchell issued a set of event recommendations to 47 top administrators that included installing additional security cameras, setting up mobile CUID readers, and sharing attendee lists with Public Safety, according to an internal email obtained by *Spectator*.<sup>450</sup>

### March 19, 2024:

<sup>444</sup> @ColumbiaSJP, X, March 10, 2024, <https://x.com/columbiasjp/status/1767000559276511249?s=46&t=H0LUMWyIV63M71OQoB7ymg>.

<sup>445</sup> @ColumbiaSJP, X, March 11, 2024, <https://x.com/ColumbiaSJP/status/1767288146566189187>.

<sup>446</sup> Rebecca Massel, “Mailman professor Abdul Kayum Ahmed receives letter of nonrenewal,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 10 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/10/mailman-professor-abdul-kayum-ahmed-receives-letter-of-nonrenewal/>.

<sup>447</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

<sup>448</sup> *Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, Columbia-Barnard Jewish Voice for Peace, Maryam Alwan, and Cameron Jones.*

Emily Pickering, “New York State Supreme Court upholds Columbia’s suspension of SJP and JVP,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/13/new-york-state-supreme-court-upholds-columbias-suspension-of-sjp-and-jvp/>.

<sup>449</sup> Bernstein and Massel, “House committee publishes internal administrative communications, disciplinary information in new antisemitism report.”

Forgash and Mendell, “Student accused of alleged chemical spray sues Columbia, claims substance was ‘non-toxic fart spray’.”

<sup>450</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors.”

- Mailman School of Public Health Interim Chair of the Department of Population and Family Health Professor Patrick Kachur told Professor Ahmed that there was “definitely a possibility” that he would receive a letter of nonrenewal.<sup>451</sup>

### March 21, 2024:

- SSI and Israeli Business Association hosted Mosab Hassan Yousef for “Son of Hamas” event in Lerner Hall. Several Muslim students and groups complained that the event promoted Islamophobia.<sup>452</sup>
  - Before SSI’s “Son of Hamas” event, SJP condemned the event in an Instagram post, which included tweets from Yousef in which he called Islam “the most dangerous religion” and wrote that “the greatest global threat today is the Islamic threat.”
  - In a statement to *Spectator*, the SSI President wrote: “SSI does not endorse nor agree with all remarks made by Mosab Hassan Yousef.”
- *The New York Times* reported: “What Is Antisemitism? A Columbia Task Force Would Rather Not Say: Definitions of the term are highly contested, so a group monitoring antisemitism on Columbia University’s campus has avoided picking sides. It is still facing criticism.”<sup>453</sup>
  - “The professors argue that their 15-member task force does not need to define antisemitism, because they don’t see it as their task to label things as antisemitic or not. Rather, they want to hear why Jewish students and faculty are upset and see if there are practical solutions that can be found to help them feel more comfortable.”

### March 22, 2024:

- Monthly University Senate Plenary held:<sup>454</sup>
  - Chair D’Armiento: “She said the University Senate represents the Columbia community in many ways, and would continue to stand strong on the community’s behalf. The Senate would continue to defend its major principle—academic freedom—at a time when higher education faces forces intent on disrupting it. She encouraged senators to bring their concerns to Senate leaders.”
  - “Sen. Susan Bernofsky (Ten., Arts) raised a question about the health of shared governance on campus. At the February 2 plenary, the Senate approved a resolution reaffirming its commitment to the principles of academic freedom and shared governance that was put forward jointly by the Faculty Affairs and Student Affairs committees. She said she had learned that a fellow senator, James Applegate, had been sending around an alternate statement on academic freedom on behalf of a private group whose website looks like an official Columbia website, with the Columbia logo. She was concerned that such a website could erode shared governance and procedure. She said she was baffled about why this private group is allowed to use University branding, and why her fellow senator seemed to be undermining the work of the Senate. Sen. Applegate assured Sen. Bernofsky that he felt that he was in no way undermining the work of the Senate, in which he had served more than 25 years, or of faculty governance at Columbia, or anything else. He said the organization to which Sen. Bernofsky was referring is the Columbia Academic Freedom Council, a group of more than 100 Columbia faculty members—colleagues from across the University, who have come together because of their shared concerns over threats to academic freedom. As everyone at the present meeting understood, academic freedom in American universities is under threat from illiberalism. The illiberal forces have a right-wing component, largely off campus, and a left-wing component, largely on campus. The media is full of stories about this, and has been for years. Sen. Applegate said the CAFC is hardly a threat to shared governance at Columbia. It is, in fact, a part of it. Its members are faculty senators’ colleagues. There is no reason whatsoever why people who care about academic freedom and the future of American higher education need to confine themselves to a single organization. There are many people fighting on this. There are many points of view, and they should work together. Sen. Bernofsky thanked

<sup>451</sup> Massel, “Mailman professor Abdul Kayum Ahmed receives letter of nonrenewal.”

<sup>452</sup> Emily Forgash and Esha Karam, “University’s treatment of student-sponsored speakers sparks debate on free speech principles,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/17/universitys-treatment-of-student-sponsored-speakers-sparks-debate-on-free-speech-principles/>.

<sup>453</sup> Otterman, “What is Antisemitism? A Columbia Task Force Would Rather Not Say.”

<sup>454</sup> Columbia University Senate, “April 26, 2024 Plenary.”  
Columbia University Senate, “March 22, 2024 Plenary.”

- Sen. Applegate for responding on the record. She noted that the alternate statement from the CAFC provides a more restrictive account of academic freedom than the resolution the Senate approved.”
- “Update on the 2023-24 review of the Rules of University Conduct (Rules of University Conduct): Sen. Jaxon Williams-Bellamy (Stu., Law) said the Rules Committee, which he co-chairs, launched a quadrennial review of the Rules at the end of February, holding three listening sessions, and soliciting comments from the Columbia community through an online form. The committee asked for comments not only on the Rules of University conduct, but also on the Guidelines for the Rules of University Conduct, and the Interim Policy for Safe Demonstrations. The committee received a large quantity of diverse responses. It expected to continue to review them and consider options for updating the Rules and Guidelines for the remainder of the semester and to continue this work into the fall. Sen. Williams-Bellamy said the committee also received many comments from faculty, students and staff about the Safe Demonstrations policy, expressing great concern and distrust. Many of the criticisms concerned what was seen as the arbitrariness of the restrictions on the time and place of demonstrations. Another complaint was about the burden placed on counter-protests by the notice requirement and some of the opportunities for gamesmanship that it creates. Still another problem was the involvement of the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI) in the disciplinary process. Sen. Williams-Bellamy expected the committee to share more details of these complaints soon. It has also reflected more deeply on Columbia’s system of shared governance and how it is outlined in the University Statutes. He began with the fact that the Senate is the University’s chief legislative body. Section 23 of the University Statutes establishes the Senate as a policymaking body empowered to consider the broad range of questions that touch on more than one Columbia school. Sen. Williams-Bellamy said this investiture of legislative power in the Senate is structural pillar of trust in the Columbia community. It’s designed to ensure that major questions of legislative policy will be decided by a body that represents every University constituency. Moreover, this legislative process ensures transparency in policymaking at the university. Senate business is done in full view of constituents, with many pathways for both formal and informal community feedback. Sen. Williams-Bellamy said all of these factors inform the structural design of Columbia’s system of shared governance. And it is when the University strays from this design that the foundations of community trust begin to break down. He said the committee saw signs of this tendency in the comments received so far during the committee review. He said it is the determination of the Rules Committee that the responsible regulation of the time, place, and manner of public expression on Columbia’s campuses is a major question of legislative policy, and the answer to that question is entrusted to the Senate. Sen. Williams-Bellamy made clear that he was not saying that there is no role for the administration in setting these policies. The administration is, of course, the Senate’s partner in shared governance, and plays a crucial role in proposing legislation to this body and developing rules and regulations to implement the legislative acts of the Senate. But he also believed that the Senate has policymaking authority, in order to promote trust and transparency in the community. So important policies like the Interim Policy on Safe Demonstrations must come before the Senate to be voted on by the community’s duly elected representatives. Sen. Williams-Bellamy stressed that the committee wanted to invite the administration to work not just with them, but with the Senate more broadly, to ensure that these policies are created through the proper pathways, and that the concerns expressed by people across the University are addressed.”
  - “Sen. Wasaya said students have been receiving reports that some students are being prosecuted both through both the Rules of Conduct and the Safe Demonstrations policy for the same alleged violations. Sen. Wasaya understood that this kind of double jeopardy was explicitly banned in the final version of the Safe Demonstrations policy. He asked for some clarity on this question, He said this problem should be investigated. He knew the Senate Executive Committee was supposed to oversee the Safe Demonstration policy. Sen. Williams-Bellamy said the Rules Committee review process had certainly yielded comments on this issue. One important response is to look at the bigger picture. A key goal of the Rules is to apply the same process to the same conduct, to make sure there is no venue shopping for alternative adjudicatory processes, such as the Safe Demonstration policy or the CSSI, that gives the prosecutor (or Rules Administrator) an unfair advantage.”

**March 24, 2024:**

- 5:00-6:30 PM CUAD “Palestinian Resistance 101” panel event held in Special Interest Community brownstone off campus, Q-House, and online via Zoom.<sup>455</sup>
  - CUAD and Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine (FSJP) promoted the event on social media. The event was advertised as featuring speakers Within Our Lifetime (WOL), Masar Badil, and the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Network.
  - The University denied CUAD access to space for the event, both at Barnard and Columbia. Initially scheduled at Uris Hall at Columbia, the event was moved to the Center for Research on Women at Barnard and then to Q-House after a student filed a complaint to the University. Prior to the event, several Q-House residents reached out to housemates to determine whether they had any opposition to the teach-in being held. Attendees registered in advance of the event.
  - The event consisted of a one-hour panel discussion followed by a 30-minute Q+A session. Attendees could submit questions through a QR code for the panelists during the event. Charlotte Kates, a coordinator for the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Network, and Nerdeen Kiswani, the founder of WOL, attended the event. Kates addressed attendees via Zoom, while Kiswani attended in person.
  - 30-40 students participated in-person and others joined via Zoom.
  - The event had designated safety marshals for in-person attendees. At the beginning of the meeting an announcement was made that safety marshals could be contacted if attendees needed anything and that recording was prohibited.
  - Khaled Barakat attended over Zoom. According to a U.S. Department of the Treasury October 15, 2024 press release “United States and Canada Target Key International Fundraiser for Foreign Terrorist Organization PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine],” Barakat is allegedly “a member of the PFLP’s leadership” and plays a “critical” role in external fundraising for the PFLP. The PFLP has been designated by the United States as a terrorist organization. Barakat has denied any affiliation with the organization.
  - During the event, Barakat stated that when he speaks with his “friends and brothers in Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PFLP especially after October 7 we talk about different things outside of the movement because people in Gaza don’t care about what Biden says.... could care less about things happening in media. What they are focused on is to stop the Israeli aggression and defeat Israeli. And so, when they see students organizing outside Palestine, they really feel that they are being backed as a resistance and that they are being supported...so your work is so important to the resistance in Gaza more than ever.”
- In response to an alumni donor who raised concerns about “Resistance 101,” Board of Trustees co-chair David Greenwald wrote to the donor that since October 7, 2023, the University had initiated various disciplinary actions against at least 160 students, according to an email obtained by *Spectator*.<sup>456</sup>
- In the hours after “Resistance 101” was held, all but one of Q-House’s residents were contacted by the University’s investigators and “threatened with immediate disciplinary action if they did not comply.” Investigators reportedly demanded to see the students’ private text messages in order to “comply” with the investigation. Investigators also reportedly sent emails to over 100 student groups affiliated with CUAD.<sup>457</sup>

<sup>455</sup> Sarah Huddleston, Maya Stahl, and Chris Mendell, “Four Columbia students suspended, evicted from University housing following unauthorized ‘Resistance 101’ event,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 4, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/04/four-columbia-students-suspended-evicted-from-university-housing-following-unauthorized-resistance-101-event/>.

Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors.”

Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

Forgash and Karam, “University’s treatment of student-sponsored speakers sparks debate on free speech principles.”

Shafik, interview.

U.S. Department of the Treasury, “United States and Canada Target Key International Fundraiser for Foreign Terrorist Organization PFLP,” news release, October 15, 2024, <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2646>.

Emily Forgash, “University launches investigation, bans speakers from campus following unsanctioned ‘Resistance 101’ event,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, March 28, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/03/28/university-launches-investigation-bans-speakers-from-campus-following-unsanctioned-resistance-101-event/>.

Jessica Costescu, “At Columbia, an Israeli-Designated Terror Group Teaches ‘Palestinian Resistance 101’—And Lauds Plane Hijackings,” *The Washington Free Beacon*, March 25, 2024, <https://freebeacon.com/campus/at-columbia-an-israeli-designated-terror-group-teaches-palestinian-resistance-101-and-lauds-plane-hijackings/>.

<sup>456</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors.”

<sup>457</sup> Bwog Staff, “Columbia Students Reportedly Suspended and Evicted As Part of Palestinian Solidarity Month Investigation,” *Bwog*, April 5 2024, <https://bwog.com/2024/04/columbia-students-reportedly-suspended-and-evicted-as-part-of-palestinian-solidarity-month-investigation/>.

Prem Thakker, “Ahead of Congressional Testimony, Columbia President Cracks Down on Student Advocacy for Palestine,” *The Intercept*, April 15 2024, <https://theintercept.com/2024/04/15/columbia-pomona-vanderbilt-gaza-student-protests-arrests/>.

### March 25, 2024:

- CSSI sent an updated letter to the student who had livestreamed the January 9, 2023 meeting and said “Zionists don’t deserve to live.”: “It is alleged that you used language that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward group members of a protected class.”<sup>458</sup>
- *The Washington Free Beacon* published “At Columbia, an Israeli-Designated Terror Group Teaches ‘Palestinian Resistance 101’ – And Lauds Plane Hijackings.”<sup>459</sup>

### March 26, 2024:

- The University launched an investigation into the March 24, 2024 “Resistance 101” event. COO Holloway released a statement announcing the investigation writing that “Resistance 101” was an “unsanctioned and unapproved” event and the University had “immediately notified law enforcement” and “banned the outside speakers from campus.”<sup>460</sup>
- In the morning, students began receiving emails from COO Holloway alerting them that they had been “identified as an individual involved in organizing, planning, promoting, hosting, and/or attending this unsanctioned and unapproved event.” COO Holloway gave the students until 5:00 PM the same day to contact the private investigator assigned to the case “to be interviewed in connection with this matter” or else “face immediate disciplinary action.”<sup>461</sup>
- At 5:20 PM Chair D’Armiento emailed COO Holloway and Chief of Staff to the President Susan Glancy “Meeting with President and students”: “We were hoping to get a chance for several of the Palestinian students to meet with President Shafik. The students who will definitely attend the meeting are [redacted student] and [redacted student] along with two members of their group, pending the schedule. Two of our Senate leaders [redacted Senator] and [redacted Senator] will also attend. The agenda would be as listed below and if necessary can be modified according to the President. 1) Introductions 2) Contextualization/Student Experience 3) Discussion Points -ACSRI Guidelines - Academic Partnership Standards – Student Grief -University Policies -Police on Campus 4) Conclusion. Please let us know some available dates and times and thank you for giving the students the opportunity to speak with the President.”<sup>462</sup>

### March 27, 2024:

- President Shafik met with Jewish student leaders according to October 2024 House Republican Staff Report.<sup>463</sup>
  - One Jewish student leader told President Shafik regarding January 19, 2024 spraying incident: “If the investigation into the alleged incident has found that there were no ‘chemical weapons’ employed on campus, the University should immediately clarify this fact to all members of our community. Failure to do so would result in the continued scapegoating, harassment, bullying, and isolation of Israeli and Jewish students on campus. The intimidation and harassment of any members of our community is absolutely inexcusable.”
  - A Jewish student also asked President Shafik directly for Columbia to issue a “university-wide communication reaffirming Columbia’s commitment to Jewish, Zionist, Israeli, and dual-degree students” and to clarify “they are welcome and valued on campus, and make our community stronger” and to affirm that referenda on the dual degree program “are completely antithetical to Columbia’s values as they ostracize valued members of the Columbia community.” Apparently, Shafik told the student that she found calls for the removal of Zionists from campus personally abhorrent and that they did not represent the University’s stance. However, rather than agreeing to make a public statement as the student requested, Shafik instead asked the student to convey this sentiment to the Jewish community on Shafik’s behalf.

### March 28, 2024:

- At 12:09 PM Chief of Staff to the President Glancy responded to Chair D’Armiento “re: Meeting with President and students”: “Might May 1<sup>st</sup> work? We could do an hour between 8:30 and 11:00 or we could do 5:00 that evening. If

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<sup>458</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of 'Tedeschi Rights'."

<sup>459</sup> Costescu, "At Columbia, an Israeli-Designated Terror Group Teaches 'Palestinian Resistance 101'—And Lauds Plane Hijackings."

<sup>460</sup> "Statement from Chief Operating Officer Cas Holloway Regarding March 24th Event," (Public Safety: Announcements, March 29, 2024).

<sup>461</sup> Huddleston, Stahl, and Mendell, "Four Columbia students suspended, evicted from University housing following unauthorized 'Resistance 101' event."

<sup>462</sup> Jeanine D’Armiento, March 28, 2024.

<sup>463</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

you could let me know if you think this is a possibility before confirming with the students, that would be great. I'd like to determine with you how best to extend invitations."<sup>464</sup>

- At 12:55 PM Chair D'Armiento responded to Chief of Staff to the President Glancy "re: Meeting with President and students": "The evening is better for me and I imagine the students as well but I could manage between 9-11 as well on that day."<sup>465</sup>
- The Columbia Chapter of the AAUP sent an email to Kachur, Joseph, and Perzanowski in support of Professor Ahmed: "We conclude, therefore, that a gross injustice has been done to Dr. Ahmed, that his academic freedom has been infringed upon, and that the School's decision to eliminate opportunities for him to teach is a deliberate attempt to force him out of the University."<sup>466</sup>
- COO Holloway announced that the University "engaged an outside firm led by experienced former law enforcement investigators to conduct an investigation" into the "Resistance 101" event.<sup>467</sup>

#### March 29, 2024:

- @itslaylas posted on X "stickers placed around Columbia University campus that read 'Gaza Rapes Women, Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, never forget'. Most likely from campus z\*onists."<sup>468</sup>
- The House Committee on Education and the Workforce reportedly sent Columbia a detailed list of priority items with April 9, 2024 and April 26, 2024 deadlines. The priority items included requests for documents and communications related to antisemitism since October 7, 2023, including email, text messages, and electronic messages involving specified custodians; all Columbia Board of Trustees meeting minutes and summaries since October 7, 2023, including informal summaries and contemporaneous notes; and the "status and outcome/disciplinary actions taken to date for incidents/cases since 10/7/23 relating to antisemitism or the Israel-Gaza war."

#### March 30, 2024:

- The student who livestreamed their January 9, 2023 CSSI meeting and said "Zionists don't deserve to live" participated in a CSSI conduct hearing regarding the January 9, 2023 meeting.<sup>469</sup>

#### April 1, 2024:

- Provost Olinto first day.<sup>470</sup>
- The Middle East Studies Association of North America sent a letter to Mailman Dean Linda Fried, Joseph, and Perzanowski in support of Professor Ahmed. Additionally, 100 faculty members sent a letter to Fried in support of Professor Ahmed.<sup>471</sup>
- The Task Force on Antisemitism held a listening session.<sup>472</sup>
  - One Jewish student described their experience attending this session: "I wanted to speak to the antisemitism task force regarding about my experiences of antisemitism last year. However, after I mentioned I was an anti-zionist Jew, Esther Fuchs put down her pen and stopped writing about my experience. I mentioned during this time that my parents were concerned about my physical safety as an antizionist Jew, worried that my Jewish identity would make me a target. I said that Barnard and Columbia's treatment of anti-Zionism and antisemitism as equivalent made me less safe as a Jewish student especially in spaces like Hillel, but they seemed to make no effort to protect my safety due to my political beliefs. Esther Fuchs dismissed my concerns, telling me that she had seen anti-Zionist Jews at Hillel. I noticed this with the other anti-Zionist Jews in this listening session, of which there were multiple. When any of us mentioned our experiences as anti-Zionist Jews, including one person who was berated by students who later that day exposed multiple students to harmful chemicals at a protest on January 19th, Esther Fuchs treated us as though we were derailing the meeting and as if we did not belong in the room despite experiencing antisemitism."

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<sup>464</sup> Susan K. Glancy, April 8, 2024.

<sup>465</sup> D'Armiento.

<sup>466</sup> Massel, "Mailman professor Abdul Kayum Ahmed receives letter of nonrenewal."

<sup>467</sup> Huddleston, Stahl, and Mendell, "Four Columbia students suspended, evicted from University housing following unauthorized 'Resistance 101' event."

<sup>468</sup> @itslaylas, March 29, 2024, <https://x.com/itslaylas/status/1773727193643815116>.

<sup>469</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of 'Tedeschi Rights'."

<sup>470</sup> Shafik, "Announcing Angela V. Olinto as Provost of Columbia University."

<sup>471</sup> Massel, "Mailman professor Abdul Kayum Ahmed receives letter of nonrenewal."

<sup>472</sup> [redacted student], 11:07 PM, March 25, 2025.

- In the evening, two private investigators hired by Columbia to investigate the March 24, 2024 “Resistance 101” event, visited the residence of a Palestinian student.<sup>473</sup>
  - Through his apartment’s security camera, the student said he saw two men in suits attempt to open the locked door. SJP posted a statement about these events that claimed that the investigator “rattled the doorknob multiple times as if trying to break in” and that the student was subsequently “forced” to remain indoors and could not attend prayer or break their fast to observe Ramadan.
  - Shortly after, the student received two phone calls from a man who identified himself as a private investigator hired by Columbia to investigate an unauthorized event on campus. He let the calls go to voicemail.
  - In the voicemail, the investigator said: “I am a private investigator. My firm was hired by Columbia University to conduct an investigation into an unauthorized meeting that took place on March 24 at Q House. I believe it’s called ‘Resistance 101.’ They asked us to look into the matter and see if any of the instances pose a threat to any of the faculty, staff, or students. So we were just looking for your assistance. I believe the University is requiring your cooperation.” *Spectator* obtained this voicemail.
  - The private investigator identified himself in the voicemail and was also named in emails from COO Holloway to students. The investigator had worked for the investigations and forensic accounting firm Renaissance Associates since February 2023, according to the investigator’s LinkedIn page. Renaissance Associates’ website states that the firm “works with clients to develop an effective surveillance strategy” and “employs experienced surveillance teams equipped with advanced technology.” It also reads that “former law enforcement agents” sit on some of their teams. Renaissance Associates Ltd. is a confirmed Columbia Vendor listed on Columbia’s ARC Vendor ID Lookup (Vendor ID: 0000267347).
  - According to a University official, the investigators initially contacted students about the event “directly” but switched to reaching out to students via email, which “proved effective.”
  - COO Holloway emailed the student confirming that he had to meet with the investigator or else he would face immediate disciplinary action. The student was interim suspended until he met with the investigator.
  - The student eventually met with the investigators. He acknowledged that he attended “Resistance 101,” but was not involved in its planning or organizing. He was unaware that the event was unsanctioned by the University until after it occurred. He complied with the investigation because he felt he had “nothing to hide.” During his meeting with private investigators, the student reported that he was shown security footage of himself standing outside of Q House, an LGBTQ residence hall on campus where “Resistance 101” was held. The private investigators showed photos of different students from security footage and asked the student to identify them. He said he told them that he didn’t recognize the other students in the photos.
  - In June, the student was found “not responsible” for any charges related to “Resistance 101” through a disciplinary process under CSSI.
  - Despite the dropped charges, this student continued to fear that he was surveilled by the University. “I feel like I’m always on my toes. You know, if I see Public Safety, I got my eye on them. If I see the police anywhere near campus, I have my eye on them. It’s just a very uneasy feeling to even be living in Columbia residential. I don’t feel comfortable. I try to not go on campus as much as possible.”
- Two private investigators hired by Columbia knocked on the door of another student’s Columbia residence hall while investigating “Resistance 101” event.<sup>474</sup>
  - The student said the investigators stood outside their apartment, informed them that they were there to investigate “Resistance 101,” and asked to have a conversation. The student said: “I told them no.”
  - At the time Columbia announced an investigation into “Resistance 101,” this student, who was an organizer for Columbia Social Workers for Palestine, had been investigated and disciplined by the University for previous protest activity.
  - The student reported that they attended “Resistance 101,” but did not organize the event.
  - The morning after investigators visited their doorstep, the student woke up to a “threatening email” from COO Holloway, who wrote that they would face disciplinary action if they did not speak with private investigators by 5:00 PM that day.

<sup>473</sup> Maryam Alwan, “President Shafik already persecutes pro-Palestinian students. Will that be enough for Congress?,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 17 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/04/17/president-shafik-already-persecutes-pro-palestinian-students-will-that-be-enough-for-congress/>.

Staff, “Columbia Students Reportedly Suspended and Evicted As Part of Palestinian Solidarity Month Investigation.”  
 Thakker, “Ahead of Congressional Testimony, Columbia President Cracks Down on Student Advocacy for Palestine.”  
 Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors.”

<sup>474</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors.”



- This student never complied with the private investigators or responded to Holloway’s warning of disciplinary action.
- He was then placed on interim suspension for failure to comply with the private investigators and preliminarily charged with disruptive behavior, endangerment, law violation, violation of University policy, and failure to comply, according to the email obtained by *Spectator*.
- The email stated that the student could remain in their residence for 24 hours, after which their access to residence and dining services would also be suspended.
- The student filed an appeal, which Columbia denied.
- Although the University gave the student a formal notice that they would receive paperwork from an eviction court, the student was able to stay in their housing until the end of their lease on his own accord.
- “I also didn’t, quite frankly, feel safe with the fact that there [were] cameras right outside my door, that they could watch me go everywhere, when I was leaving my house, when I was entering my home, so I decided to leave on my own.”
- In June 2024, the student had a CSSI hearing for “Resistance 101,” where they were “found responsible” for “not complying” with the private investigators. All other initial charges were dropped.

#### April 2, 2024:

- At 10:56 PM COO Holloway emailed a student as part of “Resistance 101” investigation in an email titled “Investigation of Resistance 101 Event on March 24”: “We are reaching out to you in connection with the publicly announced safety investigation of the Resistance 101 event on March 24. Your name has been identified as an individual involved in organizing, planning, promoting, hosting and/or attending this unsanctioned and unapproved event. In light of your potential involvement in the event, you are required to report to the Training Room at Public Safety at Low Library between 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM tomorrow to participate in an interview about this event. If you do not appear between 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM tomorrow, you will face immediate disciplinary action.”<sup>475</sup>
- At 11:03 PM the student responded to COO Holloway re “Investigation of Resistance 101 Event on March 24” and cc’d two redacted lawyers: “I am emailing to notify you that I have invoked my right to counsel and I have retained \_ as my counsel – cc’d here. My counsel has advised me that given the short notice of your request, I must invoke my fundamentally protected 5<sup>th</sup> amendment rights against self-incrimination. I am not saying that I am unwilling to meet with counsel and confer about my rights to due process. So we are requesting a one week extension to the timeline you are requesting so that I have time to confer with counsel.”<sup>476</sup>

#### April 3, 2024:

- The University suspended six students and evicted them from University Housing, for their alleged involvement in March 24, 2024 “Resistance 101” event. Two of these suspensions were lifted the following day.<sup>477</sup>
- COO Holloway began emailing dozens of student leaders from organizations involved with CUAD ahead of a planned April 4, 2024 “All Out for Al-Shifa Protest.” Holloway told the students the University was aware of the demonstration and the University had not received a request to register the event within two working days, violating Columbia’s Interim Demonstration Policy.<sup>478</sup>

#### April 4, 2024:

- Approximately 100 students participated in unauthorized “All Out for Al-Shifa” protest at the Sundial organized by CUAD and Student Workers of Columbia-United Auto Workers (SWC-UAW). This protest was not registered under the Interim Demonstration Policy.<sup>479</sup>

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<sup>475</sup> Cas Holloway, April 2, 2024.

<sup>476</sup> Redacted student, April 2, 2024.

<sup>477</sup> Huddleston, Stahl, and Mendell, “Four Columbia students suspended, evicted from University housing following unauthorized ‘Resistance 101’ event.”

<sup>478</sup> Forgash and Zuloaga, “As Shafik’s legacy looms, Armstrong faces a tumultuous road ahead.”

<sup>479</sup> Maya Stahl, Saul Quintanar, and Chris Mendell, “‘All Out for Al-Shifa’ protest draws over 100 demonstrators,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 6, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/06/all-out-for-al-shifa-protest-draws-over-100-demonstrators/>.

Huddleston, Stahl, and Mendell, “Four Columbia students suspended, evicted from University housing following unauthorized ‘Resistance 101’ event.”

- The University lifted two of the six student suspensions from the “Resistance 101” investigation. One of the two students whose suspension was lifted, a Columbia College sophomore, was not involved in organizing nor did he attend the event but lived in the residence hall where the panel was held.<sup>480</sup>

#### April 5, 2024:

- At 3:11 AM, COO Holloway emailed redacted student re “Investigation of Resistance 101 Event on March 24”:  
“Good evening. To date you have refused to cooperate with the University’s investigation of the Resistance 101 event on March 24. Your name has been identified as an individual involved in organizing, planning, promoting, and/or attending this unsanctioned and unapproved event. Because of your refusal to cooperate you have been placed on interim suspension and you have been informed that you must vacate your University housing. I understand you have submitted an appeal to these interim actions that is pending, and we have not enforced you having to vacate housing this evening. We are providing you with a final opportunity to meet with our investigators between 9 AM and 3PM tomorrow, Friday, April 5, 2024. Please report to the Public Safety Training Room in Low Hall for an interview between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM tomorrow.”<sup>481</sup>
- President Shafik released a statement on the “Resistance 101” event: “for the record . . . this event is an abhorrent breach of our values.” She confirmed that students were suspended for their alleged participation in the panel following an investigation by an outside firm.<sup>482</sup>
  - President Shafik also announced in the statement that the University was “in the process of identifying participants” in the April 4, 2024 “All Out for Al-Shifa” protest: “Yesterday, students, faculty, and other members of our community chose to hold an unapproved event near academic buildings in violation of our rules and policies” and noted that participants would “face discipline under our policies.”

#### April 6, 2024:

- At 1:59 PM Director of Leasing Operations for Columbia Residential Leilani Reynolds emailed [redacted student] who was suspended on April 3, 2024 for alleged involvement in “Resistance 101” event. This student did not meet with COO Holloway and had requested a one-week extension during the investigation on April 2, 2024 so that they could confer with legal counsel. On April 5, 2024 COO Holloway emailed the student again asking them to meet. Reynolds sent an email titled “Notice to Vacate: Confirmation of Move-Out Required”: “This letter comes as a follow-up regarding your interim suspension, as our office has been formally notified by the University of this development. In light of this, you were required to vacate your University apartment by the evening of Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Given that the date has passed, I am writing to confirm that you have met this requirement and to guide you through the concluding steps of the move-out process. Immediate Actions Needed: Confirm Your Move-Out. . . Return of Keys. . . In acknowledgement of your situation, we have waived the typical agreement cancellation fee. However, completing these steps as soon as possible is essential to adhering to University policies and ensuring a smooth transition. We recognize these challenges this period may present. For transparency and to ensure you have the support you need, your Dean of Students has been cc’d on this communication. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Your cooperation and prompt responses are greatly appreciated.”<sup>483</sup>
- At 4:41 PM [redacted student] responded re “Notice to Vacate: Confirmation of Move-Out Required”: “I received advice from a housing attorney from Manhattan Legal Services yesterday, Friday 4/5, and at this time I understand that I am protected from housing removal under New York state law. I have cc’d one of my own other attorneys representing me, [redacted student], here as well. I have yet to move out of my apartment because the notice to vacate violations the mutually signed occupancy agreement. I did not receive the notice required by the holdover and default provisions. I have lived here as an occupant for well over 30 years, and therefore I cannot be kicked out of my apartment without following the legal eviction process. I will be remaining in my apartment until I am

<sup>480</sup> Staff, “Columbia Students Reportedly Suspended and Evicted As Part of Palestinian Solidarity Month Investigation.”

<sup>481</sup> Holloway.

<sup>482</sup> Minouche Shafik, “Statement from Columbia University President Minouche Shafik,” (April 29, 2024). <https://president.columbia.edu/news/statement-columbia-university-president-minouche-shafik-4-29#:~:text=We've%20worked%20hard%20to,to%20come%20to%20an%20agreement.>

<sup>483</sup> Leilani Reynolds, April 6, 2024.

formally evicted and my eviction is ordered by a judge. If you do proceed with the formal eviction proceedings, legal counsel will be in contact.”<sup>484</sup>

#### April 7, 2024:

- Professor Davidai commented on a protest video posted on X: “it’s time that these terror supporters face some consequences.” He also compared SJP to a “modern day Hitler youth.”<sup>485</sup>

#### April 8, 2024:

- At 8:00 AM students in Dual Degree Program with Tel Aviv University (TAU) emailed President Shafik, Barnard President Rosenbury, and the deans of Columbia’s three undergraduate colleges a petition requesting “an official statement that our Dual Degree Program is supported by administration and is not in danger of cancellation, and that TAU students are welcome at Columbia.”<sup>486</sup>
  - The students wrote that there were “flyers distributed on campus and posted in academic buildings calling for cancellation of the program,” “[o]bvious negative judgment from peers and professors when we introduce ourselves in class as part of the program,” and “[r]epeated demands made at CUAD rallies in the middle of campus, often using loudspeakers or megaphones, to abolish our program” which were “unavoidable for any student planning to attend class.”
  - In early March 2024, the Columbia College and Barnard College student councils approved ballot referendums on ending the dual degree program.
  - The students wrote that “[s]ince the October 7th terror attacks on Israel, our program specifically has faced heightened animosity and discrimination by students at Columbia.”
  - The students expressed concern that despite private reassurances that the program would not be cancelled, Columbia’s administration had “never publicly stated or demonstrated any indication of this to its student body and beyond, leaving the impression that cancellation is a viable option and thus leaving us students isolated in the face of this intimidation and attempted exclusion.”
  - 85 of approximately 140 TAU dual degree program students signed onto the petition, along with 80 parents of students in the program.
- At 4:02 PM Chief of Staff Glancy responded to Chair D’Armiento’s “re: Meeting with President and students”: “We’re ready to move forward with this meeting. What is the best way to confirm a time with the students.”<sup>487</sup>

#### April 9, 2024:

- Professor Ahmed received a letter of nonrenewal from Mailman Dean Linda Fried and Chair S. Patrick Kachur.<sup>488</sup>
- Columbia’s chapter of SJP started a petition calling on Columbia to terminate Professor Davidai. The petition stated Davidai bullied “pro-Palestinian students of color with complete impunity despite being untenured. . . Under the guise of fighting antisemitism, he uses his Twitter and Instagram accounts to incite harassment and violence against these students. . . Shai’s usage of his social media platform to harass students is a clear violation of university policy and an abuse of power from a faculty member.” The petition garnered over 8,000 signatures. Students targeted by Professor Davidai on social media have received death threats.<sup>489</sup>

#### April 10, 2024:

- Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine (FSJP) posted on Instagram: “Faculty and staff at Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College stand with students, against their increasingly harsh, disciplinary and punitive treatment by the University administration. In response to Columbia University President’s April 5 statement justifying these suspensions, We reject the premise of extra-ordinary action under the guise of ‘a strong foundation of respect’ at the

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<sup>484</sup> [redacted student], April 6, 2024.

<sup>485</sup> Zuloaga, "SJP petition calls for termination of Business School professor Shai Davidai."

<sup>486</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>487</sup> Glancy.

<sup>488</sup> Massel, "Mailman professor Abdul Kayum Ahmed receives letter of nonrenewal."

<sup>489</sup> Zuloaga, "SJP petition calls for termination of Business School professor Shai Davidai."

university. We see political convenience, a demonizing of pro-Palestinian students, and targeting of their political speech, and we see the turning of a blind eye to pro-Israeli actions on campus that stand in obvious violations of standard protocols, including: the glaring lack of a Presidential statement on the chemical attack, an actual act of violence, on a peaceful rally on campus on January 21, 2024; no response to the continuing discriminatory harassment of students and faculty by Professor Shai Davidai via social media; or the hosting of ultra-right wing reactionary and racist speakers, such as an SSI organized event with ‘son of Hamas’ Mosab Hassan Yousef on campus on March 21, 2024.<sup>490</sup>

- “As members of the faculty and staff at Columbia, Barnard, and Teacher’s College, we are deeply disturbed for the administrations increasingly hostile and ad-hoc treatment of students and student organizations who are actively working to raise awareness about the on-going genocide in Gaza. In a letter dated April 5, President Minouche Shafik states, ‘I did not become a university president to punish students.’ Yet she continues to preside over disciplinary procedures that not only punish students, but do so in violation of the university’s stated commitment to free speech and academic freedom, and by contravening existing rules and regulations for investigating and disciplining student activities. The administration has shattered decades of institutional expertise and tradition when it comes to managing, if not welcoming, student protest on campus. The last weeks have seen the university abandon the well-functioning procedure for handling violations of the University’s Rules of Conduct (a process implemented as a response to the university’s abusive treatment of students during the protests in 1968) by outsourcing the entire enterprise to an outside law firm with little or no oversight. That firm was then given the green light to hire a private investigation firm that has shown up at students’ residences unannounced, banging on students’ apartment doors threatening them with suspension or worse if they don’t cooperate in a matter of hours. Students are left terrified: who are these people, do they really represent my university, should I get a lawyer? We, the faculty and staff, categorically reject any act of violence on campus. We also support our students’ rights of free speech and assembly. In instances in which there were violations to university codes, we expect the university to follow relevant and existing measures for investigation and sanction of those concerned. However, this is not what is going on. Instead, the university, with an eye towards the April 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional hearing, has decided to enter into an exceptional state of punitive authority over the students. The University has suspended students and evicted them from Columbia housing without due process. Students have been given 24 hours to move out of university housing, with no concern for where they will go or even if they have the financial means to do so. With respect to undergraduates, eviction also means cutting them off from the dining halls: that is, depriving them of not just housing but also food. Besides the very basic question of whether such rapid evictions are legal under New York State or City law, the assumption built into this decision that every student has enough family wealth to fall back on is just outrageous, especially in light of the university’s purported commitment to diversity.”
- “The disciplinary process, now delegated to a private investigatory firm, has taken the approach of throwing a wide range of vague charges at the largest group of students possible – with the notion that they can sort it all out later. In this new disciplinary process, students are denied the right to an advisor of their choice, are not told the specific charges against them, are expected to provide a written statement explaining their position on those unspecified charges, and have no meaningful right to appeal the hearing officer’s findings.”
- “The university has hired an outside law firm to handle ‘disciplinary matters,’ whose lawyers have no understanding of university life and of our responsibility for our students. Hearings are now being conducted by recently-hired associates at Debevoise & Plimpton, individuals a couple years out of law school with no expertise or knowledge of the values and rules that constitute Columbia’s community in light of the university’s reliance on Debevoise & Plimpton lawyers, the claim made by Claudia Marin Andrade (Associate Vice President for Student Success and Intervention), in the letters of suspension, that ‘the disciplinary process [as] an educational one,’ is a farce.”
- “The number of students who have received notices requiring their appearance at disciplinary hearings who were not involved in organizing or at the event(s) under review raises serious questions about this dragnet approach to punishment: being called into a hearing, even if one has not attended the event in question is creating immense stress among students, especially foreign students whose US visas depend on their remaining enrolled in full-time study. What’s more, it is quite evident, given who has been called in, that the dragnet is operating on the basis of racial profiling: Arab and Muslim students, in particular, are receiving threatening letters for no other apparent reason than their identity.”

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<sup>490</sup> @fsjp\_cbt, Instagram, April 10, 2024, [https://www.instagram.com/p/C51gp58uXTK/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/C51gp58uXTK/?img_index=1).

- “The University is selectively enforcing disciplinary actions: Students at unauthorized counterprotests have not been called into disciplinary hearings or investigations, and pro-Israel student groups regularly get approval for events, regardless of whether or not the speaker’s politics is considered offensive or even, hateful even, to many others on campus.”
- “We reject the premise of extra-ordinary action under the guise of ‘a strong foundation of respect’ at the university. We see political convenience, a demonizing of pro-Palestinian students, and targeting of their political speech, and we see the turning of a blind eye to pro-Israeli actions on campus that stand in obvious violations of standard protocols, including: the glaring lack of a Presidential statement on the chemical attack, an actual act of violence, on a peaceful rally on campus on January 21, 2024; no response to the continuing discriminatory harassment of students and faculty by Professor Shai Davidai via social media; or the hosting of ultra-right wing reactionary and racist speakers, such as an SSI organized event with ‘son of Hamas’ Mosab Hassan Yousef on campus on March 21, 2024. We urge Columbia’s administration to observe commitments to existing disciplinary procedures that place the well-being of students and the community first, rather than political expediency.”

#### April 12, 2024:

- President Shafik met with TAU students in the morning.<sup>491</sup>
- At 2:06 PM General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch texted President Shafik: “Minouche, I just learned that Columbia College put out their referendum of 3 questions to the whole CC student body. Here are 2 of the questions which includes recommending to Columbia to end the TAU dual degree program. I think you could wait until they vote – but I worry greatly now that this will be devastating to our students – that Columbia College students do not want them on campus. I do wonder if you might consider doing something more public to show support for the dual degree students given this referendum.” This comment was published in October 31, 2024 Republican Staff Report and concerns were raised by Senators in November 22, 2024 Plenary.<sup>492</sup>
- At 2:37 PM President Shafik texted General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch: “Can you talk to Shailagh? I have given her a heads up. I wonder whether the data you shared with me about Arab students would help?” This comment was published in October 31, 2024 Republican Staff Report and concerns were raised by Senators in November 22, 2024 Plenary.<sup>493</sup>
- Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Jewish Life Cohen emailed President Shafik, Provost Olinto, COO Holloway, Dean Sorett, and Executive Vice President for Public Affairs Shailagh Murray regarding the planned Columbia College referendum which included a question on the TAU dual degree program. Cohen called the referendum a “new low” and wrote that the TAU dual degree program “has nothing to do with Columbia College.” Cohen said that he “spent time with many of the TAU students last night and, and I assure you that his referendum is extremely insulting to them, and they don’t feel like they belong on this campus – for good reason.” Cohen also wrote: “It is bad enough that these ‘student leaders’ are putting a vote like this to their peers, but I [sic] it’s even worse that the University and College leadership remains silent on this matter...I hope you will send a clear message to the University community before this vote concludes.” Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Jewish Life Cohen also cited an Al-Jazeera story suggesting there had been a chemical attack on campus, and wrote, “It is time to do the right thing with that story as well.”<sup>494</sup>
- At 5:37 PM COO Holloway emailed Executive Vice President for Public Affairs Murray: “a statement on TAU is warranted. They’re our students and it’s a program we’re proud of and investing in. This is the perfect opportunity to say something definitive.”<sup>495</sup>
- At 5:51 PM Executive Vice President for Public Affairs Murray responded to COO Holloway: “I don’t disagree, but let’s see where we are after the call on Sunday. That’s what Lisa is asking for and these are her students. Brian is never happy!”<sup>496</sup>

<sup>491</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>492</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.” Columbia University Senate, “December 13, 2024 Plenary,” (December 13, 2024).

<sup>493</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.” Columbia University Senate, “December 13, 2024 Plenary.”

<sup>494</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>495</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>496</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

- At 6:26 PM COO Holloway responded to Executive Vice President for Public Affairs Murray: “This isn’t about Brian, it’s just wrong. One group of students shouldn’t be voting another group off the island. Unacceptable. More importantly, we SUPPORT this program and will continue to support it. We should say so. I feel strongly about this one. It’s not OK. Minouche doesn’t have to condemn the students who voted. She just has to say these students are a vital part of the community and we support and embrace them. Now and going forward.”<sup>497</sup>
- At 5:52 PM President Shafik told Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Jewish Life Cohen that she had met with the TAU students and offered private reassurances.<sup>498</sup>
- Executive Director of the Kraft Center for Jewish Life Cohen responded to President Shafik: “I’m glad you met with the TAU students this morning. Most of our undergraduates have seen language for months calling for the TAU program to be canceled. Now any student voting in the CC student government election will see language that CC Student Council agreed to put on there. A public statement should be shared.”<sup>499</sup>

#### April 14, 2024:

- Ahead of President Shafik’s testimony before Congress, the University announced that campus access would be heavily restricted throughout the week due to anticipated “activities that may impact campus.”<sup>500</sup>

#### April 15, 2024:

- The University Senate’s Rules of University Conduct Committee sent a letter to General Counsel, requesting clarification on CSSI’s process and rules for pursuing disciplinary actions against students involved in protest and demonstration activity.<sup>501</sup>
  - “Apparently apart from the UJB procedures, the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI) has recently been taking disciplinary action against students, including in connection with various recent demonstrations and protests on campus. We have a number of questions about CSSI that, as part of our Section 452(d) review, we request that you clarify: What is the basis under the Statutes of the University or otherwise for the disciplinary actions that CSSI has been taking? What are CSSI’s rules for notice, hearings, appeals, and other due process protections? What are CSSI’s rules concerning the ability of students to bring counsel or other representatives or advisors to CSSI hearings, and for those persons to speak at these hearings? Which disciplinary actions go to CSSI? Who makes that determination? On what basis do they make that determination? What sanctions may CSSI impose? Are there interim sanctions and permanent sanctions? If they differ, what are the respective due process protections for each? What are the names and positions of the individual(s) who make final decisions for CSSI? We have heard that deans may opt into, or perhaps opt out of, their school’s participation in the CSSI process. Is the default opt-in or opt-out? Which deans have opted in or out, as the case may be? What is the volume of disciplinary cases that CSSI has been handling this academic year, and how does this compare to the volume of cases in previous academic years? We understand that there is also something called Dean’s Discipline. We have the same questions about Dean’s Discipline that we have about CSSI; we ask you to answer those as well. If there are any other forms of student discipline that are currently being employed, please answer the same questions about those, too.”
  - “What is the relationship among UJB proceedings, CSSI proceedings, Title VI investigations, Dean’s Discipline, and any other student discipline currently being employed?”
  - “For our statutorily mandated review process, it is vital that we understand the full landscape of disciplinary procedures currently being used at the University. And it is our understanding from discussions with numerous deans, faculty, and administrators that the Office of the General Counsel is the entity best equipped to provide this information.”

<sup>497</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>498</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>499</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>500</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>501</sup> Sarah Huddleston, "University Senate calls for pause on student protestors’ disciplinary proceedings over concerns on proper adjudication," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 9, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/09/university-senate-calls-for-pause-on-student-protesters-disciplinary-proceedings-over-concerns-on-proper-adjudication/>.

Columbia University Senate, "May 8, 2024 Plenary."

- “We request a response to these questions by Monday, April 22, 2024. We realize this is not a great deal of time, but given the dynamic environment on campus, we feel that these issues must be addressed promptly. As you can discern from the above questions, concerns about CSSI have been raised to us by numerous individuals. Before we share those concerns with the broader University community, along with an update of the Committee’s review process, we wanted to give you an opportunity to clarify these matters.”
- The University had provided 4,000 documents to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.<sup>502</sup>

#### April 16, 2024:

- One of the students involved in the January 19, 2023 spraying incident, a Jewish student who formerly served in the Israeli military, filed a lawsuit (*John Doe, Plaintiff, v. Columbia University*) against the University claiming the University went through “biased misconduct proceedings” for their actions at a January 19, 2023 protest. Students at the protest alleged they were sprayed with a foul-smelling chemical while protesting that day. In the lawsuit, the plaintiff claimed that “his actions were a harmless expression of speech to demonstrate discontent with the pro-Hamas pro-Palestine message through the use of a gag gift” and that they sprayed fart spray called “Liquid Ass” and “Wet Farts,” that are “harmless-non-toxic, can be purchased by anyone on Amazon” on protesting students. The student was charged with disruptive behavior, harassment, and endangerment and placed on an interim suspension on January 21, 2023. The lawsuit claimed that “to date, there has been no medical or physical evidence to support the assertions of any of the students that claimed they were harmed and/or impacted by the spray.” Both *Spectator* and the University Senate received and reviewed medical records from students that sought medical attention after the spraying incident. The University offered the student a settlement in Fall 2024 for \$395,000.<sup>503</sup>
- In the evening, a party was held by students on South Lawn.<sup>504</sup>

#### April 17, 2024:

- Around 4:00 AM protestors entered the South Lawn, pitched tents, declared the area the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ and demanded the University divest from companies with ties to Israel. The lawns were designated in the Interim Demonstration Policy as an area of campus that did not disrupt academic activities.<sup>505</sup>
- By sunrise, over 100 students camped in tents with centralized food, blankets, and other supplies.<sup>506</sup>
- By 9:00 AM, South Lawn was “abuzz with activity.” As students engaged in protest chants, Public Safety stood clustered around the outskirts.<sup>507</sup>
- Plans to bring in the NYPD took shape quickly, devised by President Shafik, Provost Olinto, General Counsel Felice Rosan and other senior university leaders, according to a Columbia official.<sup>508</sup>
- The University issued an initial order for the protestors to disperse by 11:00 AM, communicated through paper disciplinary notices. The tents on South Lawn were “a safety concern and a violation of university policies,” a University spokesperson wrote in a statement to *Spectator*.<sup>509</sup>

<sup>502</sup> Noah Bernstein and Shea Vance, “House committee threatens to subpoena Columbia, citing ‘continued failure’ to produce documents,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/01/house-committee-threatens-to-subpoena-columbia-citing-continued-failure-to-produce-documents/>.

<sup>503</sup> Forgash and Mendell, “Student accused of alleged chemical spray sues Columbia, claims substance was ‘non-toxic fart spray’.” Salam, “Columbia pays \$395,000 to student suspended over protest ‘fart spray’: Israeli student filed lawsuit after suspension for spraying pro-Palestinian protestors with foul-smelling substance.”

<sup>504</sup> Lara-Nour Walton and Sophia Cordoba, “33 Hours in the ‘Liberated Zone,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 25, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/podcasts/2024/04/25/33-hours-in-the-liberated-zone/>.

<sup>505</sup> Judy Goldstein and Joseph Zuloaga, “In Focus: The first 24 hours of the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 18, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/main/2024/04/18/in-focus-the-first-24-hours-of-the-gaza-solidarity-encampment/>.

Sarah Huddleston, “Columbia establishes ‘Demonstration Areas’ and times, alters disciplinary procedure for students in violation of new event policy,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, February 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/02/19/columbia-establishes-demonstration-areas-and-times-alters-disciplinary-procedure-for-students-in-violation-of-new-event-policy/>.

<sup>506</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

<sup>507</sup> Walton and Cordoba, “33 Hours in the ‘Liberated Zone’.”

Goldstein and Zuloaga, “In Focus: The first 24 hours of the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>508</sup> Isaac Stanley-Becker and Susan Svrluga, “‘Bunker mentality’ at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide,” *The Washington Post*, May 12, 2024, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/05/12/columbia-protest-president-shafik-campus-tension/?next\\_url=https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/05/12/columbia-protest-president-shafik-campus-tension/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/05/12/columbia-protest-president-shafik-campus-tension/?next_url=https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/05/12/columbia-protest-president-shafik-campus-tension/).

<sup>509</sup> Isha Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/02/timeline-the-gaza-solidarity-encampment/>.

Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, “‘Bunker mentality’ at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide.”

- At 10:17 AM President Shafik, Board of Trustees Co-Chairs David Greenwald and Claire Shipman, and Professor David Schizer, Co-Chair of the Task Force on Antisemitism, testified before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in Washington D.C. for nearly three-and-a-half hours. Former presidential advisors and consultants Shailagh Murray, Dana Remus, and Philippe Reines, along with lawyers, political officials, and experts on antisemitism prepared President Shafik for the hearing for months. Washington-based firm Covington & Burling offices served as a makeshift war room on the day of the hearing. Under the advice of General Counsel for Columbia University, and outside legal consultation, President Shafik provided information about professors under investigation during the hearing. Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and committee chair Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) led the committee's questioning, which centered largely around Columbia's enforcement of its campus protest policies. Representatives pressured President Shafik to provide information on faculty disciplinary proceedings, which is typically kept confidential, and demanded that multiple faculty members be removed from their positions. Shafik fielded questions from the committee and promised to continue disciplining affiliates who violated University policy.<sup>510</sup>
  - Chairwoman Foxx: "Dr. Shafik, Mr. Schizer, Ms. Shipman and Mr. Greenwald, you're here testifying today because Columbia University is one of the worst of those hotbeds, and we've seen far too little, far too late done to counter that and protect students and staff. Columbia stands guilty of gross negligence at best, and at worse has become a platform for those supporting terrorism and violence against the Jewish people. For example, just four days after the harrowing October 7 attack, a former Columbia undergraduate beat an Israeli student with a stick, while shouting racial epithets. The following day a crowd of anti-Israel protestors marched on the University's Craft Center for Jewish Life, causing the building to be locked down, and forcing Jewish students to shelter inside. More recently on March 24, anti-Israel groups hosted a resistance 101 event in a Columbia dorm featuring speakers linked to U.S. and Israel designated foreign terrorist organizations, including the PFLP. Speakers explicitly endorsed terrorism and called on students to support it. This unauthorized event was nevertheless promoted by Columbia faculty and staff. That a taxpayer funded institution would become a forum for the promotion of terrorism raises serious questions. Moreover, Columbia administrators have repeatedly failed in their duty to protect Jewish students from this hateful, retrograde form of discrimination. Don't take my word for it. In February, Columbia undergraduate Eden Yadegar 4 told the Committee, 'It is impossible to exist as a Jewish student at Columbia without running face first into antisemitism every single day. Jew hatred is so deeply embedded in the campus culture that it has become casual and palatable among students and faculty, and administrators.' Let me repeat, 'Neglected by administrators.' Eden and some of her fellow Jewish classmates are in attendance today. I believe they deserve direct and clear answers about how you will address their concerns. I need not remind you that this not just a moral duty, but a legal duty set forth in Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."
  - Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR): "Dr. Shafik, as President of Columbia, what is it like when you hear chants like, 'By Any Means Necessary,' or 'Intifada Revolution?' And do these chants violate Columbia's rules?"
    - President Shafik: "I find those chants, incredibly distressing, and I wish profoundly that people would not use them on our campus. I wish that even more after the many, many conversations that I've had with our Jewish students when they tell me how they feel when they hear those words. They find it threatening, they find it frightening, and it's abhorrent and has no place in our community. I think one of the issues that we are actively debating now, and which David Schizer, I hope is part of the antisemitism task force will help us find solutions as you've asked for, Congresswoman, is to actually clarify where language crosses the line from protected speech to discriminatory or harassing speech. We've already sent a message to our community when all 17 Deans of Columbia University in a historic message, which has never been done before said that we need to be sensitive about language, and some of those expressions that you have said 'River to the Sea Intifada,' are incredibly hurtful, and we need to be as a community be aware that that language is hurtful. So, we've already sent a strong signal. I think one of the excellent recommendations of our antisemitism task force is that they have said that if you are going to chant, it should only be in a certain place, so people who don't want to hear it are protected from having to hear it."

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<sup>510</sup> House Education and the Workforce, *Columbia in Crisis: Columbia University's Response to Antisemitism*, U.S. House of Representatives. Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide." Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis." Levine, "Columbia AAUP issues statement defending academic freedom amid calls for faculty sanctions and dismissals." Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia's surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."



- Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY): “But I'm talking about the faculty members who are supporting terror, and it's not just that case. Let me bring your attention to Mohammad Abdou who was hired after the October 7th terrorist attack against Israel. He on October 11th, posted, ‘Yes. I'm with Hamas and Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad.’ He also decried false reports accusing Arabs and Muslims of decapitating the heads of children and being rapists. We know that there were decapitations of babies, of innocent Israeli citizens, of seniors, of women, there were rapes, and yet Columbia hired this individual as a professor. How did that hiring process work? Were you aware of those statements before the hiring?”
  - President Shafik: “I share with you, your repugnance at those remarks. I completely understand that. On my watch faculty who make remarks that cross the line, in terms of antisemitism, there will be consequences for that.”
  - Rep Stefanik: “What are the consequences in this case?”
  - President Shafik: “I have five cases at the moment who have either been taken out of the classroom or dismissed.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “And is he one of those?”
  - President Shafik: “He will never work at Columbia again.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “So he has been terminated?”
  - President Shafik: “He has been terminated. He has -- not just terminated, but his files will show that he will never work at Columbia again.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “So he's currently not employed by Columbia?”
  - President Shafik: “He is grading his students papers and will never teach at Columbia again, and that will be on his permanent record.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “How are you changing the hiring processes, because on your watch he was hired after he made these statements publicly. How are you ensuring this has not happened with your hiring process moving forward?”
- Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY): “Let me ask about Professor Katherine Franke from the Columbia Law School, who said that all Israelis students who have served in the IDF are dangerous and shouldn't be on campus. What disciplinary action has been taken against that professor?”
  - President Shafik: “I agree with you that those comments are completely unacceptable, and discriminatory.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “But I'm asking you what disciplinary action has been taken?”
  - President Shafik: “She has been spoken to by a very senior person in the administration, and she has said that that was not what she intended to say.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “And has she publicly apologized?”
  - President Shafik: “I have suggested that.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “You have suggested that. Has she done that?”
  - President Shafik: “I think she will be finding a way to clarify her position.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “You see the concern here though with the lack of enforcement? Do you see the concern that's speaking to these professors is not enough, and it's sending a message across the university that this is tolerated, these antisemitic statements from a position of authority in professors in the classroom, is tolerated.”
- Representative Lisa McClain (MI) asked President Shafik: “So, my question to you are mobs shouting, ‘From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free’ or ‘Long live the Intifada,’ are those antisemitic comments?”
  - President Shafik: “When I hear those terms, I find them very upsetting, and I have heard.”
  - Rep. McClain: “That's a great answer to a question I didn't ask, so let me repeat the question. . .”
  - President Shafik: I hear them as such. Some people don't. We have sent a clear message —”
  - Rep. McClain: “Is that yes? So is that yes?”
  - President Shafik: “We have sent clear message to our communities. . .”
  - Rep. McClain: “I'm not asking about the message. Does that fall under definition of antisemitic behavior, yes or no? Why is it so tough?”
  - President Shafik: “Because it's a -- it's a difficult issue because. . .”
  - Rep. McClain: “I realize it's a difficult issue. But here's the problem, is when people can't answer a simple question and they have a definition but then they can't. Well, I'm not really sure if that qualifies. I'm asking a simple question. Maybe I should ask your task force. Does that qualify as antisemitic behavior, those statements, yes or no?”
  - Co-Chair of Antisemitism Task Force Schizer: “Yes.”
  - Rep. McClain: “Yes, okay. Do you agree with your task force?”

- President Shafik: “We agree. The question is what. . .”
  - Rep. McClain: “So the question -- so yes, you do agree that those are -- that is antisemitic behavior, and you should be -- there should be some consequences to that antisemitic behavior. We're in agreement, yes?”
  - President Shafik: “Yes.”
- Representative Jamaal Bowman (D-NY): “What I'm hearing from students and people in my district who go to Columbia is they feel that there's not the space for divergent opinions or thoughts as it relates to state of Israel or what's happening in Gaza right now. Can you speak to how different points of view or perspectives as it relates to the war in Gaza, criticism of the state of Israel or something like that that is not antisemitic but just a difference of opinion from other students? How does that, how is that adjudicated or confronted? How are we creating spaces for critical dialogue and discussion that may make people feel uncomfortable, but are not like hateful?”
  - President Shafik: “We launched at the end of last semester a program called Dialogue Across Difference to do exactly what you're saying, which is to give people tools to have difficult conversations where people disagree but -are but- are respectful. And so, we've -held there have been maybe, you- know, two to three events per week at Columbia for students and for faculty.”
  - Rep. Bowman: “You said per week?”
  - President Shafik: “Yes.”
  - Rep. Bowman. “Okay.”
  - President Shafik: “To practice that sort and model that sort of behavior.”
  - Rep. Bowman: “And are those, are those events well attended by students with different points of view, coming together and having this dialogue?”
  - President Shafik: “That is happening more. I will be candid with you, that immediately after October 7th, the atmosphere was tense.”
  - Rep. Bowman: “It was very hard; it was very hard.”
  - President Shafik: “But that's changing, and I'm doing it myself personally in my listening sessions with students from both sides of the issues, and again those have been very emotional. I've had students in tears in those sessions.”
- Representative Jamaal Bowman (D-NY): “How are we also fighting other forms of hate including Islamophobia at the University, which I've heard is happening also at the University as well? Can you two quickly respond to that?”
  - Board Co-Chair Shipman: “We -have we're- listening to all of our students. All hate is just should not be welcome at Columbia. I've personally met with a large number of Jewish students and a lot of our Muslim students from the region who do feel stressed and scared, scared about walking to class. I mean we have to listen, and we have to allow for political debate, as Professor Schizer said. That's a bedrock of our democracy. I spent five years living in the Soviet Union. I can tell you; you don't want no political debate. You don't want the result of that, but we can't let political debate cross into hate. We have a special job as an educational institution.”
  - Rep. Bowman: “Uh-huh, absolutely. Mr. Greenwald.”
  - Board Co-Chair Greenwald: “All hate is abhorrent. Further, the lesson that we're learning coming out of the task force, those principles will be applicable not just to antisemitism but to other forms of hate as well.”
- Representative Jamaal Bowman (NY-16): “Madam President, can you respond -to there was a so-called chemical attack on campus at one point, targeting so called pro-Palestinian students. -Can you quickly respond to that?”
  - President Shafik: “It appears to have been an odorous substance that was sprayed on demonstrators. The individuals involved have been suspended from Columbia.”
- Representative Michelle Steel (R-CA): “For over two decades, Columbia's Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies Department has been extremely hostile to Israel and Jewish students. Professor Joseph Massad, who vocally praised Hamas; Professor Hamid Dabashi, who has made numerous antisemitic remarks, including that Israelis have a vulgarity of character and that it's bone deep and structured to the skeletal, you know, I can't even pronounce, vertebrae of its culture. And Rashid Khalidi, a professor of your university now and former PLO spokesperson, called Columbia Antisemitism Task Force ‘bigots and fanatics and right wingers and extremists.’ This is all on the record. Do you think this kind of conduct is appropriate and acceptable, and what university -took what- kind of action that you took after these professors were talking like this? Yes.”

- President Shafik: “Congresswoman Steel, thank you for that question. Before I answer it, I know Representative Hayes asked me to confirm in writing about ongoing investigations of some of the faculty that you've described. So, I just wanted to confirm now that both Professors Massad and Franke are currently under investigation for discriminatory remarks. So I just wanted to put that on the record for this occasion. On the broader point that you raise, what I would say is that –”
  - Rep. Steel. Just before you go to that, how about the other two professors?
  - President Shafik: “I'm going to come to that.”
  - Rep. Steel: “So, all three of them?”
  - President Shafik: “Sorry. Which ones are you referring to?”
  - Rep. Steel. So, it's Professor Joseph Massad.
  - President Shafik: “Yes.”
  - Rep. Steel: “And Professor Hamid Kabashi and you hired Rashid Khalidi, professor of your university, the former PLO spokesperson.”
  - President Shafik: “We don't have any ongoing complaints around those other two professors. But what I would say is since I have been in this role, which I'm just entering my ninth month, we have put in place mechanisms so that if faculty cross the line in terms of any harassing or discriminatory behavior, there will be consequences. We can remove people from leadership roles. We can, we can -discipline you know, we can remove them from the classroom. We can in some cases -have removed- them from Columbia altogether, and we have several cases like that. So, we are making sure that going forward, faculty who cross the line and discriminate or harass students on any issue -will there- will be consequences.”
- Representative Ilhan Omar (D-MI): “And before I run out of time, I wanted to ask what, what do your rules say about professors that harass students online, like Professor Shai Davidai has done and professors who directly attack you as the president, as a coward and a liar?”
  - President Shafik: “So as president, I'm used to being attacked. But attacking our students is unacceptable, and in that case, we've had more than 50 complaints about that professor, and he's currently under investigation.”
  - Rep. Omar: “Okay.”
  - President Shafik: “For harassment and intimidation.”
- Representative Kevin Kiley (R-NY): “Okay. Well, I want to close my questioning by giving you an opportunity to address some of the students who are here, because we have some really courageous students who have come, who have testified, who have met with our committee, who were at our press conference this morning. Many of -them many of them couldn't get into the room because it was too small. They've told harrowing stories of what they've- endured on your campus, and they say that the response of your administration has been inadequate, has been insufficient. So, are they wrong? I mean what would you say to these students?”
  - President Shafik: “I have met with these students myself. In fact, I've met many of the students who are in this room, and we have talked about it. I think I have assured them that there are times when I have been very frustrated with the policies and capacity that we have at Columbia to respond to this. But I have been working tirelessly to fix those problems and improve our response, and I think we can show concrete improvements in the way we've been handling antisemitism during my time.”
- Representative Aaron Bean (R-FL): “But the problem is, action on campus doesn't match your rhetoric today, and you're saying the right things. You're saying we're not going to tolerate it, but we see the videos. We see what's happening on social media, and just this morning all of these students, your students, your students, their message is quite different. Their message is one of fear. How about that? They can't walk across campus without getting the F word yelled at them, ‘F Jews,’ Intifada, all kinds of things. My hearts aches for them. It should be hard academically at Columbia, but it shouldn't be hard to walk across campus and it is. So, words don't match your actions. You can have 200 meetings. You can put people on double secret probation as you have. You can write very strongly worded letters, don't ever do it again. But that's not solving the problem. Look at the fear in their eyes right now. One of them said this morning in a press conference that we got to spend some time with that security on -campus are you ready for -this? Security- on campus told them “Remove anything that identifies you as Jewish when things get hot.” That's the way to stay safe on Columbia's campuses. Don't look Jewish and you'll be safe. Is that -what is that your policy, Madam President, to stay safe just don't- look Jewish?”
  - President Shafik: “Not at all, and I think –”

- Rep. Bean: “So, the -stuff have you met with them? I know you've met with them. I know you met with them two other times, but why is their message different from yours? Why are they saying it happens all the time every week going to class? Are you aware of that? It's a yes or no question. Are you aware that there's a problem on campus-? You're aware? Yes, is the right answer, you're aware. As president of the board Ms. Shipman, thank you for being here. Are you aware though that this once prestigious university's reputation is just going down the toilet, because of all of the antisemitism that's flourishing on campus. Are you aware?”
  - President Shafik: “I'm aware of how serious this moment is. I appreciate your urgency. We're not done. I recognize –”
  - Rep. Bean: “Have they quadrupled security on campus? Have we expelled students? How many students have we expelled?”
  - President Shafik: “We have massively increased our security.”
  - Rep. Bean: “Have we expelled anybody?”
- Representative Elise Stefanik (R-NY): “Dr. Shafik, you answered one of the questions of our colleagues across the aisle. You said there has been no anti-Jewish protests. Do the other individuals on the panel agree with that? Let's start with you, Professor Schizer?”
  - Antisemitism Task Force Co-Chair Schizer: “So, I think there have been antisemitic protests, so I would say yes.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “So, you disagree? There have been anti-Jewish protests. Ms. Shipman.”
  - Board Co-Chair Shipman: “I know there have been a number of incidents, especially one at our law school recently that the students were trying to call a protest, but it was an event to harass admitted students who were Jewish, and it's outrageous.”
  - Ms. Stefanik: “So that's anti-Jewish. So, the answer would be, yes?”
  - Board Co-Chair Shipman: “Yes.”
  - Rep. Stefanik. “And Mr. Greenwald?”
  - Board Co-Chair Greenwald: “There have been antisemitic events on campus, which I interpret as Anti-Jewish.”
  - Rep. Stefanik. “And Dr. Shafik, you realize that at some of these events, the slurs and the chants have been ‘F the Jews, F the Jews, F Israel. No safe place, death to the Zionist state. Jews out.’” You don't think those are anti-Jewish?”
  - President Shafik: “Completely anti-Jewish, completely unacceptable.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “So, you change your testimony on that issue as well? So, there have been anti-Jewish protests?”
  - President Shafik: “I didn't get to finish my sentence. So, what I was going to say is there were protests that were called that were.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “That's not what you were asked. You were asked were there any anti-Jewish protests, and you said no.”
  - President Shafik: “So, the protest was not labeled as an anti-Jewish protest.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “I'm not asking what it was labeled.”
  - President Shafik: “ -- and the Israeli government.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “The question was what it was labeled?”
  - President Shafik: “That incidents have been, or antisemitic things were said.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “It is anti-Jewish protest. You agree with that? You change your testimony?”
  - President Shafik: “Congresswoman, anti-Jewish things were said at protests, yes.”
- Representative Stefanik: “Thank you for changing your testimony. Another instance when you changed your testimony is you stated that Professor Massad was no longer chair. Then you stated he's under investigation. He is still chair on the website. So, has he been terminated as chair?”
  - President Shafik: “Congresswoman, I want to confirm the facts before getting back to you.
  - Rep. Stefanik: “I know you confirmed that he was under investigation.”
  - President Shafik: “Yes, I can confirm that.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “Did you confirm he was still the chair?”
  - President Shafik: “I need, I need to confirm that.”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “Well, let me ask you this. Will you make the commitment to remove him as chair?”
  - President Shafik: “I think that would -be I think I would, yes. Let me come back with yes. But I think I- just want to confirm his current status before I –”
  - Rep. Stefanik: “We'll take that as a yes, that you will confirm that he will no longer be chair.”

- Representative Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R-OR): “Joseph Massad has been surrounded by controversy for his antisemitic rhetoric since the early 2000's. He praised the brutal attack, as we've heard today of Hamas on October 7th as awesome, astonishing and astounding. He called the videos that showed murder and rape of Israeli women ‘stunning.’ Dr. Shafik, I've been to the towns attacked by Hamas. Let me tell you, there is nothing awesome or astounding about the rape and murder of thousands of innocent civilians. Dr. Shafik, Joseph Massad has been a problem for more than 20 years. Why haven't you shown that antisemitism is not tolerated at your university by firing him? I know you've commented on that already today. Does Columbia support this type of speech?”
  - President Shafik: “No, and as I said, he is under investigation. . .”
  - Rep. Chavez-DeRemer: “. . . And let -me excuse me. Dr. Massad is a tenured professor, but that doesn't mean he can't be fired; correct? -Can he be fired?”
  - President Shafik: “There are some very complex issues around tenure –“
  - Rep. Chavez DeRemer: “So, at Columbia University, ‘An appointment with tenure may be terminated for cause, only when a faculty member is found to be professionally unfit, as demonstrated, for example, by gross inefficiency, habitual and intentional neglect of duty, other serious breaches of academic conduct or serious personal misconduct.’ Dr. Shafik, you told Congressman Walberg earlier today that if given the opportunity to grant Dr. Massad a tenured position today, you would not. In your opinion, has his antisemitic conduct risen to be professionally unfit or a serious breach of academic conduct or serious professional misconduct?”
  - President Shafik: “As I said, he is being investigated.
  - Ms. Chavez DeRemer: “So, he can be fired, according to this quote.
  - President Shafik: “According to our rules, there are certain conditions under which tenured faculty –”
- Chairwoman Foxx: “President Shafik testified there have been 15 suspensions related to antisemitic incidents.”
- President Shafik: “Having clear and strong policies is important. Enforcing them is equally critical.”
- Trustee Greenwald’s Statement:
  - “Columbia has issued an Interim Demonstration Policy to allow students to express their views without endangering the safety or violating the rights of others. This policy limits demonstrations to only certain designated locations and requires groups to provide advance notice. Importantly, there will be, and have been, consequences for those who fail to abide by the new demonstration policy. The new time and place restrictions on protests and corresponding penalties for noncompliance appear to be reducing the number of events that violate University rules. Students are asking for more events that involve dialogue on the larger issues and can have more conversations with each other. And in the cases where violations occur, we are seeing faster-paced discipline.”
- To *The Washington Post*, a former senior administrator described the University’s testimony: “It was a capitulation to a committee that was out to condemn universities.”
- A University official said voluminous document requests from the committee had included information about individual employees.
- At 11:00 AM the University’s first deadline for the dispersal of the encampment passed and nothing happened.<sup>511</sup>
- Around 12:00 PM, Barnard administrators informed students that they could face academic sanctions if they did not leave the area.<sup>512</sup>
- At 12:30 PM interview with organizer and Barnard student: “We’ve been here for over eight hours at this point. And everybody was really concerned about an immediate sweep. And we have successfully bypassed that, I would say. We have not been threatened with arrest, only disciplinary action, which was supposed to occur, actually, yes. At 11 a.m. Yes, there was some talk that there was supposed to be sprinklers going off, and that they wanted us off the lawn by 11 a.m. They did express this and hand out disciplinary warnings. However, it is what, 12:30? And we are all still here. Public Safety is not even pressuring. It seems very calm. And I think that we’ll be able to make it throughout the rest of the day.”<sup>513</sup>

<sup>511</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'." Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide." Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>512</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>513</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

- Around 1:45 PM, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce hearing ended.<sup>514</sup>
- Around 2:00 PM, there was concern regarding a potential NYPD sweep prompting students to surround the South Lawn. Students gathered by the Sundial to hear speakers and learn protest songs.<sup>515</sup>
- Counterprotesters appeared intermittently with Israeli flags.<sup>516</sup>
- Around 4:00 PM, members of the University Senate’s Executive Committee held an emergency in-person meeting and discussed a request they had received from the Administration to bring in NYPD to end the encampment and arrest the protestors. Columbia’s governing rules (specifically, Statute 444.f) requires “consultation” with the executive committee before the Administration brings NYPD to campus. The Statute does, however, preserve the President’s “emergency authority” to call NYPD “to protect persons or property.”<sup>517</sup>
- At 4:30 PM President Shafik met with her Council of Deans remotely via Zoom. People familiar with the meeting said President Shafik informed the council of the Administration’s plan to call NYPD onto campus if the students refused to yield and did not solicit advice or seek approval from the deans.<sup>518</sup>
  - According to *The Washington Post*, one source who participated in the Zoom told them that some of the deans warned Shafik about the consequences of police action and asked her to consider the damage done to the university’s reputation in 1968. The source stated “this was not a conversation to explore options. When some tried, it was clear the decision had already been made.”
  - A University official rejected this characterization of the meeting, saying President Shafik continued to consider alternatives throughout the day as Columbia gave students more time to disband, ultimately enlisting police the next morning.
  - According to President Shafik, she consulted with the Council of Deans and received no objection from the council about the University requesting NYPD.
- At 5:30 PM #EndJewHatred protestors gathered outside campus at 116 Street and Broadway in support of Professor Davidai and called on President Shafik to resign for insufficiently protecting Jewish students.<sup>519</sup>
- The NYPD arrested several pro-Palestinian protestors at a “Flood Columbia for Gaza” demonstration outside campus at 116 Street and Broadway. The NYPD made its first arrest at 6:49 PM.<sup>520</sup>
- At 7:00 PM, Barnard Dean Grinage began passing out two letters to students in the encampment. One detailed the disciplinary measures to be taken by Barnard, the other by Columbia. Both warned that, if students did not evacuate the premises before 9:00 PM, they would be suspended, pending investigation. While the Barnard notice identified on which grounds students could potentially be tried—disorderly conduct, disruptive behavior, and failure to comply—the Columbia-specific letter provided no such information. It alleged that participants would be investigated for “violation of multiple University policies,” but did not disclose which. The energy in and around the encampment after the letter distribution was highly charged. People seemed upset about the content of the letters not being specific enough or telling protestors why they were violating rules. According to a member of the Senate who was told the information on a phone call, the University said it would forgive anyone who left the encampment before 9:00 PM.<sup>521</sup>
  - Dean Grinage interaction with students as she distributed the letters: [Grinage]: There is a—there’s a full process. If we, if we go through this process, right.[Protester 1]: Actually no process that has suspending students with no due process, no trial, no hearing, no evidence provided against them, claiming that they’re a threat to the safety of this campus. [Grinage]: There is a full student conduct code. It’s available on our website. So I would encourage everyone to read it and it has the process— [Protester 1]: We have, but I’m confused why you can’t actually explain what here is a violation of that conduct code. [Grinage]: I’m

<sup>514</sup> *Columbia in Crisis: Columbia University’s Response to Antisemitism*.

<sup>515</sup> Walton and Cordoba, “33 Hours in the ‘Liberated Zone’.”

<sup>516</sup> Walton and Cordoba, “33 Hours in the ‘Liberated Zone’.”

<sup>517</sup> Jeanine D’Armiento, April 17, 2024.

Columbia University, Short Charters and Statutes.

<sup>518</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, “‘Bunker mentality’ at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide.”

Shafik, interview.

<sup>519</sup> Isha Banerjee and Apurva Chakravarthy, “‘You have failed your Jewish students’: #EndJewHatred holds rally in support of Shai Davidai, calls for Shafik’s resignation,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 19, 2024.

Banerjee and Chakravarthy, “‘You have failed your Jewish students’: #EndJewHatred holds rally in support of Shai Davidai, calls for Shafik’s resignation.”

<sup>520</sup> Apurva Chakravarthy et al., “NYPD arrests three pro-Palestinian protestors at ‘Flood Columbia for Gaza’ demonstration on 116th Street and Broadway,” April 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/main/2024/04/17/nypd-arrests-pro-palestinian-protester-at-flood-columbia-for-gaza-demonstration-on-116th-street-and-broadway/>.

Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>521</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

Walton and Cordoba, “33 Hours in the ‘Liberated Zone’.”

Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

explaining everything in the letter. [Protester 1]: No, you're not. [Protester 2]: You say multiple college policies. Could you list one of those college policies for me?[Grinage]: They're all listed in the letter. So I'm gonna go ahead and keep giving out the letter actually.[Protester 2]: They're not listed in the letter.[Grinage]: They are.

- With counterprotesters present and the 9:00 PM suspension deadline approaching, tensions grew higher. Massive police presence heightened fears of a sweep. A crowd gathered and linked arms to protect the encampment.<sup>522</sup>
- Around 8:00 PM, the University Senate Executive Committee responded to the University's request to bring NYPD to arrest the protestors by email, writing that: "We just had a special meeting of the Executive Committee's Faculty and Student Members to consider the best course of action in response to the protest now taking place on campus. To the extent that our policies are being violated, they should be enforced. However, we, the Executive Committee of the University Senate, call on the University to engage in good faith dialogue to end the protest peacefully with all deliberate speed, and we do not approve the presence of NYPD on our campus at this time."<sup>523</sup>
- Around 8:50 PM, encampment leaders informed other protestors in the encampment that the University had only promised amnesty until 9:00 PM. Protestors remained in the encampment.<sup>524</sup>
- At 9:00 PM, the University's second deadline for dispersal passed and nothing happened.<sup>525</sup>
- At 9:04 PM, there was no administrative announcement from the University. Students continued to link arms in a circle around the encampment to protect the student protestors.<sup>526</sup>
- University officials spoke with NYPD representatives that evening and asked to talk with NYPD again in the morning.<sup>527</sup>
- At 11:23 PM, the NYPD arrested two more pro-Palestinian protestors at a "Flood Columbia for Gaza" demonstration outside campus on 116th Street and Broadway.<sup>528</sup>

#### April 18, 2024:

- At 8:30 AM President Shafik held another Zoom meeting with Deans to discuss how to respond to the encampment.<sup>529</sup>
- Senior staff for New York Mayor Eric Adams agreed on an internal call that Columbia University leaders would have to put any request for police intervention in writing, according to a city official on the call. The goal, the official said, was to make clear that "we didn't make this decision."<sup>530</sup>
- At 10:21 AM Barnard informed three students, that they had received interim suspensions and would be evicted from their housing. Suspended students were not able to access campus, including residence buildings and dining halls, and were told they only had 15 minutes to gather their belongings in an email from Barnard Dean Grinage.<sup>531</sup>
  - One of the suspended and evicted Barnard students response after learning of their suspension/eviction: "We don't know if we can go to our classrooms, we don't know if we can go home. But we will not be leaving, we will not be backing down. ... This is the least that we could do to stay here and hold it down for the people in Gaza. Thank you all so much for being here. It means a lot and we really need you to stay."
- Members of the press told *Spectator* they witnessed journalists climb fences, weave through unguarded buildings, and locate unbarricaded entry points to get on campus so that they could cover events on the locked-down campus.<sup>532</sup>
- At 10:30 AM President Shafik formally requested the help of the NYPD to remove the protestors and authorized NYPD presence on campus in a letter to the NYPD. Shafik argued that "the encampment and related disruptions pose a clear and present danger to the substantial functioning of the University." Shafik wrote in the letter that all University students remaining on the lawns were suspended, though students were not formally notified of their suspensions until

<sup>522</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>523</sup> D'Armiento.

<sup>524</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>525</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>526</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>527</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>528</sup> Chakravarthy et al., "NYPD arrests three pro-Palestinian protestors at 'Flood Columbia for Gaza' demonstration on 116th Street and Broadway."

Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>529</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

Shafik, interview.

<sup>530</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>531</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>532</sup> Amira Mckee and Joseph Zuloaga, "How the press covered Columbia's protests under lockdown," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 10, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/10/how-the-press-covered-columbias-protests-under-lockdown/>.

after their arrests. Some suspended students received formal notice later in the day and some did not find out until April 19. Shafik consulted the University Senate's Executive Committee on April 17, 2024 prior to her decision, but did not receive their approval to bring the NYPD. According to *The Washington Post*, the decision to enlist NYPD was made with "a handful of high-level advisers" alongside Shafik.<sup>533</sup>

- A picket line formed surrounding the encampment.<sup>534</sup>
- NYPD officers in riot gear entered campus through a previously blocked-off entrance next to John Jay Hall.<sup>535</sup>
- The linked arms of the picket line broke upon the NYPD's arrival, allowing the officers to enter through the southeast corner of the lawn.<sup>536</sup>
- NYPD opened up tents and looked inside for any additional protestors. Officers surrounded the encampment.<sup>537</sup>
- Around 1:20 PM, the NYPD announced to the students in the encampment that they would be placed under arrest: "since you have refused to disperse, you will now be placed under arrest for trespassing. If you resist arrest you may face additional charges."<sup>538</sup>
- Hundreds of Columbia students watched from behind the fenced perimeter as protesters sat in two concentric circles, arms linked. In the outside circle, protesters faced the crowd, media, and police; on the inside, shielded from view, protesters faced each other, singing and crying together. Arrested protesters told journalists that the formation was intentionally stratified. Those sitting in the outer circle were mostly white or deemed themselves to have "greater privilege." Protesters who opted for the inner circle considered themselves to be at greater risk—people of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities.<sup>539</sup>
- At 1:26 PM, NYPD officers gathered and headed toward the circle of protestors to commence arrests and arrested students one by one. Police gave each of the sitting protesters a tap on the shoulder, signaling it was their time to stand up and put their hands behind their back. It was a strangely slow process, giving the protesters time to sing part of a song, barely audible amidst the yells and chants of spectators in protest of the arrests.<sup>540</sup>
- At 1:30 PM, NYPD arrested two law student members of the National Lawyers Guild, who were there as legal observers. National Lawyers Guild Legal Observers—founded as a response to the 1968 mass arrest of Columbia protesters—were identifiable by their lime green hats and took notes while spectating the encampment. These charges were quickly dropped after pressure from University lawyers, according to people familiar with the process.<sup>541</sup>
- Crowd response to arrests: "Onlookers—many of whom were witnessing the apprehension of people they knew personally—were deeply emotional during the arrests, wiping away tears, screaming in rage, or staring ahead intently. A protester screams, "Why are you arresting? Why are you arresting?" and erupts into tears, doubling over and holding onto a lamppost to keep her propped up."<sup>542</sup>
- After protestors were removed from the encampment, they were placed into correctional buses to One Police Plaza.<sup>543</sup>

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<sup>533</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Minouche Shafik, "Letter to NYPD," (Columbia University Public Safety, April 18, 2024). <https://publicsafety.columbia.edu/content/letter-nypd>.

Sarah Huddleston, "Columbia begins to suspend students in 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment,' University spokesperson says," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/29/columbia-begins-to-suspend-students-in-gaza-solidarity-encampment-university-spokesperson-says/>.

Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia's surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."

<sup>534</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>535</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>536</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>537</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>538</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>539</sup> Ann Vettikkal, "The Stakes of Solidarity: What Low-Income Students Risked the Day of Columbia's April 18 Mass Arrests," *The Eye*, May 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/the-eye/2024/05/03/the-stakes-of-solidarity-what-low-income-students-risked-the-day-of-columbias-mass-arrests/>.

<sup>540</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

Vettikkal, "The Stakes of Solidarity: What Low-Income Students Risked the Day of Columbia's April 18 Mass Arrests."

<sup>541</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

Vettikkal, "The Stakes of Solidarity: What Low-Income Students Risked the Day of Columbia's April 18 Mass Arrests."

<sup>542</sup> Walton and Cordoba, "33 Hours in the 'Liberated Zone'."

<sup>543</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Maya Stahl, Sarah Huddleston, and Shea Vance, "Shafik authorizes NYPD to sweep 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment,'" *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 18, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/18/shafik-authorizes-nypd-to-sweep-gaza-solidarity-encampment-officers-in-riot-gear-arrest-over-100/>.

Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."



- NYPD arrested 108 students in the first Gaza Solidarity Encampment 33 hours after the encampment was launched. These charges would later be dropped. Of the 108 students arrested for participating in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment,” 55 were Barnard students, all of whom were placed on interim suspension and those that lived on campus were evicted from their housing and given 15 minutes to remove all of their items from their dorm rooms under supervision of a Community Accountability, Response, and Emergency Services (CARES) officer. At Barnard, desk attendants received printed papers to identify suspended students with photos, ID numbers, student emails, personal phone numbers, dorm room numbers, ages, class years, class schedules, and numbers of “incidents” cited in Barnard’s Simplicity Advocate Conduct records, according to three such documents reviewed by *Spectator*. Columbia students involved in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” were not evicted from their housing.<sup>544</sup>
- After the arrests on the east side of South Lawn, students hopped the fence and flooded the west side, establishing the second iteration of the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ while NYPD and Public Safety officers cleared the items remaining in the first encampment. Speakers, including Union Theological Seminary Professor Cornel West and Palestinian journalist and writer Mohammed El-Kurd, addressed the new group of demonstrators. Several professors went to South Lawn in an attempt to negotiate measures with administrators to preserve students’ personal.<sup>545</sup>
- A handful of students arrived on the west side of South Lawn to counterprotest with large American and Israeli flags. At one point, they sang the “Star-Spangled Banner” as the remaining demonstrators gathered on the west side of South Lawn.<sup>546</sup>
- Kimberly Springer, curator for oral history for the Oral History Archives at the Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBML) said there was “talk in the hallways of RBML” that day about making sure that materials from the encampment were not thrown out following the arrests.<sup>547</sup>
- At 3:00 PM President Shafik, Provost Olinto, COO Holloway, General Counsel Rosan, Chief of Staff to the President Glancy, and deans met to discuss the encampment.<sup>548</sup>
- From 3:30 PM – 5:25 PM Pro-Palestinian protestors rallied outside the 116th Street and Broadway gates off-campus.<sup>549</sup>
  - One protestor was detained by the NYPD after he allegedly assaulted Yoseph Haddad, an Arab-Israeli journalist. Haddad was scheduled to speak to SSI on campus at 6:00 PM.
  - Video shows a man in a red keffiyeh push and punch Yoseph Haddad. Video evidence reviewed by *Spectator* appeared to show that a different individual assaulted Haddad than the one who was detained by NYPD.
- In a press conference later in the day, New York City Mayor Eric Adams confirmed the 108 NYPD arrests.<sup>550</sup>
- In a press conference later in the day, NYPD Chief of Patrol John Chell described the students who were arrested as “peaceful” and said they “offered no resistance whatsoever.”<sup>551</sup>
- 54 Law School faculty signed onto a letter to top administrators and the Board of Trustees speaking out against President Shafik’s decision to bring the NYPD onto campus. In the letter, faculty questioned the decision-making process of top administrators and asked for transparency: “While we as a faculty disagree about the relevant political issues and express no opinion on the merits of the protest, we are writing to urge respect for basic rule-of-law values that ought to govern our University. . . Procedural irregularity, a lack of transparency about the University’s decision-

<sup>544</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’."

Stahl, Huddleston, and Vance, "Shafik authorizes NYPD to sweep ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment.’"

Stanley-Becker and Svruga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

Noah Bernstein, "House committee publishes previously undisclosed details about student disciplinary proceedings," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 21, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/21/house-committee-publishes-previously-undisclosed-details-about-student-disciplinary-proceedings/>.

Stahl, "One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president’s controversial tenure so far."

Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."

<sup>545</sup> Ariel Yu, Avian Muñoz, and Gelila Negesse, "'Unnecessary escalation of turmoil': Students, faculty, alumni react after Shafik authorizes NYPD sweep," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/29/unnecessary-escalation-of-turmoil-students-faculty-alumni-react-after-shafik-authorizes-nypd-sweep/>.

Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>546</sup> Yu, Muñoz, and Negesse, "'Unnecessary escalation of turmoil': Students, faculty, alumni react after Shafik authorizes NYPD sweep."

<sup>547</sup> Jesse Levine, "A Columbia archivist took art from the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment.’ Students are demanding space to archive their movement in return.," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/26/a-columbia-archivist-took-art-from-the-gaza-solidarity-encampment-students-are-demanding-space-to-archive-their-movement-in-return/>.

<sup>548</sup> Shafik, interview.

<sup>549</sup> Isha Banerjee, Apurva Chakravarthy, and Miranda Lu, "Protests outside Columbia gates in solidarity with arrested students draw hundreds," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 18, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/18/protests-outside-columbia-gates-in-solidarity-with-arrested-students-draw-hundreds/>.

<sup>550</sup> Amira Mckee and Isha Banerjee, "Adams, NYPD announce over 108 arrests during ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ sweep," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 18, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/city-news/2024/04/18/adams-nypd-announce-over-108-arrests-during-gaza-solidarity-encampment-sweep/>.

<sup>551</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’."

making, and the extraordinary involvement of the NYPD all threaten the University's legitimacy within its own community and beyond its gates. . . We urge the University to conform student discipline to clear and well-established procedures that respect the rule of law."<sup>552</sup>

- By the evening, President Shafik felt she had taken an extraordinary step by calling in NYPD and wanted to adopt a less confrontational approach to ease campus tensions, according to a senior administrator.<sup>553</sup>

#### April 19, 2024:

- After being held overnight at NYPD headquarters, individuals arrested who participated in the first encampment were released from custody and issued summonses.<sup>554</sup>
- The University began sending formal notifications of interim suspensions through CSSI to the students that participated in the April 17, 2024 encampment, charging them with disruptive behavior, violation of law, violation of University policy, failure to comply, vandalism/damage to property, and unauthorized access or egress. Suspended students were barred from entering campus and from academic and extracurricular activities. CU students retained access to housing and dining. Barnard College students lost access to housing and dining.<sup>555</sup>
  - The suspension notice stated:
    - “Student Conduct received a report dated April 17, 2024 alleging that you engaged in misconduct.”
    - “Specifically, it is alleged that you participated in disruptive behavior by participating in an unapproved encampment on South Lawn and that you failed to comply with the legitimate request of University officials to disperse. It was also reported that you were arrested on April 18 by the New York City Police Department for trespassing.”
    - “Please note that during the Dean’s Discipline process, the Hearing Officers reserve the right to add or modify the charge(s) based on information gathered throughout the investigation (including, but not limited to, possible charges of Harassment and/or violation of the Columbia University Non-Discrimination Statement (Standards and Discipline, pp. 4-9) to more appropriately reflect the nature of the incident.”
    - “Interim Actions effective immediately. Due to the seriousness of this/these alleged violation(s) and consistent with the written notice all participants in the South Lawn encampment received, you are interim suspended from Columbia University, effective immediately and until further notice.”
    - “During this interim suspension, effective immediately: 1) You are restricted from all Columbia University campuses, facilities and property, including but not limited to all academic and recreational spaces. If you live in University housing, you will be permitted to remain and to access your personal accommodations but may not access common spaces. If you do not live on campus, you are not permitted to enter campus at all and there are no exceptions. If you have a University dining plan, alternate arrangements will be coordinated. Your CUID will be deactivated other than to allow you to enter your University housing. 2) You are ineligible to participate in any Columbia University classes and academic or extracurricular activities. You are not permitted to participate in classes or exams in-person or remotely or otherwise submit assignments or engage in any activities affiliated with Columbia University. 3) If you need to conduct any official business on Columbia University property, you must notify the Department of Public Safety . . . 4) If you are found on Columbia University property other than your campus housing/dining as described in (1) above, you will lose access to Columbia housing and face further disciplinary action.”
    - “You may request a prompt and reasonable review of the need for and terms of any interim measure of accommodation that directly affects you and you may submit evidence in support of this request. All requests for review must be submitted online via the following form and addressed to the Center for Student Success and Intervention.”

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<sup>552</sup> Chris Mendell, "Fifty-four Law School faculty send letter to senior administrators, trustees urging transparency," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/23/fifty-four-law-school-faculty-send-letter-to-senior-administrators-trustees-urging-transparency/>.

<sup>553</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>554</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>555</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of 'Tedeschi Rights'." Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Maya Stahl, "Barnard suspends and evicts at least 53 students, outlines steps for 'amnesty'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/23/barnard-suspends-and-evicts-at-least-53-students-outlines-steps-for-amnesty/>.

Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia's surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."

Center for Student Success and Intervention, "Notification of Suspension," (April 19, 2024).

- “Our office will be in touch with you to coordinate scheduling a hearing. . . Please note you are required to attend this hearing. The hearing is an opportunity for you to learn about and respond to information, which supports the above accusation(s), and for you to present information on your behalf.”
- Five arrested and suspended Barnard students who spoke to *Spectator* said that they were not formally notified of their suspension until April 19, 2024 the day after their arrest. These students had already returned to their dorm room when they received an email notifying them of their suspension and ID deactivation.
- 5:00 PM: one student notified of his suspension via email. “I could see all of my friends being slowly suspended one by one, and I knew that my time was going to come at some point and it was only a matter of hours.”
- A Barnard student who spoke to *Spectator* said they wrote to Dean Grinage asking if she had safe housing accommodations after they were suspended and evicted for participation in the first encampment. In her response, Grinage did not offer a safe housing accommodation in New York City: “Please let me know if we can help book a flight for you to return to Georgia, which I see as the state listed in your permanent address, or help arrange travel to another safe location.”
- Another arrested and suspended Barnard student, who spoke to *Spectator*, fractured her wrist as she was being arrested at the encampment. “I was amongst multiple students whose zip ties were too tight. From what the police said, there’s supposed to be one finger between your wrist and the zip tie when they tie them. . . At first that was not accomplished and, you know, I felt pain and kind of cried out when they first zip tied me. So then, while the ties were redone for multiple students, unfortunately mine were still rather tight.” The student was notified of her suspension the morning following her arrest. She lost her on-campus housing because she needed to leave her residence to seek off-campus medical care due to her injury. She said that “it was a hard decision to choose between maintaining my housing or going to the doctor’s not being able to come back. . . I no longer have access to my housing and had to find other living arrangements.
- 10:00 AM amid outcry on social media over credentialed press members being denied campus access, the Journalism School extended an offer to facilitate campus entrance for journalists in a post on X: “Columbia Journalism School is committed to a free press. If you are a credentialed member of the media and have been denied access to campus, please send us a DM. We will facilitate access to campus.” Later that day, the Journalism School facilitated the entrance of 23 outlets including WNYC, Reuters, and the New York Times, along with additional credentialed independent journalists. Press access was limited from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Press were allowed only in the outdoor public spaces of campus and not inside buildings.<sup>556</sup>
- Thomas Kennedy, Law ’69, a student during the 1968 protests; Claudia De la Cruz, SSW ’07, UTS ’07, presidential nominee of the Party for Socialism and Liberation; and Norman Finkelstein, an American political scientist who is known for his writings on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, all gave speeches in the second encampment.<sup>557</sup>
- Negotiations:
  - Student senators sought to identify encampment leaders.
  - Two encampment representatives (ER) came forward.
  - Chair D’Armiento met with President Shafik for guidance on how to proceed.
  - President Shafik advised that an administration representative (AR) should meet with the students to identify their concerns and assess what it would take for the students to end the encampment.
  - Student senators sought to meet with President Shafik, but she was unable to that evening.
  - Provost Olinto tasked Columbia College Dean Josef Sorett and Journalism School Dean Jelani Cobb with coordinating negotiations with protesters.
  - ER met with AR for the first time in Low Library and presented a list of their demands.
  - All discussions and negotiations between April 19 – May 1 happened with faculty and student Senators present as observers. There was not a single meeting without impartial Senate observers present.
  - AR proposed negotiations with two representatives from the University including a dean and administrator.
  - AR requested tents not be erected on the lawn.
  - ER claimed that students were being stopped at entrances to campus for bag searches and were not being allowed to bring blankets and sleeping equipment into campus. ER stated that they would be putting up more

<sup>556</sup> @columbiajourn, X, April 19, 2024.

McKee and Zuloaga, "How the press covered Columbia's protests under lockdown."

<sup>557</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

- tents if their demands were not met.
- AR said they would find more information out about the blanket and bag-checking situation. ER agreed to not put up tents as a gesture of goodwill.
  - ER was told by AR that they could meet with President Shafik the next day. The students declined, fearing that this could become more a photo op than “sincere negotiations.”
  - A business school professor, Geoff Heal, who specializes in environmental economics, was asked by the Administration to explain the complexities of divestment to the protesters, according to a person familiar with the discussions.<sup>558</sup>
  - At night, student senators heard from ER that although they had been told to refrain from putting up tents, the weather was bad. ER requested Administration allow them to erect tents.
    - AR granted protestors the site temporarily earlier in the day, so long as no tents were put up.
    - At this point, protestors were sitting on blankets on South Lawn and had not re-erected tents.
    - Protestors blankets and sleeping bags were being removed at the campus entrance. Protestors told student senators that without blankets and given the weather conditions, they would have to erect tents.
    - After four hours of discussion, around 2:30 AM COO Holloway agreed to allow blankets into campus.
    - ER responded that they no longer needed them and “could tolerate a bit of rain when people in Gaza were surviving bombings.” ER also said that if progress was not made in negotiations, they would put up tents the next day.
  - Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) Executive Board sent an open letter to President Shafik, condemning the arrest of the student protestors. The letter argued that her decision to involve law enforcement reflected her “willingness to punish students for practicing the values they have learned and celebrated at this institution: freedom of speech and expression, academic freedom, commitment to discourse, and bravery in the face of repression.”<sup>559</sup>
  - The Columbia Jewish Alumni Association wrote an open letter to President Shafik, calling on her to “immediately take all possible steps to protect student safety”<sup>560</sup>
  - Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine called for an “academic boycott of all events,” including Commencement, until their demands were met: a halt on all student disciplinary proceedings and the removal of NYPD from campus.<sup>561</sup>
  - AAUP President Irene Mulvey released a statement in which she sharply denounced Shafik’s testimony and authorization of the NYPD sweep: “While one can sympathize with the fact that the hearing was a set-up from the get-go and intended to generate sound bites and clickbait to serve a political agenda, any university president worth their salt (and salary) should stand unequivocally for free and open inquiry, especially when topics are controversial and polarizing, and debates are heated and messy.” Mulvaney added that Shafik’s actions violated the standards of the AAUP’s Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students, which defends students’ First Amendment rights to free speech, assembly, and petition and acknowledges “the obligations that accrue to them by virtue” of belonging to an academic community”<sup>562</sup>
  - The Barnard and Columbia chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) issued a declaration condemning “in the strongest possible terms the Administration’s suspension of students engaged in peaceful protest and their arrest by the NYPD.”<sup>563</sup>
    - The declaration demanded all Barnard and Columbia “suspensions and charges be dismissed immediately and expunged from the students’ records and that all rights and privileges be restored to them immediately.”
    - The chapter also wrote that the schools should not pursue disciplinary action against students involved in pro-Palestinian activism “without due process” and “that no police be permitted on campus without serious consultation with the Executive Committee of the University Senate. . . These acts violate the letter and spirit of the University Statutes, shared governance, students’ rights, and the University’s absolute obligation to

<sup>558</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, “‘Bunker mentality’ at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide.”

<sup>559</sup> Oscar Noxon, “CCSC executive board issues open letter condemning Shafik’s authorization of NYPD ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ sweep,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 20, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/20/ccsc-executive-board-issues-open-letter-condemning-shafiks-authorization-of-nypd-gaza-solidarity-encampment-sweep/>.

<sup>560</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>561</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>562</sup> Maya Stahl, “Barnard and Columbia AAUP chapter issues declaration condemning student suspensions, authorization of NYPD sweep ‘in the strongest possible terms’,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 20 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/20/barnard-and-columbia-aaup-chapter-issues-declaration-condemning-student-suspensions-authorization-of-nypd-sweep-in-the-strongest-possible-terms/>.

<sup>563</sup> Stahl, “Barnard and Columbia AAUP chapter issues declaration condemning student suspensions, authorization of NYPD sweep ‘in the strongest possible terms’.”

- defend students’ freedom of speech and to ensure their safety.”
- “Israel Current Events” chat:<sup>564</sup>
  - In the chat, started on October 12, 2023, discussion of how Mayor Adams was handling the Columbia protests and how group members could help took off after student protestors established the second encampment.
  - Daniel Lubetzky, founder of the Kind snack company, posted in the chat. Lubetzky shared a link to an Instagram video showing an Israeli Arab journalist getting hit by a man the video caption claims is an “anti-Israel protestor.”
  - After this message, businessman Len Blavatnik posted a picture of Mayor Adams and wrote: “He needs help.”
  - Real estate investor Joseph Sitt responded that he had already “been helping but can use more support.” Sitt asked if others were “open to giving” to Adams.”
  - Yakir Gabay, Cypriot-Israeli real estate businessman, replied: “Pls send the info. Thanks.”
  - Then Len Blavatnik posted an ActBlue link allowing donations to the Eric Adams 2025 committee.
  - Daniel Lubetzky messaged: “if there is a group to contribute through, or a way to ensure our contributions are known to be related to his efforts to fight antisemitism and hate, pls let us know and I will support meaningfully alongside you guys.”
  - Joseph Sitt replied that he was arranging a “code” for such donations.
  - Vitto Pitta, counsel to Mayor Adam’s 2025 campaign was asked about this message and said “there is no ‘special code’ for contributions.”
  - The discussion in the chat turned to the fact that Columbia had to grant Mayor Adams permission before he could send city police to the campus.
  - One member asked if the group could do anything to pressure Columbia trustees to cooperate with the mayor.
  - In reply, former congressman Ted Deutch (D-Fla.), CEO of the American Jewish Committee, shared a PDF of a letter his organization had sent that day to President Shafik calling on her to “shut these protests down.”
  - Deutch added: “Also, in touch with the board. So NYPD can return.”
- The student from the January 9, 2024 CSSI hearing in which they said “Zionists don’t deserve to live” was placed on disciplinary probation after CSSI found them responsible for three prohibited behaviors. Under disciplinary probation, the student was permitted to continue attending class at Columbia barring additional violations of policy. The April 19, 2024 letter finalized and closed the investigation surrounding the December 2023 complaints, as well as the livestreaming of the January 9, 2024 disciplinary hearing.<sup>565</sup>

#### April 20, 2024:

- Negotiations:
  - There was a negotiation session scheduled for 3:00 PM, but it was cancelled by the Administration at the last minute.
  - ER had waited most of the day and was frustrated. Senate observers feared escalation.
  - AR called ER back to negotiations around 7:30 PM. AR provided short notice of this session.
  - ER and AR met, but did not discuss ER’s demands.
  - ER told AR that if there was no movement in negotiations, they would erect tents in the morning.
- Columbia’s admitted students weekend began. Students within the encampment organized a “People’s University Student Fair.” Some students handed out zines explaining “what Columbia is really about” to admitted students while others led “alternative tours” of the campus. Some admitted students interacted with the protestors and entered the second Gaza Solidarity encampment.<sup>566</sup>
- A counterprotest to the encampment occurred at the Sundial with Israeli flags and amplified music.<sup>567</sup>

<sup>564</sup> Natanson and Felton, “Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show.”

<sup>565</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, “Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’.”

<sup>566</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, “‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ enters day four as Columbia kicks off admitted students weekend,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/20/gaza-solidarity-encampment-enters-day-four-as-columbia-kicks-off-admitted-students-weekend/>.

<sup>567</sup> Jonathan Lederer, “At Columbia I Am Told: ‘Go Back to Poland’,” *The Free Press*, April 21, 2024, [https://www.thefp.com/p/at-columbia-i-am-told-go-back-to?hide\\_intro\\_popup=true](https://www.thefp.com/p/at-columbia-i-am-told-go-back-to?hide_intro_popup=true).

Rebecca Massel, “Non-affiliate protestor indicted for allegedly burning Israeli flag during April protest,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 10, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/10/non-affiliate-protester-indicted-for-allegedly-burning-israeli-flag-during-april-protest/>.

- Photos of an individual in front of the Sundial holding a sign “Al-Qasam’s Next Targets” with an arrow pointing to the counterprotests were posted online. Al-Qasam is the military wing of Hamas. It is unclear if this individual was an affiliate or nonaffiliate.
- After one individual took a student’s Israeli flag, another person appeared to attempt to burn the corner of it near the 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue gate on campus, according to video evidence reviewed by *Spectator*. While attempting to retrieve the flag, the student reported having an object thrown at his face during an altercation with protestors.
- As counterprotesting students were exiting campus from the 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue gates, there were calls from individuals off campus of “Yehudim [Jews], yehudi [Jew], fuck you,” “Stop killing children,” and “Go back to Poland, go back to Belarus,” according to a video reviewed by *Spectator*.<sup>568</sup>
- Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protestors gathered outside campus in front of the main entrance on 116th and Broadway. Police officers in riot gear stood nearby.<sup>569</sup>
- School of General Studies Gala held. Six pro-Palestinian students wearing keffiyehs reported to *Spectator* that they were verbally and physically harassed at the event. Two of the students reported assault and a police report was filed.<sup>570</sup>
  - The students said they wore keffiyehs to the gala to show solidarity with Gaza and with the 108 individuals who were arrested at the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” on April 18, 2024 and other suspended students who had attended pro-Palestinian events and protests.
  - Throughout the night, the six students said they were subject to name calling and intimidation and had their keffiyehs pulled off, among other forms of harassment.
  - After the gala, while waiting outside the venue to leave, two of these six students were allegedly verbally harassed before being kicked and punched by a group of five men.
  - Video obtained and reviewed by *Spectator* appears to show some of the alleged harassment students referenced.
  - In a video obtained by *Spectator*, a group of people can be seen walking through the halls of the venue toward the exit, singing and clapping to Hatikvah, the Israeli national anthem. They can be seen gesturing to an individual wearing a keffiyeh, who then began to chant “Viva, viva, Palestina” while holding a piece of paper in her hand. A man walking by attempted to rip the paper out of the woman’s hand, and another woman, who had been chanting the anthem with the crowd, intervened to separate the two, the video shows. One student said that after the chants, she went to find one of the associate deans in attendance to inform them about what happened. The incidents made her “scared to leave the venue alone,” and she waited to meet up with her friends before leaving.
  - As a result of the altercations, none of the affected students attended the gala’s afterparty. *Spectator* reported: “There was an obvious sentiment that we were not welcome at that after party and that it was a dangerous thing for us to attend.”

#### April 21, 2024:

- Admitted students weekend continued, with student organizers inviting admitted students to visit the encampment.<sup>571</sup>
- Student demonstrators re-erected tents at the Gaza Solidarity Encampment on South Lawn after sleeping on tarps for two nights.<sup>572</sup>
- A Columbia spokesperson told *Spectator* that the return of the tents had not been approved and students “will be identified and subjected to disciplinary action” for re-pitching tents.<sup>573</sup>

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Rebecca Massel, "Rabbi advises Jewish students to 'return home as soon as possible' following reports of 'extreme antisemitism' on and around campus," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 21, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/21/rabbi-advises-jewish-students-to-return-home-as-soon-as-possible-following-reports-of-extreme-antisemitism-on-and-around-campus/>.

Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>568</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>569</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' enters day four as Columbia kicks off admitted students weekend."

<sup>570</sup> Chris Mendell, "Six pro-Palestinian students report harassment, assault at General Studies Gala," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/03/six-pro-palestinian-students-report-harassment-assault-at-general-studies-gala/>.

Bwog Staff, "Live Updates: Gaza Solidarity Encampment Day Seven," *Bwog*, April 23, 2024, <https://bwog.com/2024/04/live-updates-gaza-solidarity-encampment-day-seven/>.

<sup>571</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>572</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>573</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

- Negotiations:<sup>574</sup>
  - Discussions began at 10:00 AM in Low 407.
  - ER and AR met, but there was not discussion of ER’s demands. Nothing conclusive or productive resulted.
  - Conversations centered around Administration’s concerns counterprotests would lead to violence.
  - ER informed AR that without progress regarding their demands, they would erect more tents.
  - SJP and CUAD posted that administrators were “fully aware” that they would erect more tents, given the lack of progress in negotiations.
- In the afternoon, Chair D’Armiento texted Vice President of Public Safety Gerald Lewis, asking him to come to the encampment to discuss several “incidents” and establish a channel of communication, noting that a student member of the University Senate was helping to facilitate the meeting.<sup>575</sup>
- At 4:25 PM a group of students emailed General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch, President Shafik, General Studies Dean Sarah Ede, General Studies Dean Katherine Strzalkowski, General Studies Student Body President, and cc’d 13 students: “Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC gala.” The students wrote: “Dear Administration and GSSC President, We are emailing to report very serious incidents of discriminatory anti-Arab/Islamophobic attacks and violations of student safety that took place at last night’s GS gala. Some of the attacks were documented by video, but much of our footage was filmed after the attacks had taken place. For this reason, our first request is that you contact the venue to recover video footage from all areas of the first floor and terrace, exterior of the building, and just outside the bathrooms in the basement as soon as possible. Last night at the GS Gala, most students who wore keffiyehs were verbally and physically harassed by other student attendees throughout the duration of the event. Students were called terrorists, addressed as the Hebrew word for “bitch,” or told to “go back to Gaza.” Some students had items ripped out of their hands, or their keffiyehs ripped off their bodies and thrown to the ground. In other instances, students were physically assaulted – grabbed, pushed, or kicked, or punched/ All of this at a private university sponsored event, provoked solely by the act of wearing keffiyehs. The event ended after dozens of students sang the Israeli national anthem, some of them while flipping off students wearing keffiyehs – which can be provocative and harmful to Palestinian or Arab students given the situation in Gaza – obstructing the main walkway out of the event. We believe that these attacks will be further enabled if the administration continues to refuse to defend the rights of students supporting Palestine. We request an immediate investigation of all of these incidents, as well as action on behalf of the administration to publicly denounce and prevent similar attacks from taking place. To help in your investigations, we have already done the work of compiling the Rules of University Conduct that have been violated by students and identifying as many students as possible from the footage we have (a list is attached). We also request a meeting with administrators as soon as possible to ensure that the correct route of action is being taken, and to seek support for students who are facing emotional distress due to last night’s actions. We await your response and due action.”
  - The students that reported being attacked also compiled a document with student testimonials and detailed information about specific University Conduct violations the students believed occurred at the gala that they attached to the email. Although the students asked to meet with the General Studies administration and requested a notice be sent out to the student body about the alleged attacks, this never occurred. General Studies Deans Lisa Rosen-Metsch, Dean Curtis Rodgers, Dean Marilyn Delva, and Dean Sean Trulby all responded at various points in the email thread before refusing to meet or discuss the matter further with the students or their parents. The Office of the President was cc’ed in the entire thread, but President Shafik claimed to have no knowledge of the event when she was interviewed for this report.<sup>576</sup>
- At 4:36 PM General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch responded re “Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC gala”: “Thank you, [redacted student], for reporting this and we will follow up immediately with this very concerning information. Please report this immediately to eoaa.columbia.edu and please share this with others who should report as well. I am cc:ing Amber Griffiths, Dean of Student Well-Being, and we will look to provide any support needed to students.”<sup>577</sup>
- At 5:30 PM [redacted student] responded to Dean Rosen-Metsch re “Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC gala” “Thank you for your quick response and support. The victims will report the

<sup>574</sup> Amira Mckee and Chris Mendell, “Students ‘will be identified and subjected to disciplinary action’ for re-pitching ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ tents, Columbia spokesperson says,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 21, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/21/students-will-be-identified-and-subjected-to-disciplinary-action-for-re-pitching-gaza-solidarity-encampment-tents-spokesperson-says/>.

Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>575</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>576</sup> Redacted Students, April 21, 2024.

Shafik, interview.

<sup>577</sup> Lisa Rosen-Metsch, April 21, 2024.

incidents and all pertinent footage as soon as possible. In the meantime, have the administration/student council reached out to the venue to recover video footage? Surveillance footage often expires, and we would appreciate your help to secure any evidence as soon as possible. Thank you again, Affected Students”<sup>578</sup>

- Three individuals entered the encampment and a “human chain” was formed to force the individuals out. A video shows this incident. One student announced: “Attention, everyone. Can I get everyone to form a human chain right here, please? ... We have Zionists that have entered the camp.” This student led a call and response with some members of the encampment, repeatedly instructing the crowd to step forward, forcing the individuals out. According to the student, they would have let the individuals enter “if they merely agreed to a code of community behavior, which included not filming anyone inside.” The student claimed the “human chain” was formed as a last resort when three students, one allegedly visibly inebriated, and two recognized by the student and others as “provocateurs who had done the same thing before,” insisted on entering the encampment “to harass, bully and dox the students inside.” The student later received disciplinary charges for this incident through CSSI on May 23, 2024.<sup>579</sup>
- Columbia-Barnard Hillel’s Rabbi Elie Buechler advised Jewish students to leave campus and “return home as soon as possible” in a group chat with over 290 students following several reports of antisemitic incidents on and around campus.<sup>580</sup>
  - “Columbia University’s Public Safety and the NYPD cannot guarantee Jewish students’ safety in the face of extreme antisemitism and anarchy.”
- Three Barnard Student Admissions Representatives resigned in protest of Barnard’s policies and suspensions of students. Their resignation letter stated: “We realized we can no longer be complicit in advertising this school to prospective students, nor can we truthfully encourage people to come here.”<sup>581</sup>
- U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (NY) issued a press release titled “Gillibrand Statement on Antisemitism At Columbia University Protests”: “I am appalled at the virulent antisemitism being displayed on Columbia University’s campus. Threats of violence against Jewish students and the Jewish community are horrible, despicable and wholly unacceptable. Using the rhetoric of terrorists has no place in New York, where we pride ourselves on tolerance and the right of every group to practice their religion in peace.”<sup>582</sup>
- U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (NY) “statement on anti-Israel protests at Columbia University”: “College campuses must be places of learning and discussion. Every American has a right to protest, but when protests shift to antisemitism, verbal abuse, intimidation, or glorification of Oct. 7 violence against Jewish people, that crosses the line. Campuses must remain safe for all students”<sup>583</sup>
- At 8:10 PM in a post on X, U.S. Senator Democrat John Fetterman (PA) described pro-Palestinian protests as “antisemitic, unconscionable, and dangerous” and called on President Shafik to “do your job or resign so Columbia can find someone who will.”<sup>584</sup>
- The Task Force on Antisemitism held an emergency listening session at Columbia/Barnard Hillel: The Kraft Center for Jewish Life.<sup>585</sup>
  - One Jewish student described their experience at this session: “My hope was to share my own experience and concerns and be taken just as seriously as my peers. However, when I began to speak, my voice was overpowered by most of the room yelling at me. This went on for five minutes, with students yelling at me and verbally harassing me, attempting to deny me a space meant for all Jewish students. This behavior was not just seen on the students’ part; I was yelled at by a parent too, while the head of the Anti-Defamation League, Jonathan Greenblatt, who was invited by the task force, sat in the corner and laughed. Esther Fuchs finally intervened, quieting the room, but addressed me with a crassness unseen in the sympathy she extended to other students. She assured the room I would not receive any special treatment, something I never asked for, seemingly playing into the concerns that I was there ‘for performance art’ and couldn’t possibly have real concerns about my safety as a Jewish student (even though I was just verbally harassed by my peers, probably

<sup>578</sup> Redacted student, April 21, 2024.

<sup>579</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’."

<sup>580</sup> Massel, "Non-affiliate protester indicted for allegedly burning Israeli flag during April protest."

Banerjee, "Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’."

Massel, "Rabbi advises Jewish students to ‘return home as soon as possible’ following reports of ‘extreme antisemitism’ on and around campus."

<sup>581</sup> Yu, Muñoz, and Negesse, "'Unnecessary escalation of turmoil': Students, faculty, alumni react after Shafik authorizes NYPD sweep."

<sup>582</sup> Kirsten Gillibrand, "Gillibrand Statement On Antisemitism At Columbia University Protests," news release, April 21, 2024,

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/news/press/release/gillibrand-statement-on-antisemitism-at-columbia-university-protests/>.

<sup>583</sup> Chuck Schumer, "Schumer Statement on Anti-Israel Protests at Columbia University," news release, April 21, 2024,

<https://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer-statement-on-anti-israel-protests-at-columbia-university>.

<sup>584</sup> @SenFettermanPA (@SenFettermanPA), April 24, 2024, <https://x.com/SenFettermanPA/status/1782200162846220730>.

<sup>585</sup> [redacted student].



the most unsafe I had felt on campus at the time). Finally able to speak, I spoke on behalf of my suspended Jewish peers, denied access to this Jewish space by Columbia's administration on denied access to this Jewish space by Columbia's administration on the eve of a major Jewish holiday and unable to speak for themselves. I spoke about how we have been prohibited from gathering to celebrate the previous Shabbat together, and now Passover. Our right to a Jewish community and space for religious observance was being stripped from us. The room was filled with sly remarks, mocking boo-hoos, and exclamations that we didn't know real Jewish problems and that our concerns were fake. Finally finished speaking, the verbal violence I experienced in that room left me shaking and on the verge of tears. As I walked towards the back of the room to catch my breath, I was escorted out of the room by a Hillel staff member who told me 'this was not the place' for me to express my emotions about what had just happened. She led me to her office to collect myself before exiting the building, where she left me alone in there to sob violently while she stood outside whispering with her colleagues, none of whom offered support. I've carried this experience alone since there was no system to support me on campus. The Anti-Semitism Task Force and Hillel, the two options offered to Jewish students like me for support, both witnessed this event and expressed little concern or care for me. They even told me this was not a space for me to share my feelings. If I, a Jewish student, had been explicitly denied access and support from all the spaces I am meant to turn to, where am I meant to go?"

- Barnard began sending written notices to suspended students offering a deal in exchange for lifting interim suspensions. Students who had not previously engaged in misconduct and who agreed to follow Barnard's rules during their probationary period set to end August 9, 2024 were offered "amnesty" through an "Alternative Resolution" process set out by Barnard.<sup>586</sup>
  - In an email to a student offered amnesty obtained by *Spectator*, amnesty will be granted following a written notice stating the student will comply with all college policies in the future, successful completion of an "educational project" that includes a 60-minute meeting reviewing the Student Code of Conduct, a subsequent 100-word reflection paper, and a probation period.
  - In one email offering amnesty from Barnard Dean Grinage wrote: "Following the successful completion of all of the above, these sanctions will not appear on your academic transcript and will not be part of your reportable disciplinary record unless you are found responsible for future misconduct under the code."

#### April 22, 2024:

- At around 1:00 AM, Shafik sent an email to the Columbia community announcing a shift to virtual classes for the day.<sup>587</sup>
- At 7:51 AM Professor Davidai posted on X: "THIS IS AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION. Join Columbia Professor Shai Davidai in a PEACEFUL sit in at Columbia's declared 'Liberation Zone.' Support Professor Shai Davidai in paving a safe space for Jewish and Zionist students on campus and standing up against terrorism. Monday, April 22 @9:30 AM."<sup>588</sup>
- In the morning, Barnard alumni delivered a letter addressed to President Rosenbury and her administration that demanded that Barnard "reinstate all students who have been suspended in relation to their protesting" and allow students "to live in their dorms, eat in their dining halls, attend their classes, and study in their campus buildings." Alums with active CUIDs attempted to deliver the letter to Rosenbury's office, but she was not there. Instead, these alums brought the letter to the mailroom. The letter was signed by over 1,000 alumni.<sup>589</sup>
- Barnard SGA wrote that the college had suspended 55 students in a statement. Barnard SGA condemned the suspensions and the 15-minute window in which students had to pack their personal belongings and leave their dorm. "The actions of the Barnard, Columbia, and college administrations across the United States have escalated campus climates nationwide to a crisis of student welfare and protection and a serious uncertainty for the future of academic freedom and free speech on campus."<sup>590</sup>

<sup>586</sup> Maya Stahl, "Barnard reaches resolution with 'nearly all' suspended students, spokesperson says," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/26/barnard-reaches-resolution-with-nearly-all-suspended-students-spokesperson-says/>.

<sup>587</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>588</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, October 7, 2024.

<sup>589</sup> Eden Stranahan, "Over 1,000 Barnard alums pledge to withhold donations, issue letter to Rosenbury demanding suspended students be reinstated," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/over-1000-barnard-alums-pledge-to-withhold-donations-issue-letter-to-roosenbury-demanding-suspended-students-be-reinstated/>.

<sup>590</sup> Stahl, "Barnard reaches resolution with 'nearly all' suspended students, spokesperson says."

- Professor Davidai was denied access to Morningside campus after he made a post on X post calling on his supporters to sit in with him at the encampment.<sup>591</sup>
  - Davidai declared his intent to enter the encampment and emailed top administrators in the morning requesting a police escort, according to a post on X: “Since the events of last night have shown that you have completely failed to protect the safety of your Jewish and Israeli students, I am requesting approval to have a police escort of at least 10 cops with me. I would ask for escort from the school’s Public Safety, but they have proven themselves useless versus these mobs, and I do not want to put their lives at risk.”
  - In anticipation of Davidai’s entry, students in the encampment stationed individuals in neon vests, mostly faculty who had received de-escalation training, around the encampment’s perimeter. Behind them, protesters within the encampment lined up near the entrance of the encampment. Encampment organizers prepped demonstrators on de-escalation tactics to continue their peaceful protest if Davidai were to enter South Lawn.
  - At 7:49 AM Davidai posted on X COO Holloway’s response to Davidai’s email. COO Holloway wrote that Davidai had to hold his protest in a counterprotest area.
  - In response, Davidai wrote another email to COO Holloway, also posted to X, refusing the space for counterprotest proposed by the administration. He announced that he still planned to go to the “illegal encampment.”
  - At 7:51 AM Professor Davidai posted on X: “THIS IS AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION. Join Columbia Professor Shai Davidai in a PEACEFUL sit in at Columbia’s declared ‘Liberation Zone.’ Support Professor Shai Davidai in paving a safe space for Jewish and Zionist students on campus and standing up against terrorism. Monday, April 22 @9:30 AM.”
  - At 8:34 AM, in a second response, COO Holloway restated the requirement for Davidai’s event to be held in a designated area. “To maintain safety and security it is our standard operating procedure at any protest to establish a counterprotest area, which is where you will be required to hold your event (on the Math Lawn). To maintain the safety of the Columbia community, you are not permitted to enter the West Lawn.”
  - Supporters of Davidai gathered in protest at 116 Street and Broadway off campus in support of Davidai before he attempted to enter campus. Counterprotestors also gathered.
  - Heshy Tischler, a podcaster, candidate for New York City Council, and a supporter of Davidai spoke to the crowd. Tischler addressed a Jewish-identifying counterprotester as a “filthy animal” and “Kapo pig” before speaking to the rally’s other attendees. To other counterprotestors he said: “You think you’re gonna attack us? We are gonna fight back. I promise you, when I do become councilman, we’re gonna make laws that arrest animals,” and he gestured in the direction of the encampment.
  - Davidai attempted to silence Tischler and then moved the rally away from where he was standing. Davidai reiterated throughout the rally that he was calling for the protection of all students, not just Jewish students.
  - At around 9:30 AM Davidai gathered supporters with the intention of walking into the encampment. COO Holloway stood at the gates with Director of Public Safety Gerald Lewis when Professor Davidai tried to enter. After trying to scan his CUID to enter campus at the Earl Hall gates, he was denied entry by COO Holloway, who cited “the safety of the Columbia community” as the reason for not permitting Davidai onto campus.
  - When Davidai’s CUID failed to scan, protesters began to chant “let him in,” and Davidai climbed on top of the table where the ID scanners were located. “Over here, we’ve got the COO of Columbia University, Mr. Cas Holloway,” Davidai said, addressing demonstrators from his position on top of the table. “They have deactivated my card, they are not letting me on campus ... I have not just a civil right as a Jewish person to be on campus, I have a right as a professor employed by the University to be on campus.”
  - COO Holloway offered to escort Davidai to the lawn in front of the Mathematics building. Davidai responded: “You cannot let people who support Hamas on campus and me, a professor, not go on campus.”

<sup>591</sup> Isha Banerjee and Claire Cleary, "Business School professor Shai Davidai denied access to Morningside campus ahead of planned entry into encampment," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/23/business-school-professor-shai-davidai-denied-access-to-morningside-campus-ahead-of-planned-entry-into-encampment/>.

Rebecca Massel, "Columbia suspends Shai Davidai's campus access after he allegedly 'harassed and intimidated' University employees," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 16, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/16/columbia-suspends-shai-davidais-campus-access-after-he-allegedly-harassed-and-intimidated-university-employees/#:~:text=Davidai%20was%20then%20denied%20access,to%20sit%20in%20with%20him.>

Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Gabriella Gregor Splaver, Daksha Pillai, and Joseph Zuloaga, "In Focus: Pressure mounts on day six of the encampment," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/main/2024/04/24/in-focus-pressure-mounts-on-day-six-of-the-encampment/@ShaiDavidai>.

- A NYPD officer then approached Davidai and asked him to move back to the barricaded demonstration area. Davidai asked the crowd to move back, saying that the rally was “cooperating with the NYPD.”
- Davidai encouraged those who had a CUID to enter campus and walk on to the encampment. A few people entered campus.
- At 10:49 PM General Studies Associate Dean Sean Trulby responded re “Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC Gala”: “Thank you for writing to us with your concerns about these very serious issues – and I’m very sorry that this was your experience at what was meant to be a celebratory event for you all. To echo Dean Rosen-Metsch, I would strongly advise you all to submit reports to Student Conduct as soon as possible. Both those of you that were directly impacted, as well as those that witnessed the incidents. This way the appropriate University offices can fully investigate this matter. Myself as well as the other staff present that you spoke with the Gala have submitted reports as well. My office has reached out to the venue to flag these incidents to the Museum, and requested they share the security footage of the evening. I know this has been an incredibly difficult time on campus and combined with these issues at the Gala I can only imagine the impact this is having on you all. Please know that all of us at GS are here for you, and I encourage you to reach out to Dean Griffiths and the GS Wellbeing team. Additionally, Columbia Health has same day services available for student support. I also encourage you to reach out to your Academic Advisor in the GS Dean of Students Office to discuss completing the term successfully. Please don’t hesitate to reach out with anything further.”<sup>592</sup>
- At around 1:00 PM, UAW-affiliated student workers led a walkout demanding “that the university take immediate steps to reinstate all suspended students and comply with all of CUADs demands.” They gathered at the Sundial to call for University divestment from Israel and amnesty for student protesters, echoing the demands of the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.”<sup>593</sup>
- From around 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM the University allowed press outlets and independent journalists to enter campus and report on the events unfolding inside. The encampment saw more media presence than previous days, as Columbia facilitated the entrance of dozens of reporters, photographers, and crew. Student demonstrators directed journalists to a “press area” in the southwest area of the encampment, in which designated media-trained students took interviews with reporters.<sup>594</sup>
- At 2:00 PM, over 100 faculty members attended the “Rally to Support our Students and Reclaim our University” on the Low Library steps, calling on the University to grant amnesty to protestors and remove the Interim Safe Demonstration Policy. Multiple faculty members, donning graduation regalia, spoke at the walkout, condemning the suspensions and arrests of protesters. Faculty members held signs expressing solidarity with protesters and chanted for Shafik to resign. The signs read, “Hands off our students,” “End student suspensions now,” and “Restore faculty governance.”<sup>595</sup>
  - One faculty member who attended the rally: “The President’s actions not only degraded the mission of a great university, which is a place for learning and debate. . . This decision subjected our students and every single member of this community—staff, security guards, people who work in the cafes and cafeterias—to an unnecessary escalation of turmoil both inside and especially outside our gates.”
- Rep. Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.) held a press conference on 115th Street and Broadway and called for Shafik to resign and the withdrawal of federal financial aid from students engaging in “antisemitic activities.” Lawler proposed cutting federal financial aid for protesters, saying they are not “entitled to it.” After the press conference, pro-Israel protesters gathered in front of the Columbia University Bookstore and waved Israeli, American, and Kfir Brigade flags. One pro-Israel protester donned a “Make America Great Again” hat.<sup>596</sup>
- New York Governor Kathy Hochul visited campus and “convened City Hall, NYPD, and Columbia’s President to discuss the need to fight antisemitism and protect public safety.” Photographs from this visit show Governor Hochul

<sup>592</sup> Sean Trulby, April 22, 2024.

<sup>593</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

Splaver, Pillai, and Zuloaga, “In Focus: Pressure mounts on day six of the encampment.”

<sup>594</sup> Amira Mckee and Sarah Huddleston, “‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ approaches one-week mark on South Lawn,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/23/gaza-solidarity-encampment-approaches-one-week-mark-on-south-lawn/>.

<sup>595</sup> Splaver, Pillai, and Zuloaga, “In Focus: Pressure mounts on day six of the encampment.”

Avian Muñoz and Ariel Yu, “Over 100 faculty members protest in ‘Rally to Support our Students and Reclaim our University’,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/23/over-100-faculty-members-protest-in-rally-to-support-our-students-and-reclaim-our-university/>.

Yu, Muñoz, and Negesse, “‘Unnecessary escalation of turmoil’: Students, faculty, alumni react after Shafik authorizes NYPD sweep.”

<sup>596</sup> Splaver, Pillai, and Zuloaga, “In Focus: Pressure mounts on day six of the encampment.”

meeting with students. It is unclear if Governor Hochul met with different student constituencies across campus, such as the pro-Palestinian student protesters.<sup>597</sup>

- New York’s Republican House delegation wrote a letter to President Shafik urging her to step down.<sup>598</sup>
- In an email to the Barnard community, President Rosenbury announced that the college began sending written notices to suspended students on April 21 offering to lift interim suspensions. Students who had not previously engaged in misconduct and who agreed to follow Barnard’s rules during their probationary period set to end August 9 were offered “amnesty” through an “Alternative Resolution” process set out by Barnard.<sup>599</sup>
  - In an email from Barnard Dean Grinage to a student offered amnesty obtained by *Spectator*, amnesty would be granted following students signing a written notice that the student would comply with all college policies in the future, successful completion of an “educational project” that included a 60-minute meeting reviewing the Student Code of Conduct, a subsequent 100-word reflection paper, and a probation period. “Following the successful completion of all of the above, these sanctions will not appear on your academic transcript and will not be part of your reportable disciplinary record unless you are found responsible for future misconduct under the code.”
  - “Affected students have had uninterrupted access to College services, including healthcare, mental health counseling, and academic support,” a Barnard spokesperson wrote to *Spectator*.
  - Amnesty was not currently defined by or included as a disciplinary alternative in the Barnard Student Code of Conduct.
- The encampment established 10 community guidelines. As each individual entered the lawns, a member of the encampment asked if they were returning or first-timers so that they could go over the guidelines. Guidelines included a commitment “to remain grounded in why we enter this space—as an act of solidarity with the Palestinian people,” no littering, no drug or alcohol use, respecting personal boundaries, no sharing names or details of individuals in the camp, and no engagement with counterprotesters.<sup>600</sup>
- In the evening, the JVP and CU Jews for Ceasefire helped cook and organize a Passover seder in the encampment. The seder, a ritual feast held on the first night of Passover, included traditional foods such as matzo. On top of the blue tarps covering South Lawn, student demonstrators ate latkes, strawberries, and more. They also displayed a sign that read “Pesach Means Solidarity and Liberation,” distributed a handmade Haggadah, and prayed.<sup>601</sup>
- Negotiations:
  - Held in Low 407.
  - AR expanded to include three representatives from the administration.
  - AR expressed concerns to ER regarding the encampment, insisting that non-affiliates not be present and spaces, access, and pathways remain unobstructed. AR told ER that the encampment could not force or coerce people to leave the space (in response to the “human chain” incident on April 21). The administration warned that NYPD would be brought onto campus if access to the encampment was blocked.
  - ER responded that everyone that agreed to abide by the community guidelines was welcome to enter the encampment. ER agreed that they would not stop anyone from entering the space but argued that the University was responsible for preventing the presence of nonaffiliates through the use of CUID. ER added that faculty were at the entrance to deescalate and to ensure that everyone was aware of the community guidelines. ER also said that encampment participants were facing extensive harassment.
  - AR continued to discuss the number of tents.
  - An April 22, 2024 administration document lists the six demands from encampment organizers:<sup>602</sup>
    - “Boycott & Divestment: ACSRI should review the CUAD proposal on boycott and divestment based on the merits of the proposal, given that student support has been established. Columbia should also commit to administering a binding referendum on divestment from companies and institutions that profit from Israel to cancel the opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center, and to end the dual degree program between the School of General Studies and Tel Aviv University.”

<sup>597</sup> Jason Beeferman, “New York governor to Mike Johnson: Stay in Washington,” *Politico*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.politico.com/news/2024/04/24/mike-johnson-columbia-new-york-hochul-00154114>.

<sup>598</sup> New York House of Representatives Republicans, (April 22, 2024), Letter. <https://files.constantcontact.com/81b76c35801/10181832-52e2-49dd-97db-124433534f8d.pdf?rdr=true>.

<sup>599</sup> Stahl, “Barnard reaches resolution with ‘nearly all’ suspended students, spokesperson says.”

<sup>600</sup> Mckee and Huddleston, “‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ approaches one-week mark on South Lawn.”

<sup>601</sup> Splaver, Pillai, and Zuloaga, “In Focus: Pressure mounts on day six of the encampment.”

<sup>602</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

- “Ensure accountability through full transparency of Columbia’s financial investments (including process, viewpoint discrimination, and process not being publicized).”
- “Protect academic freedom of scholars, faculty, and staff, in particular visiting scholar Mohamed Abdou, Professor Joseph Massad, and Kayum Ahmad.”
- “Issue a university-wide statement acknowledging the wrongdoings against pro-Palestine affiliates, including bringing NYPD onto campus and the bias in the administration’s statements. In addition, commitment to Immediate Removal of NYPD from campus.”
- “Grant full amnesty for students who anticipated and/or organized in any Pro-Palestine event/action on campus – this includes all current disciplinary cases, including but not limited to the Gaza Solidarity Encampment, the Hillary Clinton event, and Resistance 101.”
- “Publicly revoke the suspension of SJP and JVP in a statement on the same website as where the initial suspension statement was made, signed by Cas Holloway (who replaced Gerry Rosberg) that will fully retract ‘threatening rhetoric and intimidation’ and acknowledge that the university abrogated its rules and procedures in suspending these groups.”
  - AR and ER discussed ER’s demand that Columbia “issue a university-wide statement acknowledging wrongdoing against pro-Palestinian groups (SJP and JVP).”
  - ER wanted to start discussions with their first and primary demand, divestment, but AR wanted to start with smaller demands and progress towards discussion of divestment.
- Columbia College students passed a nonbinding referendum on divestment from Israel, with nearly 77 percent in favor and roughly 40 percent voter participation. About 68 percent and 66 percent of voters, respectively, were in favor of canceling the opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center and the University’s dual degree program with Tel Aviv University.<sup>603</sup>
- Board members of J Street CU, a student organization of “Pro-Israel, Pro-Palestine, Pro-peace activists,” issued a statement that described the arrests as having “severely damaged the campus climate.” “Columbia was within its legal rights to arrest trespassers, but it overrode the recommendation of the University Senate Executive Committee. . . Not only did this use of force represent a serious escalation in response to ongoing non-violence protest, it failed to quell antisemitic rhetoric, calm the protests, or ensure collective safety.”<sup>604</sup>
- The Barnard chapter of the AAUP unanimously issued a vote of no confidence in Rosenbury’s leadership, citing a lack of care for students, a disregard for shared faculty governance, multiple violations of academic freedom and free expression, “administrative chaos at every level of the college,” and an undermining of “longstanding and cherished culture of Barnard.” Barnard’s Faculty Governance and Procedures Committee sent out a vote of “no confidence” for all college faculty to vote on following the Barnard AAUP’s decision<sup>605</sup>
- Robert Kraft, the owner of the New England Patriots and Columbia benefactor, pledged to withhold support for the university: “No longer an institution I recognize. I am deeply saddened at the virulent hate that continues to grow on campus and throughout our country. I am no longer confident that Columbia can protect its students and staff, and I am not comfortable supporting the university until corrective action is taken. It is my hope that Columbia and its leadership will stand up to this hate by ending these protests immediately and will work to earn back the respect and trust of the many of us who have lost faith in the institution.”<sup>606</sup>
- Provost Olinto announced in an email that classes were declared hybrid until semester-end.<sup>607</sup>
- Kelli Murray, Executive Vice President for Strategy and Chief Administrative Officer at Barnard, announced that Barnard would remain in-person for the remainder of the semester, but students could request a remote option.<sup>608</sup>

#### April 23, 2024:

- At 12:09 AM [redacted student] responded to General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch, President Shafik, General Studies Dean Sarah Ede, General Studies Dean Katherine Strzalkowski, General Studies Student Body President, and cc’d 13

<sup>603</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

<sup>604</sup> @jstreetcu, Instagram, April 22, 2024.

<sup>605</sup> Stahl, “One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president’s controversial tenure so far.”

<sup>606</sup> @StandUp2JewHate, X, April 22, 2024, <https://x.com/StandUp2JewHate/status/1782388392438686076>.

<sup>607</sup> Juliana Kim, “Columbia University shifts classes to remote-only after a wave of protests on campus,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.npr.org/2024/04/22/1246294353/columbia-yale-protests-arrests-palestine-israel#:~:text=Columbia%20University%20announced%20that%20all,%22We%20need%20a%20reset.%22>.

Emily Forgash, “Final exams to have remote options, amid other academic shifts,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 28, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/28/final-exams-to-have-remote-options-amid-other-academic-shifts/>.

<sup>608</sup> Forgash, “Final exams to have remote options, amid other academic shifts.”

students: “re: Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestinian Students at GSSC gala”: “Thank you again for your support. Witnesses and victims have reported the incidents through Maxient to launch the investigations. We want to additionally follow up and see what steps are being taken in the meantime to address Arab/Muslim/Jewish/pro-Palestine student safety within GS – are there any updates?”<sup>609</sup>

- In the morning, Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) sent an email to University faculty calling on them to “help hold our administrators accountable and work to foster a safe and productive environment for teaching and learning.” CCSC called on faculty to “ensure President Shafik and senior administrators are held accountable both to rectify the current state of affairs and to ensure that a precedent is set that prevents this from ever happening again.” The email cited two potential violations of the University Statutes. First, that Shafik’s decision to circumvent the University Senate to suspend Columbia’s chapters of SJP and JVP in November bypassed established disciplinary channels and “stifled free speech on campus and deeply harmed students’ trust in administrators.” Second, Shafik’s decision to authorize NYPD to enter campus and “disregard the Senate’s ‘unequivocal’ instructions to restrict NYPD from campus,” alleging that Shafik “did not act in good faith” and adhere to section 444.f of the University Statutes in clearing the “extraordinarily peaceful” demonstrations. CSSC proposed two “sets of actions.” CSSC requested faculty call for the University Senate to censure Shafik and “conduct a questioning of President Shafik’s repeated exercise of unprecedented executive power and disregard for University governance.”<sup>610</sup>
- The encampment opened the “People’s Library for Liberated Learning” which had signs outside of it made of paper plates that read “Books available here!” and “Study group at 8:30 p.m.” The encampment also held speeches by lawyer and author Derecka Purnell, Palestinian photojournalist Motaz Azaiza, and author Marc Lamont Hill.<sup>611</sup>
- Fire Department of the City of New York (FDNY) representative reviewed the encampment space and related safety plans.<sup>612</sup>
- At 3:45 PM *NBC News* reported “FBI Director says agency is sharing intelligence to prevent violence on college campuses over Israel-Hamas war.”<sup>613</sup>
  - “The FBI is coordinating with college campuses to make them aware of antisemitic threats and possible violence in connection with the ongoing wave of protests over the Israel-Hamas war, FBI Director Christopher Wray told *NBC News*’s Lester Holt in an exclusive interview.”
  - “He said the FBI is ‘keenly focused on working with state and local law enforcement, campus law enforcement and others to try to make sure that we stay ahead’ of any threats of violence.”
  - “Wray said the FBI doesn’t monitor protests, ‘but we do share intelligence about specific threats of violence with campuses, with state and local law enforcement.’”
- Columbia’s chapter of JVP held a press conference in front of the President’s House, where Jewish students who were suspended and arrested by the NYPD in the first encampment spoke about their experience with slurs and backlash from their own community, their demands from the University, and how their heritage informed their decision to stand with Gaza.<sup>614</sup>
- Over 1,400 academics from around the world signed a letter committing to an academic boycott of events “held at or officially sponsored by Columbia University and Barnard College” in solidarity with protesters demanding that the University divest from companies with ties to Israel. As part of the boycott, signatories committed to not participate in “academic or cultural events” held at or sponsored by Columbia or Barnard, which included but was not limited to “workshops, conferences, talks, screenings, and invited lectures.” They also committed to not collaborating with Columbia or Barnard administrators who hold positions in the faculty, such as “invitations to academic events at our universities; collaboration on any new grants and workshops; co-authorship of papers.”<sup>615</sup>

<sup>609</sup> Redacted Student, April 23, 2024.

<sup>610</sup> Sabrina Ticer-Wurr, “CCSC calls on faculty to ‘hold our administrators accountable’ following protests, arrests,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/ccsc-calls-on-faculty-to-hold-our-administrators-accountable-following-protests-arrests/>.

<sup>611</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

Isha Banerjee and Claire Cleary, “‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ reaches seventh day,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/gaza-solidarity-encampment-reaches-seventh-day/>.

<sup>612</sup> Manuela Silva et al., “University, student representatives to ‘continue conversations for the next 48 hours’,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/university-student-representatives-to-continue-conversations-for-the-next-48-hours/>.

<sup>613</sup> Ken Dilanian, “FBI director says agency is sharing intelligence to prevent violence on college campuses over Israel-Hamas war,” *NBC News*, April 13, 2024, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/fbi-director-says-agency-sharing-intelligence-prevent-violence-college-rcna149018>.

<sup>614</sup> Banerjee and Cleary, “‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ reaches seventh day.”

Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>615</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

Sabrina Ticer-Wurr, “Over 1,400 academics around the world commit to boycotting Columbia events following student arrests,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/23/over-1400-academics-around-the-world-commit-to-boycotting-columbia-events-following-student-arrests/>.

- The Department of Education opened another investigation into Columbia, according to the Office of Civil Rights' website.<sup>616</sup>
- More than 3,000 Columbia faculty, alumni, staff, students, parents, and “concerned neighbors” signed “Open Letter in Support of Campus Safety and Academic Freedom” addressed to President Shafik, the Columbia Board of Trustees, and the deans of all Columbia schools requesting that the University uphold campus rules and regulations, “strictly enforce” ID-only access to campus, and “protect free speech rights while maintaining viewpoint neutrality” as a result of “increasingly dangerous circumstance.” The letter included a link to a Google Drive folder, which the letter called a “non-exhaustive snapshot of recent campus and campus-adjacent activity,” filled with photos, videos, and screenshots from social media, including Sidechat and other sources that show different incidents and statements. The folder included subfolders titled “Threats” and “Faculty.” The letter also included a list of reported chants from different protests such as “We don’t want no Zionists here,” “There is only one solution, Intifada revolution,” and “Al Qasam you make us proud, kill another soldier now.” The letter also reported that there were “multiple Jewish students who have left campus housing and some who are even seeking to transfer out of Columbia University due to antisemitism on campus.”<sup>617</sup>
- The Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, chaired by Professor Matthew Hart, released a statement regarding the blending of on-campus protests and off-campus protests: “We have been so distressed by reports that conflate on-campus protests with the actions of bad actors from outside our community.”<sup>618</sup>
  - The statement criticized “sensational and inaccurate” reporting by unaffiliated media outlets that “do not represent” the University.
  - The committee condemned external media outlets for their “reckless conflation” of students’ protected free speech with the “abusive acts” of nonaffiliates.
  - “We remind the media that many of those who demonstrate outside our gates do so precisely because they are not Columbia affiliates, access to campus having been mostly restricted since April 15. With the exception of the excellent work by, for example, the staff of the Columbia Spectator, WKCR Radio, and Bwog, much recent reporting of student protests has been sensational and inaccurate.”
  - The committee challenged media outlets to “not substitute clickbait headlines and out-of-context videos for honest reporting.”
- The Harlem Neighborhood Defender Service provided legal support to arrested students.<sup>619</sup>
- Negotiations:<sup>620</sup>
  - Negotiations were scheduled to resume in Low 407.
  - 1:30 PM – 3:45 PM: First negotiation session of the day. AR brought up that protestors did not show their IDs when asked, thus there was no way to confirm encampment participants were Columbia affiliates. ER maintained that it was the University’s job to prevent nonaffiliates from entering the gates in the first place.
  - AR presented counteroffers for all of ER’s demands. AR and ER discussed the offers and ER countered AR’s counteroffers. ER was largely dissatisfied.
  - 3:45 PM – 7:15 PM: Extended break from negotiations.
  - ER and University Senate observers visited the encampment at the request of the Administration. This was done to ensure that the encampment was open to everyone, and no one was blocked from entering. Observers

<sup>616</sup> Esha Karam and Shea Vance, "Department of Education opens Title VI investigation into Columbia following complaint of anti-Palestinian discrimination," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/02/departement-of-education-opens-title-vi-investigation-into-columbia-following-complaint-of-anti-palestinian-discrimination/>.

<sup>617</sup> Emily Forgash, "Thousands of community members sign open letter requesting increased campus safety, academic freedom " *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/23/thousands-of-community-members-sign-open-letter-requesting-increased-campus-safety-academic-freedom/>.

<sup>618</sup> Forgash, "Thousands of community members sign open letter requesting increased campus safety, academic freedom ".

Maya Stahl, "Policy and planning committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences condemns outside media coverage of campus protests," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/policy-and-planning-committee-of-the-faculty-of-arts-and-sciences-condemns-outside-media-coverage-of-campus-protests/>.

<sup>619</sup> Vettikkal, "The Stakes of Solidarity: What Low-Income Students Risked the Day of Columbia’s April 18 Mass Arrests."

<sup>620</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’."

Banerjee and Cleary, "'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' reaches seventh day."

Sarah Huddleston, Shea Vance, and Noah Bernstein, "Shafik announces midnight deadline for ongoing encampment negotiations before consideration of ‘alternative options’," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/23/shafik-announces-midnight-deadline-for-ongoing-encampment-negotiations-before-consideration-of-alternative-options/>.

Manuela Silva et al., "CUAD negotiators leave talks as Shafik’s midnight deadline passes," April 24, 2024, *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/cuad-negotiators-leave-talks-as-shafiks-midnight-deadline-passes/>.

Amira McKeel et al., "CUAD holds press conference, confirms University commitment to no NYPD involvement for next 48 hours," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/cuad-holds-press-conference-confirms-university-commitment-to-no-nypd-involvement-for-next-48-hours/>.

- noted the guidelines posted at the entrance to the encampment, meals being served, and multiple tents with various signs.
- As Senate observers and ER walked back to Low Library, rumors circulated that there was a deadline of midnight for negotiations to come to an agreement, set by the governor (Kathy Hochul) and/or the mayor (Eric Adams), or else the National Guard or NYPD would be called in.
  - ER reached out to contacts in government to confirm the midnight deadline and to find out about potential NYPD or National Guard raid. The government contacts responded that they did not intend to bring the National Guard or police, and that the decision was not the governors nor the mayor's but ultimately the University's.
  - ER asked AR for assurances that law enforcement had not and would not be called on the protestors. Without this assurance, ER told AR they would not continue in negotiations.
  - AR left the negotiation room and called the rest of the senior administration team.
  - AR came back to the negotiation room and responded: "We are committed to peace and public safety and security for our students and our community, but we cannot confirm or not confirm that we will not be in a position where the National Guard or the NYPD would have to come to campus between now and tomorrow night."
  - Since ER had communicated with their government contacts about a potential National Guard or NYPD raid and the contact denied they were coming to campus, ER stated that the University was "deceitful" and not negotiating in good faith. ER believed the University was using the threat of the National Guard and NYPD to try to bring an end to the encampment.
  - Additionally, ER brought up to AR that there was an individual dressed as a custodian coming into the negotiating room frequently throughout the weekend, multiple times over the course of a few hours. There were serious concerns about surveillance of the negotiation process. Senate observers worried that all conversations were being listened to.
  - ER left the negotiation room in distress saying they needed to "calm their community."
  - Around 10:00 PM, Shafik emailed the University community and announced a new midnight deadline for negotiations. Shafik warned that the University would consider "alternative options" for clearing South Lawn if the negotiations with student organizers weren't "successful." "I fully support the importance of free speech, respect the right to demonstrate, and recognize that many of the protestors have gathered peacefully. However, the encampment raises serious safety concerns, disrupts campus life, and has created a tense and at times hostile environment for many members of our community. It is essential that we move forward with a plan to dismantle it."
  - ER called Senate observers right after email was sent from President Shafik and told them negotiations were done.
  - Social media posts from CUAD pled for community members to come to campus to defend encampment protestors from arrest. Approximately 300 individuals turned up outside the gates. As ER left talks with AR, hundreds of students gathered around the lawn in anticipation of the midnight deadline.
  - Prior to the midnight deadline, some student demonstrators dismantled tents on South Lawn and moved to Furnald Lawn, while others remained.
  - Demonstrators circulated cards reading "If You Are Arrested," instructing students to remain silent and clarify that they wish to speak to an attorney.
  - Hundreds of individuals stood near campus gates and helicopters circled above.
  - University Senate observers reached out to Administration leadership to request a de-escalation of the tensions. Senate observers had great concerns over everyone's safety as there were hundreds of students on campus afraid and on edge anticipating potential arrests. Senate observers emphasized how dangerous the campus was at the present time and argued that de-escalation was critical.
  - Deans Sorett and Cobb reached out to ER via University Senators to assure ER that law enforcement had not and would not be called. ER asked that the President affirm this directly through an email so that they could calm the protestors.
- At 10:44 PM [redacted student] emailed General Studies Dean Rosen-Metsch, President Shafik, General Studies Dean Sarah Ede, General Studies Dean Katherine Strzalkowski, General Studies Student Body President, and cc'd 13 students "re: Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC gala: "We just saw the president's email and were so grateful to see that you 'will not be tolerating intimidating, harassing, or discriminatory behavior.' As you work to identify the students who violated your policies against discrimination and harassment, we want to help you once again since we have already compiled the names of many of the attackers at the GS gala. Here is the list, and we are glad that you are working quickly to investigate these students who have threatened our safety:



[8 redacted students]. Many of these are repeat offenders, and more will be identified with the museum footage. Once again, thank you so much for promising not to tolerate this kind of behavior and for acting so rapidly to stop it. We are all safer because of that. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to meet, as we know how urgent the matter of student safety is. In the meantime, we are grateful that the media is stepping up to help us share these atrocities with the public.”<sup>621</sup>

#### April 24, 2024- evening and early morning hours:

- 12:00 AM midnight deadline for ongoing negotiations to reach an agreement passed and no National Guard or NYPD sweep occurred. Hundreds of affiliates watched outside Butler Library and on the Sundial.<sup>622</sup>
- At around 12:10 AM, demonstrators began moving the tents that had been moved to Furnald Lawn back onto the west side of South Lawn.<sup>623</sup>
- At 12:13 AM CUAD and SJP announced on X that they had broken off negotiations with administration “until there is a written commitment that the administration will not be unleashing the NYPD or the National Guard on its students” in a statement titled “Columbia University Threatens Students with the National Guard After Refusing to Bargain in Good Faith.”<sup>624</sup>
  - “Without assurances of good faith bargaining and protections for nonviolent protestors against police and military violence, we will not be returning to the table,” one of the ER’s said in the statement.
- By around 12:15 AM, most tents were moved back onto South Lawn.<sup>625</sup>
- Chair D’Armiento texted Journalism Dean Cobb relaying that student protestors wanted written assurances from Columbia administration that there would not be a National Guard or NYPD raid that night or the next morning: “They need the email from minouche before they relax.”<sup>626</sup>
  - An hour and a half later, Chair D’Armiento followed up to say “[student] is upset. He has not received the letter.”
- Around 2:00 AM NYPD counterterrorism unit campus entered Earl Hall, verified by video obtained by the University Senate. Students asked Public Safety, who had let NYPD in the building for an explanation of their presence. Public Safety explained that they were letting them in to use the bathroom. Students, particularly Muslim students, felt threatened by their presence as Earl Hall is the space where Muslim students pray and many had left personal items behind in the space such as backpacks, clothes, and laptops.<sup>627</sup>
- Unaffiliated organizations continued to demonstrate outside of Columbia’s gates, as Morningside campus remained restricted to CUID holders and credentialed members of the press.<sup>628</sup>
- At 3:03 AM, a University spokesperson wrote in a statement to *Spectator* that the University would continue conversations with student organizers for the next 48 hours.<sup>629</sup>
- At 4:09 AM/4:11 AM, six hours after President Shafik announced a midnight deadline for negotiations, a community email from the Office of the President confirmed that talks would continue for another 48 hours following “important progress” and the University would provide an update after 48 hours. “We are making important progress with representatives of the student encampment on the West Lawn” . . . “Student protestors have committed to dismantling and removing a significant number of tents, student protestors will ensure that those not affiliated with Columbia will leave, student protestors will comply with all requirements of FDNY with respect to activities and safety and student protestors have taken steps to make the encampment welcome to all and have prohibited discriminatory or harassing language.” . . . “In light of this constructive dialogue, the university will continue conversations for the next 48 hours.”<sup>630</sup>

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<sup>621</sup> Redacted student, April 23, 2024.

<sup>622</sup> Silva et al., "CUAD negotiators leave talks as Shafik’s midnight deadline passes."

<sup>623</sup> Silva et al., "CUAD negotiators leave talks as Shafik’s midnight deadline passes."

<sup>624</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’."

Mckee et al., "CUAD holds press conference, confirms University commitment to no NYPD involvement for next 48 hours."

<sup>625</sup> Banerjee and Cleary, "'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' reaches seventh day."

<sup>626</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>627</sup> *Video of NYPD counterterrorism unit entering Earl Hall.*

<sup>628</sup> Silva et al., "University, student representatives to ‘continue conversations for the next 48 hours’."

<sup>629</sup> Mckee et al., "CUAD holds press conference, confirms University commitment to no NYPD involvement for next 48 hours."

<sup>630</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Claims of calling in the National Guard are ‘untrue and unsubstantiated,’ University spokesperson says," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/claims-of-calling-national-guard-are-untrue-and-unsubstantiated-university-spokesperson-says/>.

## April 24, 2024- daytime:

- Negotiations:<sup>631</sup>
  - Did not occur.
  - At a press conference, CUAD announced that Columbia had agreed to not involve the NYPD or the National Guard regarding the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” for the next 48 hours. One student demonstrator at the briefing specified that after the 48 hours, “there are no guarantees about holding off.”
  - At 6:53 PM Chief of Staff to the Provost Brooks emailed President Shafik “Menu”: “As we discussed. I’m here for any questions” and attached a list of the University’s possible responses to the protestor’s demands regarding investments, dual degree program, global centers, public health and education proposals (up to 2), financial transparency, academic freedom, university statement, amnesty, SJP + JVP, and optional.<sup>632</sup>
  - At 7:39 PM President Shafik emailed Provost Olinto, Chief of Staff to the Provost Brooks, Chief of Staff to the President Glancy, Board Co-Chair Shipman, Board Co-Chair Greenwald “Re: Menu – Trustee feedback”: -Important that those who relapse or have committed 2 offenses are really disciplined. Deans need to commit to this. -Attestation should run through Dec 2023 (not June). -Who does pardons for past discipline? Should be Deans not Senate. -Would be good to ask students to engage in Dialogue Across Differences and other educational events to bridge divides going forward – maybe something new could developed with them -We should tentatively book Trustee meetings for Thursday pm and Friday am and use which ever slot we need depending on how negotiations go. Also the list is getting a bit long so please tell our negotiators to focus on core demands that get us over the line. Other things we might do but best to not have legislated at this time.”<sup>633</sup>
  - At 8:16 PM Provost Olinto emailed President Shafik, Chief of Staff to the Provost Brooks, Chief of Staff to the President Glancy, Board Co-Chair Shipman, Board Co-Chair Greenwald “Re: Menu – Trustee feedback”: “I asked the deans involved to address your requests below before the dialog with students restarts.”<sup>634</sup>
  - At 11:00 PM Chief of Staff to the Provost Brooks emailed President Shafik, Chief of Staff to the President Glancy, Board Co-Chair Shipman, Board Co-Chair Greenwald, and Provost Olinto “Re: Menu – Trustee feedback”: “Angela asked that I respond to your feedback on behalf of all the deans involved. -Important that those who relapse or have committed 2 offenses are really disciplined. Deans need to commit to this. *Josef, Costis and Carlos can commit to this. They believe the other Deans will be supportive as well, but we will confirm tomorrow at 3pm at our daily Deans meeting.* -Attestation should run through Dec 2023 (not June). *Confirmed.* Who does pardons for past discipline? Should be Deans not Senate. *Yes – Deans are responsible for pardons.* Would be good to ask students to engage in Dialogue Across Differences and other educational events to bridge divides going forward – maybe something new could developed with them. *The University will continue to develop a broad range of student programming to promote Dialogue Across Difference.*”<sup>635</sup>
- In the morning, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson called for President Shafik to resign on the Hugh Hewitt Show.<sup>636</sup>
- At 10:22 AM U.S. House Representative Democrat Adriano Espaillat, whose district includes Columbia, criticized House Speaker Johnson for “using this moment to further political division instead of addressing concerns of the American people,” but also wrote that “the impact of antisemitic rhetoric and hate must never be tolerated on campuses or communities around the nation.”<sup>637</sup>
- At 10:35 AM General Studies Dean Maryln Delva responded “re: Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC Gala”: “I was sorry to learn of your experiences at the Gala. I have been out of the office but have been kept informed of this case. I wanted to share that the staff from the Dean of Students’ Office who were at the event immediately filed a report with Student Conduct so that they can investigate the allegations. We will also share the information you’ve provided below and any other updates you provide. Any complaint and allegation of intimidating or harassing behavior is taken seriously, this included. In terms of the video from the museum our requests

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Silva et al., “University, student representatives to ‘continue conversations for the next 48 hours’.”

Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>631</sup> Mckee et al., “CUAD holds press conference, confirms University commitment to no NYPD involvement for next 48 hours.”

<sup>632</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>633</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>634</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>635</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>636</sup> Anthony Adragna, “Johnson calls on the president of Columbia University to resign,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024,

<https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2024/04/24/congress/johnson-demands-columbia-prez-resign-00154063>.

<sup>637</sup> Adriano Espaillat, “Statement from Representative Adriano Espaillat Ahead of Speaker Johnson’s Visit to Columbia University,” news release, April 24, 2024, <https://espaillat.house.gov/media/press-releases/statement-representative-adriano-espaillat-ahead-speaker-johnson%E2%80%99s-visit>.

have been denied as per the museum policies. However, any video already shared will be reviewed by the Conduct office. We would encourage you to continue to share relevant video with Student Conduct directly. You should be hearing from Conduct as appropriate but know these incidents are under investigation and will be addressed.”<sup>638</sup>

- Vice President for Communications Chang said in a press conference that the assertion that Columbia administrators planned on calling in the National Guard or NYPD to campus were “untrue and unsubstantiated.” Chang emphasized during the press briefing that “the encampment raises serious safety concerns, disrupts campus life, and has created a tense—and at times hostile—environment for many members of our community. . . We remain hopeful these discussions will be successful. If they are not, as [Shafik] said, we will have to consider alternative options for clearing the West Lawn and restoring calm to campus so students can complete the term and graduate.”<sup>639</sup>
- Around 3:00 PM Gavin McInnes, founder of the Proud Boys, was seen on campus attempting to enter the encampment. It is unconfirmed how he accessed campus as it was restricted (CUID-only).<sup>640</sup>
- At 3:01 PM four parents of Columbia General Studies students responded “re: Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC Gala”: “Hello Columbia President and Administrators, We are the parents of Columbia GS students and are writing to you about their safety. We understand that you are facing unprecedented challenges and have chosen to err on the side of student safety. As parents we support that approach. In this abundance of caution last week you removed and interim suspended (pending Columbia’s investigation) over 100 students for occupying a lawn for 30 hours. It has now been almost 72 hours since you were presented with detailed descriptions, witnesses, videos, and the names of Columbia students who physically assaulted, harassed, and tried to remove the clothing of other Columbia students at the GSSC Gala on Saturday night. Surely you agree that these actions are far more serious than chanting slogans on a lawn. However, you have yet to interim suspend the culprits or hand over this evidence to the NYPD who are instructed by Mayor Adams to “investigate any violation of law that is reported. Rest assured, the NYPD will not hesitate to arrest anyone who is found to be breaking the law.” How can you claim to protect our children when you are unwilling to remove violent students from the campus immediately? If the assaulted students had called the police Saturday night instead of reporting this to you the culprits would already have been arrested and separated from the Columbia community. We would like a meeting with you immediately to hear the following: What actions have you taken to isolate these violent students from the rest of the Columbia community? When will you turn this information over to the NYPD for proper enforcement of NY laws? What else are you doing to protect our children? These are extraordinary times, but this is not the time to turn a blind eye to documented violent assaults on your students. If you expect to regain control of Columbia your actions need to show the world that you will not tolerate violence of any form, and anyone who is violent will immediately face consequences. We look forward to your immediate response.”<sup>641</sup>
- The University Senate held a closed-door emergency in-person meeting during which the executive committee presented a preliminary report that the committee had prepared and asked for senators’ input on a possible censure or vote of no confidence in President Shafik.<sup>642</sup>
  - President Shafik came in front of the Senate for the first 20 minutes and took questions from Senators before leaving.
  - Censure and no confidence were discussed due to President Shafik’s congressional testimony and use of the NYPD to clear the first encampment.
  - Important deliberations ensued as Senators discussed their constituents’ concerns.
  - Despite the confidential, in-person nature of this meeting and the specific request from Chair D’Armiento that Senators not release details to the public or the press, information was leaked to the *New York Times*.
- Around 4:00 PM House Speaker Mike Johnson held a press conference on the steps of Low Library calling for the resignation of President Shafik and for an end to the encampment with the arrest of protestors. U.S. House Representatives Virginia Foxx, Anthony D’Esposito, Mike Lawler, and Nicole Malliotakis joined him. It is unclear who invited these politicians or how they were able to access campus given that it was CUID-only. Before holding the press conference outside of Low Library, Speaker Johnson met with Jewish students and Rabbi Yuda Drizin,

<sup>638</sup> MaryIn Delva, April 24, 2024.

<sup>639</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Huddleston and Vance, "Claims of calling in the National Guard are 'untrue and unsubstantiated,' University spokesperson says."

<sup>640</sup> Bwog Staff, "Gavin McInnes, Founder of the Proud Boys, Seen on Columbia's Campus on Wednesday," *Bwog: Columbia Student News*, April 25, 2024, <https://bwog.com/2024/04/gavin-mcinnis-founder-of-the-proud-boys-seen-on-columbias-campus-on-wednesday/>.

<sup>641</sup> 4 redacted parents of General Studies students, April 24, 2024.

<sup>642</sup> Ariel Yu, "University Senate passes resolution establishing task force to recommend 'possible further Senate action' on recent administrative policies," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/26/university-senate-passes-resolution-establishing-task-force-to-recommend-possible-further-senate-action-on-recent-administrative-policies/>.

Stephanie Saul, "Columbia's University Senate Is Said to Consider Less Severe Action Against Its President," *The New York Times*, April 25, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/25/us/columbia-senate-nemat-shafik.html>.

director of Chabad at Columbia. According to Lawler’s testimony at the press conference, the group also met with President Shafik.<sup>643</sup>

- At the beginning of the press conference, Johnson was met with boos from the crowd. “Mike, you suck,” the crowd chanted.
- Johnson described Columbia administrators as “incapable” of keeping students safe.
- In sequence, Malliotakis, D’Esposito, and Lawler each condemned antisemitism and called for Shafik’s resignation.
- Lawler referenced a closed-door meeting with Shafik held prior to the press conference, saying that “after listening to her comments inside, it is clear that she has no intention of getting this University under control and ensuring the safety and well-being of every student.”
- Johnson warned that there was potential for involvement of the National Guard and said he intended to speak with President Joe Biden after the press conference to share “what we have seen with our own two eyes and demand that he takes action.” “If this is not contained quickly, and if these threats and intimidation are not stopped, there is an appropriate time for the National Guard. We have to bring order to these campuses. We cannot allow this to happen around the country. We are better than this. We are better than this. And I’ll ask the president to do that.”
- Reps. Jared Moskowitz (D-Fla.), Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), Kathy Manning (D-N.C.), and Daniel Goldman (D-N.Y.) held a press conference outside the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life. Manning called for the University to “do more to keep Jewish students safe and to reestablish an atmosphere in which all students can learn, study, [and] participate safely on campus life” and called on the Department of Education, the Department of Justice, and the White House to ensure that universities take steps to ensure the safety of students and faculty and for Congress to pass legislation tackling antisemitism. When questioned by members of the media if there was a disconnect around what defines antisemitism in the ongoing protests, Goldman referenced a “general lack of understanding as to what antisemitism is. . . . If you are calling Jewish students Zionists, who are here trying to study, have nothing to do with the foreign policy of Israel or the war that’s going on in the Middle East, that is antisemitism. There needs to be a better understanding of what antisemitism is.”<sup>644</sup>
- The Board of Trustees issued a statement backing Shafik’s leadership and expressed strong support for President Shafik “as she steers the university through this extraordinarily challenging time.”<sup>645</sup>
- Amnesty International published a news release urging universities “to safeguard and facilitate all students’ right to peacefully and safely protest or counter protest on their campuses. . . . Protests in support of Palestinian rights in and around college campuses have been met with obstructive and repressive responses by university administrations. . . . Instead of facilitating and protecting their students’ right to protest, universities’ administrations have gone to great lengths to quash it, even involving local authorities and demanding arrests, while suspending students who engage in peaceful demonstrations.”<sup>646</sup>
- Provost Olinto announced that all final exams on the Morningside campus “must include a remote option for students who have requested support for virtual assessment. . . . Safety is our highest priority as we strive to support our students’ learning and all the required academic operations.”<sup>647</sup>
- Barnard Provost and Dean of the Faculty Bell emailed Barnard faculty that Barnard was “requiring that faculty who are holding an exam provide a remote option for students who request it.” Bell also included in her email guidelines on how to assess students who had been placed on interim suspension. “While a Barnard student is on interim suspension, it is at a faculty member’s discretion whether to alter or accept coursework, assignments or final exams. A faculty member may use any manner of contact to support their students through virtual office hours.”<sup>648</sup>

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<sup>643</sup> Emily Forgash, “Mike Johnson calls on Shafik to resign, citing reports of antisemitic incidents,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/mike-johnson-calls-on-shafik-to-resign-citing-reports-of-antisemitic-incidents/>.

Noah Bernstein et al., “Mike Johnson, Foxx call for Shafik’s resignation in press conference on Low Steps,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/mike-johnson-foxx-call-for-shafiks-resignation-in-press-conference-on-low-steps/>.

<sup>644</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, “Congressional Democrats visit Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life, condemn antisemitism at Columbia,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/congressional-democrats-visit-kraft-center-for-jewish-student-life-condemn-antisemitism-at-columbia/>.

Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

Zuloaga, “Congressional Democrats visit Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life, condemn antisemitism at Columbia.”

Splaver, Pillai, and Zuloaga, “In Focus: Pressure mounts on day six of the encampment.”

<sup>645</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

<sup>646</sup> Apurva Chakravarthy, “Amnesty International urges universities to respect students’ right to protest,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/24/amnesty-international-urges-universities-to-respect-students-right-to-protest/>.

<sup>647</sup> Forgash, “Final exams to have remote options, amid other academic shifts.”

<sup>648</sup> Forgash, “Final exams to have remote options, amid other academic shifts.”

- Engineering (SEAS) Dean Shih-Fu Chang announced in an email that SEAS was changing its pass/D/fail guidelines for the Spring 2024 semester so that students could elect to pass/D/fail a major, concentration, or Core course.<sup>649</sup>

#### April 25, 2024:

- Individuals planted Israeli and American flags in the grass outside the encampment.<sup>650</sup>
- Israeli flags, an American flag, a flag reading “Bring Them Home Now,” and hostage posters for individuals taken to Gaza during Hamas’ October 7, 2023 attack were hung on the ledge overlooking the encampment.<sup>651</sup>
- Rep. Ilhan Omar visited the encampment with her daughter, who was one of the students arrested and suspended during the NYPD’s sweep of the first encampment.<sup>652</sup>
- Following media speculation about a possible University Senate censure of President Shafik, University Senate executive committee Chair D’Armiento wrote in a statement to *Spectator*: “The University Senate must deliberate as a body if it is to vote on a censure of University President Minouche Shafik. . . Any discussion of censuring our President would take place within the University Senate’s deliberative process, and no external entity can demand the University Senate take action outside of our long-established democratic processes.” For a resolution to be adopted, it must be passed through a majority vote of the Senate.<sup>653</sup>
- Negotiations:<sup>654</sup>
  - Around 4:00 AM 24 hours had passed since President Shafik extended negotiations for 48 hours.
  - At 9:00 AM Chief of Staff to the Provost Brooks emailed Provost Olinto and President Shafik “Re: Menu – Trustee feedback”: “Josef and Jelani have incorporated the feedback from Trustees in the attached document. . . As discussed last night, this is the menu that will inform conversations with the protestors<sup>655</sup>
  - Negotiations resumed after a pause on April 24.
  - Due to concerns regarding surveillance, a new location in Baker was established for negotiations.
  - ER was concerned about when the 48-hour clock for negotiations (announced in President Shafik’s April 24 email) started, since negotiations did not take place April 24. Protestors were concerned the NYPD would come at 4:00 AM that day (technically April 26).
  - ER expressed that encampment participants had considerable and constant anxiety about a possible NYPD raid.
  - AR responded that the 48-hour deadline, 4:00 AM April 26, remained, but they could reevaluate the deadline for negotiations with the President and trustee’s approval.
  - AR and ER discussed all of ER’s demands. AR presented new offers from a “menu” of possible responses prepared by Columbia administrators.<sup>656</sup>
    - In response to ER’s demand for financial divestment from Israel, Columbia offered to have ACSRI review proposals for divestment in “companies that manufacture certain categories of weapons,” divestment in “companies that are complicit in violating international law or international treaties recognized by the US government,” and a shareholder engagement proposal within six months of being presented.
    - In response to ER’s demand that Columbia end its undergraduate dual degree program with Tel Aviv University and cancel the opening of its planned Tel Aviv Global Center, Columbia offered to engage with the Israeli government in the hope that all Columbia University students could participate in the dual degree program with Tel Aviv University, build an exchange program with Haifa University in Israel, develop a joint program with Al Quds University, establish full scholarships for Arab students for the dual degree program with Tel Aviv University, commit to a

<sup>649</sup> Forgash, "Final exams to have remote options, amid other academic shifts."

<sup>650</sup> Judy Goldstein and Isha Banerjee, "In Focus: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ crosses 200 hours," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/photo-essays/2024/04/26/in-focus-the-gaza-solidarity-encampment-crosses-200-hours/>.

<sup>651</sup> Goldstein and Banerjee, "In Focus: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ crosses 200 hours."

<sup>652</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’."

<sup>653</sup> Sarah Huddleston, "University Senate must deliberate prior to possible Shafik censure, chair says," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 25, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/25/university-senate-must-deliberate-prior-to-possible-shafik-censure-chair-says/>.

<sup>654</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' negotiations continue as University refutes claims of evening NYPD authorization," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/26/gaza-solidarity-encampment-negotiations-continue-as-university-refutes-claims-of-evening-nypd-authorization/>.

Huddleston and Vance, "'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' negotiations continue as University refutes claims of evening NYPD authorization."

<sup>655</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>656</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

future review of access to all of the Global Centers, and engage with the Israeli government in the hope that all Columbia University students, staff, and faculty would be able to visit and participate at the Tel Aviv Columbia Global Center.

- In response to ER’s demands regarding amnesty, Columbia’s offered “amnesty for interim suspended students of 4/18 for non-multiple offenders (with attestation) and request Senate to have expedited UJB process for other students and application of policies and due process. Resistance 101 non-negotiable,” “allow all non-multiple offenders to complete the semester. . . subject to attestation,” “consider a process for lifting disciplinary action (by Deans), subject to further conditions and attestation.” The “menu” noted that “attestation will run through December 2024, and Deans commit to disciplining students who are responsible for another violation.”
  - In response to ER’s demands regarding SJP and JVP, Columbia offered to state the process of reinstatement of SJP and JVP and to share SEVP Rosberg’s apologies already made public on the floor of the University Senate.
  - The “menu” also included potential public health and education proposals (such as establishing a “resilience fund”), a process for students to access a list of Columbia’s direct financial holdings, release of a statement and assembly of a faculty committee on academic freedom, and an agreement to make a “good faith effort” to issue a University Statement within one week based on a draft by students.
- AR told ER that any deal was contingent on the encampment ending by 4:00 AM April 26.
  - ER countered the University’s offers and requested an extension for the negotiations to continue.
  - AR informed ER that negotiations could continue up to 5:00 PM April 26 if there was a 25 percent reduction in the number of tents.
  - Break held.
  - 7:20 PM negotiations resumed. AR presented modified proposals.
  - 8:07 PM ER countered the proposals. ER was particularly hung up on the ACSRI process and wanted ACSRI proposals to go through review by ACSRI and the Board of Trustees before the encampment ended.
  - Negotiations concluded for the day.
  - A representative and negotiator for CUAD said at a press conference that negotiations had resumed in the morning and that “progress is being made after 30 hours of a pause on negotiations.”
  - The Office of the President emailed the Columbia community that “there is a rumor that the NYPD has been invited to campus this evening. This rumor is false. . . the talks have shown progress and are continuing as planned.” The email stated that the University and the student protestors were discussing “the basis for dismantling the encampment, dispersing, and following University policies going forward.”
  - An organizer announced to the encampment following President Shafik’s email: “They’re acting in bad faith, we don’t trust them, but the word is, from them, that there is no police threat anymore.” The organizer said that full amnesty for students and faculty who have been disciplined for pro-Palestinian activism is on the table, but that the offer “falls far short of our demands.”
  - At 10:26 PM Journalism Dean Cobb emailed Provost Olinto “Draft language for demand #4”: “This is the language the protest leaders sent to us” and included a statement protest leaders drafted for President Shafik.<sup>657</sup>
  - At 10:49 PM Provost Olinto forwarded “Draft language for demand #4” to Vice President for Public Affairs Murray.<sup>658</sup>
  - At 11:01 PM Vice President for Public Affairs Murray responded to Provost Olinto “Fwd: Draft language for demand #4”: “I don’t want to jettison this over a letter, but I’m really uncomfortable giving them sign off on anything from you. We couldn’t come up with anything close to this text. It’s too easy a target if they are looking for an excuse to blow this up. Plus we are giving them plenty otherwise.”<sup>659</sup>
  - At 11:03 PM President Shafik responded to Vice President for Public Affairs Murray “Re: Draft language for demand #4”: “It is unacceptable. Amy is looking at. Maybe you could work with her and we can weave in my idea of a presidential commission.”<sup>660</sup>
- At 3:11 PM four parents of Columbia General Studies students responded “re: Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC Gala”: “It has now been a day we contacted you to discuss the physical

<sup>657</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

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<sup>660</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

harassment of our children. We have not received any reply or acknowledgement of this request. How can you stand by and do nothing when you have been presented with detailed descriptions of Columbia students being attacked, the names of the culprits, witnesses, and videos? You need to act. Start by talking to us. We (still) look forward to your immediate response.”<sup>661</sup>

- The protest “United for Israel” brought hundreds to the area outside the 116th Street and Amsterdam gates. Organized by StandWithUs, media figures included Sean Feucht, Eric Metaxas, and Pastor Russel B. Johnson. The rally was promoted as a “unity of Christians and Jews” according to Columbia Jewish Alumni Association post on X. Students inside the gates of campus and local pro-Palestine protesters reported incidents of racism and sexual harassment perpetuated by pro-Israel protesters who attended the rally outside the gates.<sup>662</sup>
  - In an email addressed to the student body thirty minutes before the protest began, COO Holloway warned of “potentially significant” protest activity outside the gates and suggested that students “please avoid the area this evening if that is possible for you to do.”
  - At around 6:00 PM a couple dozen protestors began gathering at 115th Street and Morningside Drive near the President’s House. The protestors chanted “bring them home now,” with several waving Israeli and American flags and displaying flyers with the names and faces of hostages held by Hamas since October 7, 2023. Fewer than a dozen NYPD officers stood by initially, setting up barriers and closing off Morningside Drive to traffic.
  - At around 6:33 PM, a group of protesters, led by Feucht, began marching west on 115th Street before heading to the 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue gates, chanting “Israel will be free, from the river to the sea” and “hate will not win.” The crowd also sang Israel’s national anthem. Dozens of protesters filled the street, blocking traffic on Amsterdam Avenue before the NYPD demanded demonstrators stay within the sidewalk and leave the traffic lane.
  - Feucht gave a speech to the crowd as increasing numbers of protesters came to the gates. “We stand against the rising antisemitic spirit on college campuses across America. We said it started here, it’s going to end here.”
  - At around 6:24 PM, Feucht performed a song for the crowd and several counterprotesters arrived on Morningside Drive carrying a banner that read “NY Jews for the Fall of Zionism.”
  - The counterprotesting group shouted “Gaza” as one individual played a drum and another hit a pot with a spoon. Multiple pro-Israel protesters moved toward them, with one man repeatedly yelling, “You want to get raped, you want to get murdered” at the group. A few NYPD officers intervened and separated the protesters.
  - NYPD officers attempted to divide the protesters and counterprotesters on Amsterdam Avenue, forming a line in the middle and moving people to one side or the other. Protesters chanted “Bring them home” as counterprotesters beat a drum and chanted “Gaza.”
  - A handful of counterprotesters stood on the sidewalk holding a banner reading “NYC to Palestine for Liberation,” as protesters booed them and held an Israeli flag merged with an American flag over their faces. A protester shouted at a Black man holding a pro-Palestinian banner: “You don’t know where Gaza is. Where is Gaza? It’s not in Africa, buddy.”
  - At one point during the protest, Johnson, one of the organizers, held up a sign reading “Hamas Universities,” with the names of several universities, including Columbia, written inside a swastika.
  - One counterprotester repeatedly shouted “Free, free Palestine” and “God bless Hamas,” according to a video posted on YouTube by Freedomnews TV.
  - Tensions continued to build on Amsterdam Avenue as pro-Israel protesters surrounded one counterprotester who was wearing a kippah and a mask as he banged a pot with a spoon. The counterprotester later intermittently held up a keffiyeh. One NYPD officer stood next to the counterprotester as pro-Israel protesters shouted at the individual, “Go join ISIS, I heard they like Jews,” “You’re a fucking Nazi,” and “You would get killed in Gaza, they hate you.” Protesters shouted that he was a “fake Jew,” “coward,” and “traitor,” called him a “kapo,” and tried to untie the back of his mask.

<sup>661</sup> 4 redacted parents of General Studies students, April 25, 2024.

<sup>662</sup> Goldstein and Banerjee, "In Focus: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' crosses 200 hours."

Claire Cleary, Sarah Huddleston, and Amira Mckee, "'United for Israel March' draws hundreds, multiple incidents of harassment reported," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/26/united-for-israel-march-draws-hundreds-multiple-incidents-of-harassment-reported/>.

Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

- Around 30 NYPD officers lined the street in front of the hundreds of pro-Israel demonstrators. Across the street, in front of the Law School, dozens more officers stood on the street near the pro-Palestinian group of around 20 people. Three NYPD corrections buses were parked in the center of the street.
- At 7:00 PM, NYPD officers moved the crowd behind barricades lining the sidewalk after they previously had been standing in the street. Audio played through an NYPD loudspeaker told protesters that they would be “subject to arrest” if they did not move to the sidewalk. Around a dozen pro-Palestinian counterprotesters were stationed at the corner of 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue chanting “Gaza.”
- At 7:22 PM, At least two protesters were detained in zip ties and led into a correctional van by NYPD.
- At 7:27 PM a counterprotester wearing a keffiyeh was also detained by NYPD.
- Around 7:30 PM, at the Amsterdam Avenue gates, a protester leaned over the barricade to shout at a group of observers and counterprotesters within campus. One outside protester shouted through the gates that “ Hamas would love you,” “You got nice lips for Hamas,” and “You’re sexy.”
- At around 7:50 PM, the protesters breached the NYPD barricade separating the demonstration from the Amsterdam Avenue gates. Multiple protesters climbed up the gates and continued to shout at students on College Walk. Protesters at the gates chanted “Terrorists go home,” “Go to Gaza,” “cowards,” “Hate will not win,” and “Bring them home.”
- A student, who spoke to *Spectator* said that they walked up to the Amsterdam Avenue gate from inside campus to see what was going on. The student told *Spectator* that protesters called “brown people ‘monkey’” and told them “to go back to our country.” “I felt more scared out here at the gates than I felt on campus all week—it was really terrifying.”
- At around 8:45 PM, protesters chanted “you spoiled idiots” at individuals gathered inside the campus gate. One protester who climbed the Amsterdam Avenue gates gestured to individuals gathered inside campus, saying “Come out” and “I’ll fight any of you motherfuckers.”
- At around 8:50 PM, protesters shouted at the individuals inside campus to take their masks off, with one shouting repeatedly, “What are you scared of?” Another protester said, “You cover your face because you’re fucking ugly,” and “You cover your face because you’re a fucking disgrace.”
- As the protest continued in front of the Amsterdam Avenue gates, students gathered to watch on the bridge to the Law School. Multiple student observers expressed fears for safety on campus. “Especially today, the danger seems to be coming from outside and the increased police presence and many of the non-Columbia affiliated people who are obviously co-opting this protest for other reasons,” a student observing the protest from the bridge told *Spectator*.
- Another student observer told *Spectator* that the NYPD did not “seem to be taking the same actions” at this protest compared to recent pro-Palestinian demonstrations they had attended. A Law School student on the bridge also said they were concerned about the outside protesters potentially entering campus. “It just takes one crazy person to go into the encampment and take matters into their own hands and, like, serious danger and serious harm can fall upon those students who are just like, what, peacefully protesting. So that’s the only thing that’s been going through my head this entire time.”
- At 10:30 PM, Dean Curtis Rodgers responded re “Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC Gala”: “We have received your email and are responding on behalf of GS and the President’s office. As we previously indicated, we have filed reports with our Office of Student Conduct, both by our teams present at the event and after getting the reports directly from the students. At this point, the Office of Student Conduct is managing the process moving forward and we have no further information to share at this time. I can assure you we take these matters very seriously. In addition, Amber Griffith, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Wellbeing, is available to meet with your children to offer support and resources.”<sup>663</sup>
- *The Daily Wire* posted clips of a student CUAD member’s January 9 livestream of a CSSI meeting in which they said “Zionists don’t deserve to live.” On the same day, an associate dean at Columbia contacted the student, “expressed concern about . . . [their] . . . safety,” and bought the student a train ticket to Boston for that night.<sup>664</sup>
- The Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia condemned the “Widespread Deployment of Police Forces on University Campuses Nationwide” in a statement.<sup>665</sup>
  - “The large-scale deployment of armed officers to suppress peaceful protest on college campuses around the country is a shocking development. This response to peaceful protest is an assault on free speech—and it is

<sup>663</sup> Curtis Rogers, April 25, 2024.

<sup>664</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, “Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’.”

<sup>665</sup> Apurva Chakravarthy, “Knight Institute condemns universities’ deployment of police forces nationwide,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 28, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/28/knight-institute-condemns-universities-deployment-of-police-forces-nationwide/>.



- also deeply reckless.”
- The statement acknowledged that there are times when “it may be necessary for universities to involve law enforcement where criminal conduct is at issue,” but stated that those calling for police involvement with peaceful protesters “should consider more carefully the possible consequences of their demands. . . . And all of us, whether or not we share the politics of the protesters, should be alarmed by the precedent that is being established here—and about the ways in which this precedent might be exploited in the future.”
- Palestine Legal, representing four students, filed a Title VI complaint to the U.S. Department of Education alleging that “high-ranking administrators” treated Palestinian students differently. The complaint centered around “discriminatory treatment of Palestinian students and their allies, including by inviting NYPD officers in riot gear — for the first time in decades — to arrest over a hundred students peacefully protesting Israel’s genocide last week” and called on the DOE’s Office of Civil Rights to investigate Columbia for violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Palestine Legal’s complaint detailed instances of anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and Islamophobic harassment going back to October 2023 and claimed that the University has responded to complaints inadequately. “Columbia has actively contributed to pervasive racism and discrimination against Palestinian students on campus, causing both mental and physical harm. For example, students have been arrested, assaulted, suspended, locked out of campus and their classes, forced to seek medical attention, and forced to drop classes and delay their own graduation.” The complaint alleged that the University had not properly addressed reported cases of harassment and had “reinforced the hostile anti-Palestinian environment” by suspending SJP on November 10, 2023. “Despite students filing dozens of complaints, Columbia has failed to take meaningful steps to end the harassment, prevent it from occurring, or remedy its effects.”<sup>666</sup>
- Barnard Dean Grinage emailed Barnard students to inform them of accommodations to final exams.<sup>667</sup>

#### April 26, 2024:

- Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) visited the encampment.<sup>668</sup>
- “Israel Current Events” chat.<sup>669</sup>
  - A little after 11:00 AM business executives including Kind snack company founder Daniel Lubetzky, hedge fund manager Daniel Loeb, businessman Len Blavatnik, and real estate investor Joseph Sitt, held a Zoom video call with New York City Mayor Eric Adams. During the call, some attendees discussed making political donations to Adams, as well as how the chat group’s members could pressure Columbia’s president and trustees to permit the mayor to send police to the campus to handle protestors, according to chat messages summarizing the conversation.
  - It is unclear how many members of the chat attended the meeting, which lasted roughly 45 minutes. Those present included at least Blavatnik, Sitt, Loeb, and Lubetzky, according to the chat logs.
  - Joseph Sitt wrote minutes after the call ended to summarize items “discussed today,” including donations to Adams, using group members’ “leverage” to help persuade Columbia’s president to let New York police back on campus, and paying for “investigative efforts” to assist the city.”
  - Daniel Lubetzky replied listing concrete actions group members should take. These included resharing a link to offer financial support to Adams, calling and writing to Columbia’s president and board of trustees, and “getting Black Leaders to condemn Anti-Semitism.” He named several people he would contact and asked if anyone in the group knew Jay-Z, LeBron James or Alicia Keys.
  - The evening after the call, Joseph Sitt shared the ActBlue link for donations to Adam’s 2025 committee.
  - One member of the group told *The Post* he donated \$2,100, the maximum legal limit, to Adams that month.
  - Some members also offered to pay for private investigators to assist NYPD in handling the protests. A member of the group reported in the chat that Adams accepted this offer. A spokesperson for City Hall responded to this allegation that the NYPD is not using and has not used private investigators to help manage protests.

<sup>666</sup> Esha Karam and Shea Vance, “Palestine Legal files Title VI civil rights complaint on behalf of four students and SJP following mass arrests,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 25, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/25/palestine-legal-files-title-vi-civil-rights-complaint-on-behalf-of-four-students-and-sjp-following-mass-arrests/>.

*Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, Columbia-Barnard Jewish Voice for Peace, Maryam Alwan, and Cameron Jones.*

<sup>667</sup> Forgash, “Final exams to have remote options, amid other academic shifts.”

<sup>668</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>669</sup> Natanson and Felton, “Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show.”  
Esha Karam et al., “NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/nypd-sweeps-occupied-hamilton-hall-arrests-dozens/>.

- When asked about the April 26 Zoom meeting with “Israel Current Events” chat group members, the mayor’s office did not address it directly and instead shared a statement from Deputy Mayor Fabien Levy noting that New York police entered Columbia’s campus twice in response to “specific written requests” from university leadership. “Any suggestion that other considerations were involved in the decision-making process is completely false. The insinuation that Jewish donors secretly plotted to influence government operations is an all too familiar antisemitic trope that *The Washington Post* should be ashamed to ask about, let alone normalize in print.”
- Four days after the meeting occurred with Adams, on April 30, 2024, NYPD returned to campus to arrest students who had occupied Hamilton Hall.
- Negotiations:<sup>670</sup>
  - Negotiations continued in Baker.
  - Early in the evening, the Office of the President committed to sending out daily updates on the negotiation progress, stating that the shared goal of the involved parties is “to restore calm to our campus.”
  - AR presented the administration’s final offer. There was consensus on about half of ER’s demands, but ER continued to disapprove of the process for divestment and wanted a better timeline. ER was particularly concerned that even if ACSRI approved the divestment proposals for “companies that manufacture certain categories of weapons” and “companies that are complicit in violating international law or international treaties recognized by the US government,” the trustees could disregard the outcome of the review.
  - After negotiations ended for the day, the students in the encampment voted to reject the deal.
- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>671</sup>
  - The University Senate passed the “Resolution Addressing Current Events” which proposed the establishment of a task force to review and address recent “counterproductive” administrative policies and decisions, including attacks on academic freedom and due process of students and faculty. The resolution condemned “external interference in the internal affairs of Columbia University that undermines the traditions of academic freedom and shared governance.” It pointed to three issues—jeopardization of academic freedom, breach of privacy and due process, and violation of shared governance principles—and demanded that the administration “take affirmative steps” to address these problems. The task force would present its findings and recommendations for further Senate action. The resolution differed from a censure, which would serve as a public admonishment of President Shafik’s decisions. However, several senators said at the plenary that they would support a censure.
    - Prior to discussing the resolution, the senate deliberated on a preliminary report issued by the executive committee, which informed the basis of the resolution and outlined “a non-exhaustive list” of administrative actions and decisions “that have harmed Columbia.” The report specified eight actions, including circumventing the Rules of University Conduct along with other “long-established disciplinary processes” in Fall 2023; unilaterally revising event policies in Fall 2023 without consulting the University Senate; and “opaque processes of discipline” through CSSI’s Dean’s Discipline process. The report further cites the “misrepresentation” of the Columbia chapters of SJP and JVP in its Fall 2023 suspension of the groups; calling the NYPD onto campus multiple times in Fall 2023 without appropriately consulting the senate executive committee; “failure to defend the institution in the face of external pressures”; the hiring of an “aggressive” external investigative firm; and the arrest of student protestors. “Overall, the fundamental lack of good-faith engagement with all campus constituencies and groups has exacerbated the situation and has served to divide our community.”
    - Senators debated the resolution for almost an hour, with senators also engaging in back-and-forth conversations in the Zoom chat box. At one point, over 550 individuals were in the meeting. All CUID-holders are able to attend plenaries.
    - Chair D’Armiento clarified during the discussion that the preliminary document presented was not an official University Senate report or statement, but rather a summary of past discussions and allegations to start an investigation. The report was not a part of the plenary vote.
    - The resolution passed by a vote of 62 in favor, 14 opposed, and 3 abstentions.
- In a statement issued following the plenary, Chair D’Armiento wrote: “Columbia University is an institution of teaching, research, and learning. We are not a corporate entity, a media outlet, or an arm of any political party. We

<sup>670</sup> Sabrina Ticer-Wurr, “Columbia does not plan to call NYPD to campus, according to community email,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 27, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/27/columbia-does-not-plan-to-call-nypd-to-campus-according-to-community-email/>.

<sup>671</sup> Yu, “University Senate passes resolution establishing task force to recommend ‘possible further Senate action’ on recent administrative policies.”

have a structure of shared governance, with the University Senate the third branch of University governance, functioning in a democratic fashion alongside the President and the Board of Trustees, as set out in the University Statutes. As with any democracy with its structures and institutions, there are moments of challenge, even crisis, but these structures and institutions survive, adapt, and ultimately prosper because we work together for the greater good of all members of our community. We recognize the external challenges but we are united in our purpose of charting a course forward and identifying productive ways by which we can reunite our community. Our goal today first and foremost was to tell our students that we support you. We want the administration to turn around and realize they are running a university. Our message to students is also that, like you, we care about what will happen when the media depart our campus: we are going to keep pushing and pushing until the administration gets it right. Finally, we wanted to show our students the value of collective decision-making where all parties are heard and the group comes to consensus through conversation. Second, we wanted to re-affirm the use of due process for all in our community. The University Senate insists on due process in disciplinary procedures for students, and it would be hypocritical for us to weigh in about the employment of administrators without due process. We also wanted to communicate to the Trustees that what the administration they oversee has been doing is not working and their approach must change. Informing the Trustees about what is going on in the university is our duty under the University Statutes, and we take our duties seriously. In the end, many of us were not yet ready to use the words ‘censure’ and ‘no confidence.’ Others were ready to use these words. The word choice, however much attention it might gain outside, is really a secondary matter. Whatever words we wanted to use, we were united in our primary goal of stopping the administration from continuing in its destructive and counterproductive ways. I hope that what we did today is enough and that we can soon return to teaching, learning, and research full-time. But if it is not, we are ready to try again.”<sup>672</sup>

- In response to the Senate’s vote to pass the “Resolution Addressing Current Events,” a university spokesperson released a statement stating “the administration and Senate share the same goal of restoring calm to campus so everyone can pursue their educational activities.”<sup>673</sup>
- At 2:25 PM [redacted student] responded re: “Report of Attacks on Arab, Muslim, and Pro-Palestine Students at GSSC Gala”: “We the affected students are appalled at the double standard with which our harassment has been treated. The systematic behavior of violence. . . at GS must be addressed. Harassed students should at least be entitled to a meeting with our dean. We are noticing biases among the school of General Studies and Dean Rosen-Metsch’s behavior. It seems that she systematically disfavors Arab and Muslim pro-Palestine students at the school. . . The Dean seems to be known for her unequal treatment of students. . . Like you, we are eager to make the school a safer place. . . We are not surprised that regional tensions have replicated themselves on campus. We are surprised, however, that. . . [students]. . . are permitted to act on these tensions with violence and that the school is allowing this pattern of behavior to persist. We are hoping to meet with you. We would like to confirm that a school-wide email is being drafted to denounce the attacks at the GS gala. . . We hope the dean can set aside her personal biases to ensure all students’ safety. Otherwise, we will look forward to holding a press briefing, starting a petition for the dean’s resignation, and engaging with lawyers immediately.”<sup>674</sup>
- The Kraft Center for Jewish Life hosted a press conference calling for Columbia’s administration to take more aggressive action against antisemitism on campus. Lavine Family Director Cohen, Hillel International president and CEO Adam Lehman, American Jewish Committee CEO Ted Deutch, UJA-Federation of New York President Linda Mirels, and students from Columbia, Brown University, and Rutgers University spoke about the safety of Jewish students and their demands for both faculty and administration.<sup>675</sup>
  - Cohen spoke about his working relationship with Columbia administrators as the executive director of Columbia and Barnard’s Hillel chapter since October 7, 2023 and said he “tried working with the university for months behind the scenes and they have consistently failed to address the crisis on campus.”
  - The weekend after Hamas’ attack on Israel, Cohen said he asked the administration to organize meetings with students from Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza in order to support them, and that it took the University nine weeks to fulfill his request. He also asked administrators to make their policies surrounding student demonstrations “nimble” and clear, so that students wouldn’t have to request an event permit 10 days in advance. He asked the University to clarify their rules, communicate them to the student body, and enforce

<sup>672</sup> Yu, “University Senate passes resolution establishing task force to recommend ‘possible further Senate action’ on recent administrative policies.” Jeanine D’Armiento, “Statement,” (April 26, 2024).

<sup>673</sup> Susan Svrluga, Richard Morgan, and Dan Rosenzweig-Ziff, “Columbia University senate to examine administration amid campus protests,” *The Washington Post*, April 26, 2024.

<sup>674</sup> Redacted student, April 26, 2024.

<sup>675</sup> Grace Kaste, “‘Students deserve better’: CEOs of American Jewish Committee and Hillel hold press conference, call for stricter enforcement of disciplinary codes,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/29/students-deserve-better-ceos-of-american-jewish-committee-and-hillel-hold-press-conference-call-for-stricter-enforcement-of-disciplinary-codes/>.

- them. Cohen said without enforcement of the rules “we would have anarchy on campus.”
- Cohen also spoke about the role of professors in campus discourse. “When professors leave the classroom, they are failing to do their jobs,” referring to professors who he said had held classes in or around the encampment. “I believe in free speech, but it doesn’t mean that people should not be held accountable for what they say, when they say it, where they say it. . . There is a time and a place.”
  - Deutch: “We will not back down from defending Jewish students and creating the university culture that everyone strives for.” Both Deutch and Lehman have been vocal about the reported rise in antisemitic incidents in the months since Hamas’ October 7 attack on Israel. Deutch proposed an action plan for confronting campus antisemitism in November 2023, which he mentioned at the press conference.
  - Lehman testified before the House Committee on Ways and Means in November, where he called on the government to intervene in antisemitism on college campuses. At the press conference, Lehman said “students deserve better. . . Students deserve an environment that is free from harassment, that is free from intimidation, that is free from physical assault.” Lehman said that reports of antisemitism at Columbia are the result of the University’s failure to enforce its existing policies. “[Enforcing University policy] may require expulsions, that may require suspensions. As we’ve seen, that may require bringing in law enforcement. . . One way or another, we have to be able to depend on institutions of higher education to take back control of your campuses.” Lehman said that reducing antisemitic incidents would require limiting student conduct but not speech. He cited alleged incidents of Jewish students at Columbia who have been spit on and had kippahs and accessories that are an “aspect of their identity” ripped from their bodies. “This is not an issue of free speech. . . We’re talking about conduct.” When it comes to University policy toward free speech, however, Lehman said that administrators have been more lenient than he would prefer. “Universities, if anything, have been more accommodating than they probably should be in terms of providing spaces for what is hateful, divisive rhetoric.”
  - Linda Mirels, president of the UJA-Federation of New York, called on all universities to “enforce their very own guidelines and follow the leadership that we have seen at New York University,” referring to the arrests of 120 pro-Palestinian protesters at NYU on April 22.
  - A Columbia student said the Jewish experience at Columbia had become “insufferable.” “On this campus, people chant that Zionists are not welcome calling on, quote, ‘death to the Jewish state.’” The student also cited a January 11 video which resurfaced on April 25 after *The Daily Wire* published it in which another student and a member of CUAD, said that “Zionists don’t deserve to live.” The student added that her professors have invited guest lecturers to “spew anti-Israel rhetoric,” and that they have extended lenient grading policies in favor of students participating in the encampment, rather than those facing antisemitism.
- At 10:47 PM President Shafik, Board of Trustees co-chairs Claire Shipman, CC ’86, MIA’94, and David Greenwald, Law ’83, and Provost Olinto emailed the Columbia community and announced that Columbia did not plan to ask the NYPD to return to campus, addressed a video of a student’s January 9 CSSI meeting where the student said “Zionists don’t deserve to live,” and acknowledged that concerns about the current “atmosphere” and “language” on campus have caused some students to leave campus.<sup>676</sup>
    - “We called on NYPD to clear an encampment once, but we all share the view, based on discussions within our community and with outside experts, that to bring back the NYPD at this time would be counterproductive, further inflaming what is happening on campus, and drawing thousands to our doorstep who would threaten our community.”
    - “Having said that, we also need to continue to enforce our own rules and ensure that those who violate the norms of our community face consequences. The last week has been a period of deep tension and division on our campus, with significant disruption to our community. Many of you are attempting to finish the term, prepare for exams, and work on your research, and the uncertainty and chaotic atmosphere of demonstrations inside our campus and just outside the perimeter has made that challenging to say the least.”
    - “We know that many of you feel threatened by the atmosphere and the language being used and have had to leave campus. That is unacceptable. Many of you also are concerned about being able to speak out for a cause you feel passionately about. That also is unacceptable. Fundamental to the research and teaching mission of our university is academic freedom and an environment free from discrimination and harassment for every member of our community.”

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<sup>676</sup> David Greenwald et al., "Statement from David Greenwald, Claire Shipman, Minouche Shafik, and Angela Olinto," (Office of the President: Announcements). <https://president.columbia.edu/news/statement-david-greenwald-claire-shipman-minouche-shafik-and-angela-olinto>.

- “We want to be absolutely clear. The antisemitism being expressed by some individuals is intolerable and the safety situation has become concerning, particularly with the involvement of individuals not associated with Columbia.”
- “Chants, signs, taunts, and social media posts from our own students that mock and threaten to ‘kill’ Jewish people are totally unacceptable, and Columbia students who are involved in such incidents will be held accountable. We can report that one individual whose vile videos have surfaced in recent days is now banned from campus.”
- “We support the conversations that are ongoing with student leaders of the encampment, under the guidance of academic leaders. Our goal is a safe resolution of this crisis. We hope to see concrete signs of progress tonight that will lead to a significant improvement in the atmosphere on our Morningside campus.”
- “Further updates will be shared tomorrow.”
- A CUAD member was banned from campus after a January 9, 2024 video of them saying “Zionists don’t deserve to live” and “be grateful that I’m not going out and murdering Zionists” on Instagram Live resurfaced and was published by *The Daily Wire* on April 25, 2024. The student was placed on disciplinary probation for these comments by the University on April 19, 2024.<sup>677</sup>
  - This student issued an apology on X and via a CUAD Instagram post: “CUAD and the Gaza Solidarity Encampment have made clear that my words in January, prior to my involvement in CUAD, are not in line with the CUAD community guidelines. I agree with their assessment . . . These words do not represent CUAD. They also do not represent me.”
  - CUAD reposted the apology to Instagram on April 26 and wrote in the caption that “we believe in the sanctity of all life, and believe our work is in changing minds and hearts.”
  - On October 8, 2024, CUAD, which evolved considerably in membership and ideology from Spring 2024 to Fall 2024 (see October 7, 2024 and October 19, 2024), retracted this apology.<sup>678</sup>
  - University spokesperson Chang addressed the resurfaced video at a press briefing. He said that “several of you have had questions about a student video that is extremely alarming and upsetting. . . Calls of violence and statements targeted at individuals based on their religious, ethnic or national identity are unacceptable and violate University policy . . . While we do not comment on individual cases, where there are violations of student conduct policies, they are reviewed and disciplinary measures are applied.” That day, another University spokesperson confirmed to *Spectator* that the student was banned from campus.
  - CSSI sent the student a letter placing them on immediate interim suspension and charged them with “Disruptive Behavior” and “Harassment and/or Violation of the Columbia University Non-Discrimination Statement.” “Specifically, it is alleged that you participated in disruptive behavior by participating in an unapproved encampment on the West Lawn and that you engaged in behavior that was threatening and made discriminatory remarks about other students during this unapproved protest.” No other student received interim suspensions, disciplinary letters, or allegations of misconduct for their involvement in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment on this day.
  - The student sued the University in Fall 2024 arguing that their April 26 interim suspension was “not primarily for his involvement in the West Lawn Encampment, but instead for his speech on January 9, 2024,” which CSSI had already resolved previously. The lawsuit stated, “the timing and language of the sanction letter makes it clear that Columbia acted in response to external forces and national media attention.” Under interim suspension, the student was banned from Columbia facilities, including their housing, rendering the student unable to complete the spring semester.

<sup>677</sup> Emily Forgash, “CUAD member issues apology for January video in which they said ‘Zionists don’t deserve to live,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/26/cuad-member-issues-apology-for-january-video-in-which-they-said-zionists-dont-deserve-to-live/>.

Emily Forgash, “CUAD member banned from campus following ‘Zionists don’t deserve to live’ remark,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/26/cuad-member-banned-from-campus-following-zionists-dont-deserve-to-live-remark/>.

Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, “Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’.”

Tulasi Cherukuri, “CUAD issues apology to Khymani James, CC ‘25,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 9, 2024,

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/09/cuad-issues-apology-to-khymani-james-cc-25/>.

Sharon Otterman, “Pro-Palestinian Group at Columbia Now Backs ‘Armed Resistance’ by Hamas,” *The New York Times*, October 9, 2024,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/09/nyregion/columbia-pro-palestinian-group-hamas.html>.

<sup>678</sup> Forgash, “CUAD member issues apology for January video in which they said ‘Zionists don’t deserve to live.’”

Forgash, “CUAD member banned from campus following ‘Zionists don’t deserve to live’ remark.”

Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, “Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’.”

Cherukuri, “CUAD issues apology to Khymani James, CC ‘25.”

Otterman, “Pro-Palestinian Group at Columbia Now Backs ‘Armed Resistance’ by Hamas.”

- The students lawsuit also claimed that the April 26 statement from Board of Trustees Co-Chairs David Greenwald, Law '83, and Claire Shipman, CC'86, MIA'94, former President Shafik, and Provost Olinto “further inflamed the hatred against” the student and “singled him out” by stating that “we can report that one individual whose vile videos have surfaced in recent days is now banned from campus.”
- Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.), introduced the College Oversight and Legal Updates Mandating Bias Investigations and Accountability Act, or the COLUMBIA Act.<sup>679</sup>
  - The COLUMBIA Act would allow the Department of Education to impose a “third-party antisemitism monitor” for any institution of higher education that receives federal funding who would publish a quarterly report on a school’s efforts to fight antisemitism and issue ad hoc policy recommendations to various government leaders.
  - The college or university placed under the Department of Education’s increased scrutiny would be responsible for covering any expenses from the monitor’s oversight and would lose federal funding for not complying with the act’s requirements.
  - “As we have seen over the last half a year since October 7, campus antisemitism is at an all-time high, and American universities are not capable of handling it when left to their own devices.” In the announcement, Torres described that the “ongoing demonstrations at Columbia University. . . have created an environment that many Jewish students view as hostile to their well-being and safety. . . Jewish students have told my office that they feel completely abandoned by their university administrators and they view Congress as the only avenue for accountability and safety.”
- Barnard announced that they reached an agreement to lift interim suspension for “nearly all” 55 suspended Barnard students for their alleged participation in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” on April 17 and 18, with routes to amnesty. Barnard students placed on interim suspension initially had their CUIDs deactivated and did not have access to residence halls, dining halls, classrooms, or campus spaces. Barnard “immediately restored full access” to all spaces on campus for students who reached a resolution. A Barnard spokesperson said: “we are pleased to have reached these resolutions and are actively working to complete this process with the remaining students so that they can fully return to campus life.” The college did not specify how many students had not reached a resolution.<sup>680</sup>

#### April 27, 2024:

- “Israel Current Events” chat.<sup>681</sup>
  - The day after the group’s Zoom call with Mayor Adams, chat member Joseph Sitt wrote: “he’s open to any ideas we have. . . as you saw he’s ok if we hire private investigators to then have this police force intel team work with them.” Sitt declined to comment on the chat through a spokeswoman to *The Washington Post*.
  - The day after the “Israel Current Events” chat held a Zoom meeting with Mayor Adams, investor and hedge fund manager Daniel Loeb wrote to the chat group to share his reflections on what transpired during the call. Loeb wrote that it was a “sad state that we feel the need to grovel to ask our elected officials to do their jobs. . . I’ll be grateful when the perpetrators are dragged off campus.”
- Negotiations:
  - Negotiations continued in Baker.
  - AR and ER reached consensus on many items. AR insisted that they were now in the “tweaking stage” of the best and final offer and were no longer bargaining.
  - Early in the day, a surreptitiously taken video of an internal in-person AR discussion was sent to the AR and ER representatives and posted on Telegram anonymously. ER stated that the footage was not from their group. Despite this attempt to derail the negotiations, the negotiations continued.
  - Due to security concerns, negotiations relocated to Low Library once again.
  - When the negotiation team and Senate observers arrived in Low Library, they noticed they were being followed by an older individual in a purple shirt. ER reported that the same person had been following them

<sup>679</sup> Noah Bernstein, “Torres announces COLUMBIA Act to create ‘antisemitism monitor’ for select colleges and universities,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/26/torres-announces-columbia-act-to-create-antisemitism-monitor-for-select-colleges-and-universities/>.

Rebecca Massel, Apurva Chakravarthy, and Noah Bernstein, “Columbia hoped to ‘keep heads down.’ A Republican trifecta could intensify federal scrutiny,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/13/columbia-hoped-to-keep-heads-down-a-republican-trifecta-could-intensify-federal-scrutiny/>.

<sup>680</sup> Stahl, “Barnard reaches resolution with ‘nearly all’ suspended students, spokesperson says.”

Vettikkal, “The Stakes of Solidarity: What Low-Income Students Risked the Day of Columbia’s April 18 Mass Arrests.”

<sup>681</sup> Natanson and Felton, “Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show.”

earlier. AR and University Senate observers confronted the individual who claimed he only wanted to use the restroom. When asked, the individual would not produce CUID. Public Safety and COO Holloway were called and affirmed that the individual was from a security firm. COO Holloway spoke with the individuals who then left the building. All members of the negotiating team were shaken by these events. University Senate observer members feared further escalation from growing atmosphere of intimidation and began to fear for their own safety after recognizing that they were being surveilled as well as the negotiators.

- AR and ER continued discussions of “tweaks.”
- An April 27th position paper by CUAD shows the evolution of negotiations, the University’s offers, and CUAD’s counterproposals.<sup>682</sup>
  - CUAD demanded an upfront commitment by the Board of Trustees to divest from weapons manufacturing and other selected companies and to grant full amnesty for all students given interim suspensions for involvement in the encampment without signing the attestation.
  - The paper indicates that the University modified its original public health and education proposals to include “a resilience fund for Gaza at Columbia Global,” “a scholarship fund for students, who have lived, worked, or studied in the West Bank and Gaza,” “a hardship fund for current Columbia University students impacted by the current conflict in the Middle East,” and developing programs for early childhood development in Gaza and the West Bank. CUAD countered that the scholarship fund cover 30 to 40 students for five years and that the Gaza resilience fund be seeded with \$1 million and a fundraising goal of at least \$10 million in a year.
  - CUAD also wanted a presidential statement issued “in recognition of the harms done to students and the genocide in Gaza” based on a draft provided by students on April 25, 2024. The draft asked the University to praise pro-Palestinian students for having “motivated the university to develop a principled stance on the war,” state the Gaza war is “plausibly a genocide,” and state “the presence of the NYPD on our campus has contributed to a sense of danger.”
- At the end of discussions, AR demanded a response to the latest proposal before 8:00 AM April 28 and noted that to the best of their understanding no disciplinary action would be taken before this deadline.
- From this point on, no more productive negotiations occurred. No more official negotiating took place.
- CUAD, the Columbia chapter of SJP, the national chapter of SJP, and two individuals made a joint post stating: “Columbia is considering a complete lockdown of campus, evicting thousands of students by shutting down dorms weeks early with no notice. . . Columbia is doing this in an effort to fracture the encampment and to pre-empt negotiations. . . It knows that a huge number of undergraduate students support the movement and thinks this policy will decrease our numbers by displacing student protesters from their homes.” The post received more than 20,000 likes.<sup>683</sup>
- The University cancelled its daily press briefing, which was first scheduled for 5:00 PM but then was pushed back by two hours to 7:00 PM. The briefing was eventually called off 15 minutes before it was set to begin.<sup>684</sup>
- Vice President of Communications Chang wrote in a campus update that there was “no truth to claims of an impending lockdown or evictions on campus” after a CUAD Instagram post warning of a campus lockdown and student evictions circulated in the afternoon. Chang wrote: “today was a quiet day on campus. . . Dialogue between University officials and student organizers is ongoing.”<sup>685</sup>

#### April 28, 2024:

- Pro-Palestinian car parade passed Columbia’s campus and a Neturei Karta International protest was held outside the Columbia gates.<sup>686</sup>
- Student Workers of Columbia-United Auto Workers (SWC-UAW) announced a daily picket from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM until May 3, 2024 in support of the encampment’s demands.<sup>687</sup>

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<sup>682</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>683</sup> @CUAD, Instagram, April 27, 2024.

<sup>684</sup> Shea Vance, “‘No truth’ to claims of ‘lockdown’ or evictions, University spokesperson says,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 27, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/27/no-truth-to-claims-of-lockdown-or-evictions-university-spokesperson-says/>.

<sup>685</sup> Vance, “‘No truth’ to claims of ‘lockdown’ or evictions, University spokesperson says.”

Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>686</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>687</sup> Amira Mckee, Claire Cleary, and Isha Banerjee, “Hundreds picket around South Lawn as suspension deadline expires,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/29/hundreds-picket-around-south-lawn-as-suspension-deadline-expires/>.

- Negotiations:<sup>688</sup>
  - ER posted on Substack an update on negotiations and outlined their negotiation demands. ER called the University’s offers “unacceptable.”
    - On the University’s offer to expedite an ACSRI review of their divestment proposals, CUAD wrote that “proposals made to ACSRI are non-binding. This offer amounts to a mere suggestion to the Board of Trustees, which they are authorized to ignore.”
    - The coalition also demanded that the University provide a method to access both direct and indirect financial holdings and cease the opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center entirely.
    - CUAD further called for “full amnesty for all, without self-identification – nothing less.” CUAD wrote that Columbia offered to provide amnesty to suspended students involved in the April 17 and April 18 encampment through “an attestation process.” Those students would remain on probation until December 31, 2024, according to CUAD.
    - CUAD concluded: “If the University does not come forward with real, concrete proposals that address our demands, we will have no choice but to escalate the intensity of protests on campus.”
  - At 7:28 PM Chief of Staff to the Provost Brooks emailed Provost Olinto and other administrators involved in negotiations “Position Paper”: “Please see the attached document from Jeanine on behalf of the student negotiators.
  - The University received a position paper that highlighted the differences between the University’s position and CUAD’s position.
  - At 8:00 PM ER responded to AR’s final proposal: “We are an anti-war movement protesting Columbia’s involvement in the genocide and occupation of our people, the Palestinians. As outlined in our post here, we cannot continue in this negotiation under these circumstances. Columbia is insisting on profiting from war and genocide rather than being on the moral side of history. We remain committed to negotiations as the only viable path for the current situation at Columbia. Until the negotiation circumstances are changed, I am afraid we will not be back at the table.”
- At 9:43 PM @ColumbiaSJP posted on X: “BREAKING: LEAKED DOCUMENT from Columbia University admin detailing: 1. Discriminatory Admissions policies for the Tel Aviv Dual Degree program 2. Disproportionate financial aid given to Tel Aviv Dual Degree Students 3. Bias from the Dean of General Studies.” This post received 1.8 million views.<sup>689</sup>
  - The document stated: “I am writing to express significant concerns about recent events within the School of General Studies. As a concerned affiliate of the university, I respectfully request that my anonymity be maintained due to the sensitive nature of this report.”
  - The document alleged: “These practices suggest a serious and intentional use of general studies institutional aid where TAU Dual Degree Program students receive disproportionately higher funds than others, without the required basis of demonstrated financial need.”
  - The document alleged that “On February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, Dean Lisa Rosen-Metsch organized official meetings exclusive to students from the TAU Dual BA Program to discuss the quality of the Dual BA program. Dean Rosen-Metsch has not previously arranged similar meetings to discuss the quality of any other Dual BA programs in this exclusive manner. However, during these meetings, Dean Rosen-Metsch addressed the campus climate and the specific challenges faced by TAU students. She conveyed that the administration and donors were actively supporting them and encouraged them to report concerning behaviors from other students to her, promising to take appropriate actions.” The document later stated: “Dean Rosen-Metsch’s instructions for students to report their peers to her raise significant concerns about surveillance and the potential suppression of free speech on campus
  - The document alleged that Dean Rosen-Metsch “convened meetings with GS veterans who served in the Israeli Defense Forces, directing them to counter pro-Palestine student activities and to actively disrupt pro-Palestinian advocacy on campus. These meetings are part of a broader pattern where she appears to promote an exclusively pro-Israel stance within GS.”
  - The document concluded: “I urge Columbia University to promptly initiate a comprehensive investigation into the School of General Studies, the TAU Dual BA Program, and the actions of Dean Lisa Rosen-Metsch.”

<sup>688</sup> CUAD, "Gaza Solidarity Encampment Negotiations Update," news release, April 28, 2024, <https://cuapartheiddivest.substack.com/p/gaza-solidarity-encampment-negotiations>.

"Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>689</sup> @ColumbiaSJP.



April 29, 2024:

- At 8:05 AM President Shafik announced the end of negotiations in a letter to the community: “Since Wednesday, a small group of academic leaders has been in constructive dialogue with student organizers to find a path that would result in the dismantling of the encampment and adherence to university policies going forward. Regretfully, we were not able to come to an agreement.” Shafik announced that Columbia “will not divest from Israel.” The email detailed several offers put forth by the University, including an offer to develop an “expedited timeline” for divestment proposals submitted to ACSRI, the body that oversees divestment decisions. It also proposed to establish a process by which students could access a list of Columbia’s direct investment holdings and “increase the frequency of updates to that list.” Other offers outlined in the email included the assembly of a faculty committee to address ongoing concerns regarding the state of academic freedom. President Shafik also wrote that the University “offered to make investments in health and education in Gaza, including supporting early childhood development and support for displaced scholars” and to start a conversation “on access and financial barriers to academic programs and global centers.” The email did not address amnesty for disciplined students, one of the three stated goals of the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.” President Shafik urged protesters to “voluntarily disperse” and said University administrators were “consulting with a broader group in our community to explore alternative internal options to end this crisis as soon as possible.”<sup>690</sup>
- Barnard President Rosenbury forwarded Shafik’s message to the Barnard College community, “urging people to leave the encampment on Columbia’s lawn.” She wrote that students who need “support during this time, including assistance in leaving the encampment” could email Dean Grinage. “I reiterate my strong respect for the right to demonstrate, but we must make certain that our community is a safe and welcoming place for all.”<sup>691</sup>
- Around 9:00 AM, Columbia began distributing paper notices to demonstrators at the encampment, informing individuals that they had until 2:00 PM to clear the lawn, identify themselves to administration, and sign an disciplinary probation attestation committing to abide by all University policies through June 30, 2025, or the date of degree conferral or they would be sanctioned with interim suspension. Students “currently involved in a disciplinary process or having already received discipline,” were not eligible for this arrangement and “may not be eligible to complete the semester in good standing.” This statement concerned the 108 individuals arrested at the first encampment and effectively left this group of protestors without incentive to leave the second encampment.<sup>692</sup>
  - The notice stated that encampment participants are in violation of multiple University policies, including the Rules of University Conduct and sections under the Standards and Discipline policy such as disruptive behavior, failure to comply, violation of University policy, vandalism or damage to property, and harassment and/or violation of the Columbia University non-discrimination policy.
  - Students interim suspended would have their CUID’s deactivated and would not have access to their campus housing or any University “campuses, facilities and property, including all academic, residential and recreational spaces.” While interim suspended, students are not able to participate in classes, academic events, and extracurricular activities. If suspended, “you will need to contact your Dean of Students to make arrangements to obtain your personal belongings.” Columbia previously suspended students involved in the first encampment, though students suspended at the time were allowed to remain in their individual rooms in their residence halls.
  - The notice stated suspended students would not be “permitted to complete the Spring 2024 semester, including participate in classes or exams in-person or remotely or otherwise submit assignments or engage in any activities affiliated with Columbia University. . . You may lose the semester. If you are scheduled to graduate, you are no longer eligible.”
  - The notice also stated: “It is important for you to know that the University has already identified many students in the encampment. If you do not identify yourself upon leaving and sign the form now, you will

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<sup>690</sup> Shafik, "Statement from Columbia University President Minouche Shafik."

Noah Bernstein and Sarah Huddleston, "Columbia 'will not divest from Israel,' negotiators fail to come to agreement, Shafik announces," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/29/columbia-will-not-divest-from-israel-negotiators-fail-to-come-to-agreement-shafik-announces/>.

<sup>691</sup> Bernstein and Huddleston, "Columbia 'will not divest from Israel,' negotiators fail to come to agreement, Shafik announces."

<sup>692</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Noah Bernstein, "'The time for action is now': 21 Congressional Democrats pen stern letter to trustees, caution Title VI violations," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/the-time-for-action-is-now-21-congressional-democrats-pen-stern-letter-to-trustees-caution-title-vi-violations/>.

Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Columbia urges encampment participants to leave, warns of interim suspension as demonstrators vote to stay," *Columbia Daily Spectator* (April 29, 2024), <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/29/columbia-begins-handing-out-notices-urging-encampment-participants-to-leave-warns-of-interim-suspension/>.

Huddleston, "Columbia begins to suspend students in 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment,' University spokesperson says."

- not be eligible to sign and complete the semester in good standing. If you do not leave by 2 p.m., you will be suspended pending further investigation.”
- Students who had participated in the first encampment were “currently involved in a disciplinary process” and thus, not eligible for the deal. This gave these students no incentive to leave the encampment.
  - The University stationed mobile ID readers in front of Butler Library, and a Public Safety officer inside Hamilton Hall required each individual entering to show their CUID.<sup>693</sup>
  - CUAD warned of escalating action in a post to the coalition’s Substack: “Admitted students day is over—commencement is on its way. . . Let’s see how much of this campus we can reclaim by then!”<sup>694</sup>
  - In the morning, twenty-one Congressional Democrats, including Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), Daniel Goldman (D-N.Y.), Kathy Manning (D-N.C.), and Jared Moskowitz (D-Fla.) sent a letter to Columbia’s Board of Trustees expressing their collective “disappointment that, despite promises to do so, Columbia University has not yet disbanded the unauthorized and impermissible encampment of anti-Israel, anti-Jewish activists on campus.” The letter focused exclusively on the University’s 21 trustees, not mentioning President Shafik or calling for her firing. “The time for negotiation is over; the time for action is now. . . It is ultimately the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to act. If any Trustees are unwilling to do this, they should resign so that they can be replaced by individuals who will uphold the University’s legal obligations under Title VI.”<sup>695</sup>
    - The letter critiqued the University’s decision to offer a remote learning option for the remainder of the semester as “appearing” to violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act since the decision was made in part in recognition of how the ongoing protests may impact some Jewish students.
    - “Instead of solving the root cause of discrimination and harassment that students faced on campus, the administration decided to segregate some students from campus altogether, which naturally created an unsafe environment on campus for all student.”
    - It also levied claims that the University “has allowed the encampment to create an environment that appears to violate its legal obligations to protect all students from discrimination and harassment.”
    - Four of the letter’s signatories, including Moskowitz, held a press conference April 24, 2024 at the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life.
  - At 12:00 PM encampment assembly demonstrators voted to stay in the encampment past the 2:00 PM deadline.<sup>696</sup>
    - Speakers encouraged “high-risk” members, such as international students on F-1 visas, to leave.
    - “To be clear, if you personally do not feel comfortable . . . you don’t have to stay, but we’re making a decision as a collective,” an organizer said to demonstrators before the vote.
  - At 1:00 PM ‘All Out for Columbia’ rally, students gathered at the Sundial for speeches. The rally was held in support of “students threatened with mass suspension and eviction” and to “protect the encampment.”<sup>697</sup>
    - Two students who were suspended and arrested on April 18, 2024 and a Professor spoke.
    - One of the students criticized President Shafik’s recent emails: “She put a lot of weight on the fact that we’re no longer negotiating, that we somehow dropped the negotiations. But I’d like to question that a little bit. Now, let me ask you a question. If you’re negotiating with somebody and right in the middle of your conversations, the person’s like, ‘Oh, by the way, if you don’t take this, I’m gonna call the National Guard,’ is that negotiation? Is that bargaining in good faith?”
    - The Professor spoke to *Spectator*: “I’m also appalled, as a faculty member of this University, by the incredible use of force against students who have been demonstrating and bringing to the discussion here at Columbia an incredible vision for a better and more just future, and I want them to be protected and respected as the adults and scholars that they are.”
  - Following the rally, hundreds picketed around South Lawn.<sup>698</sup>
  - As the 2:00 PM deadline passed, hundreds of affiliates continued to picket around South Lawn. Organizers urged students to protect the encampment.<sup>699</sup>
  - Dozens of protesters remained inside the encampment as hundreds circled the lawns, chanting “Free, free Palestine,” “From the river to sea, Palestine will be free,” and “It is right to rebel, Columbia go to hell.” Picketers walked in a

<sup>693</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Columbia urges encampment participants to leave, warns of interim suspension as demonstrators vote to stay."

<sup>694</sup> Amira Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/dozens-occupy-hamilton-hall-as-pro-palestinian-protests-spread-across-campus/>.

<sup>695</sup> Bernstein, "'The time for action is now': 21 Congressional Democrats pen stern letter to trustees, caution Title VI violations."

<sup>696</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Columbia urges encampment participants to leave, warns of interim suspension as demonstrators vote to stay." Huddleston, "Columbia begins to suspend students in 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment,' University spokesperson says."

<sup>697</sup> Mckee, Cleary, and Banerjee, "Hundreds picket around South Lawn as suspension deadline expires."

<sup>698</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>699</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

circle around both the lawns, traveling all the way up to Low Plaza as they continued to chant. Faculty in orange vests formed a line in front of the entrance of the encampment as students picketed. Around a dozen faculty also remained inside the encampment.<sup>700</sup>

- Picketing lasted for several hours.<sup>701</sup>
- A few counterprotesters gathered on Low Steps with three Israeli flags.<sup>702</sup>
- Around 3:50 PM the picket line around the encampment stopped.<sup>703</sup>
- At 3:50 PM a hundred people protested off campus at 116th Street and Broadway in an “emergency rally” organized in part by The People’s Forum.<sup>704</sup>
- At around 4:30 PM Director Cohen spoke to CNN’s Jake Tapper: “What we asked the university to do from the very beginning was twofold: one to set the rules, and two, was to meet regularly. Engage with the students who were impacted on all sides. We asked the university leadership to meet with Israeli students, as well as students from Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon.”<sup>705</sup>
- Administration began to suspend students for their participation in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.” One individual from ER was suspended, although the University had previously agreed not to do so. This suspension was eventually revoked.<sup>706</sup>
- Chair D’Armiento notified the Administration that the Senate would no longer observe negotiations. Chair D’Armiento informed Administration that the Senate believed at the time, with the empowerment that the students were feeling from national and international support, the negotiating parties were not likely to come to an agreement. As observers of the process the Senate observers also warned Administration that punishments or bringing in the NYPD would likely lead to escalation and greater disruption on campus prior to graduation. Senate observers recommended that faculty experts and professional mediators be brought in to discuss the demands.
- Around 8:00 PM Chair D’Armiento sent a letter to all Senator and Non-Senator members of the University Senate on behalf of the Executive Committee. This letter signaled the end of efforts by the University Senate to observe the negotiations.<sup>707</sup>
  - “We write to you to address events on campus over the past two weeks, including the negotiations that took place between representatives of the administration and the student protestors. These events have been extensively covered, often carefully so in our campus media, but there has, nevertheless, been much confusion, misinformation, and disinformation. On April 17, a number of our students set up an encampment on campus, an action that might have resulted in charges being brought under the Rules of University Conduct and, possibly, other disciplinary frameworks. On April 18, despite the University Senate Executive Committee’s concerns, the administration responded by bringing the NYPD onto campus and the NYPD arrested more than 100 student protestors. This response of the University administration was unprecedented and disproportionate and has only served to inflame the situation. In the University Senate, our goal has been to bring the parties to the table and to seek to mediate a peaceful resolution through good-faith negotiations by both, and we have maintained this approach throughout. This is in keeping with our long-standing principle of shared governance. The process involved significant effort. We believe that ultimately both parties made genuine efforts toward reaching a mutually agreeable solution despite their differences. Unfortunately, in the end, no agreement was reached. We understand that the University will take other routes in an attempt to resolve the issue. The University Senate is not involved in this decision-making and, while we do not know what these routes will be, we believe that we as members of the University Senate Executive Committee did everything to identify a resolution through discussion. We want to thank those members of the University Senate who invested considerable time and effort to help facilitate the negotiation process as witnesses. Their commitment to shared governance has gone far above and beyond their responsibilities as representatives of the Columbia community. Countless hours and substantial amounts of energy were dedicated to maintaining a process of good-faith negotiations between representatives from University

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<sup>700</sup> Mckee, Cleary, and Banerjee, "Hundreds picket around South Lawn as suspension deadline expires."

<sup>701</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>702</sup> Mckee, Cleary, and Banerjee, "Hundreds picket around South Lawn as suspension deadline expires."

<sup>703</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>704</sup> Mckee, Cleary, and Banerjee, "Hundreds picket around South Lawn as suspension deadline expires."

<sup>705</sup> Brian Cohen, "Columbia's Hillel Exec. Dir. on pro-Palestinian protests," interview by Jake Tapper, *CNN*, April 29, 2024,

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2024/04/29/the-lead-columbia-protest-palestine-israel-students-tapper.cnn>.

<sup>706</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of 'Tedeschi Rights'."

Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>707</sup> Jeanine D'Armiento, "Letter " (April 29, 2024).

administration and student protestors. We regret deeply that a negotiated solution was not reached. As the Executive Committee of the University Senate, it is particularly important that we provide the leadership that our community has sought in recent times, that we maintain the trust of the many members of our community, particularly our students, at a time when their trust in the institution and its administration has been tried, and that we continue to be thoughtful in our words and actions at a difficult time for all members of our community. We reaffirm our commitment to the well-being, rights, and protection of all Columbia students, faculty, and members of our community. Where there are divides, we believe the way forward is through dialogue and we encourage all members of our community to continue with these values in mind. As our University navigates these difficult times, we will continue to seek solutions on behalf of the community.”

- The Barnard student body voted in favor of a proposed divestment referendum, which asked students if the University should divest from Israel. The referendum specifically asked students if the college and University should “divest all stocks, funds, and endowment and refrain from further investment in companies profiting from or engaging in the Israeli economy.” Of the 55 percent of the student body that voted in the referendum, 90.99 percent voted in favor, 7.1 percent voted against, and 1.9 percent abstained. Students also voted in favor of the cancellation of the opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center and the phasing out of the dual degree program between Columbia and Tel Aviv University by large majorities—85.26 percent and 82.45 percent in favor, respectively. The election saw a 235 percent increase in voter turnout when compared to the spring 2023 election cycle.<sup>708</sup>
- Barnard President Rosenbury became the first Barnard president in recorded history to lose a vote of no confidence due to “administrative chaos at every level of the college” when 77 percent of participating Barnard faculty members passed the vote. The vote had a 72.4 percent response rate among eligible voters. “Her punitive and rule-bound management approach has driven a wedge between the administration on the one hand and students and faculty on the other. . . She has demonstrated no understanding of the College’s culture and community and no respect for our values. Under her leadership in the last ten months, relationships have frayed, trust has fractured, and our campus has become virtually unrecognizable.”<sup>709</sup>
- In an evening press briefing, University spokesperson Chang announced that the University had begun suspending students within the encampment. Chang further urged protestors to clear the encampment to allow for continued construction in preparation for Commencement, which was scheduled to occur on May 15, 2024.<sup>710</sup>
  - “In the notice to the encampment, we made another direct request to the student protestors: We urge you to remove the encampment so that we do not deprive your fellow students—more than 15,000 graduating this spring—their families, and friends of this momentous occasion.”
- CUAD established a relief payment system for disciplined students, through which students could request up to \$1,000 at once. After the first arrests, crowdfunding organizations raised thousands of dollars to help arrested students as well as to direct donations toward Palestinian funds. The 116th Initiative, a Barnard and Columbia mutual aid collective, helped “suspended and evicted peers find housing, afford food, and pay off medical bills.”<sup>711</sup>
- A group of alumni issued a statement addressed to President Shafik: “We, the undersigned, have watched the events at Columbia over the past week and demand action from President Shafik, the Board of Trustees, the University Senate, and the Columbia faculty and staff. Enough is enough. Antisemitism is never acceptable. Ever. Over the past week: Students encircled and tried to intimidate a Jewish student in a ‘Zionist free zone.’ Suspended students defied decrees by returning to the encampment. Flyers encouraged confrontation, telling encampment protestors to be ‘ready for a fight.’ One student leader shockingly stated, ‘Zionists don’t deserve to live,’ A student held a sign encouraging ‘Al Quassam next victim’ in front of Jewish students. A student assaulted a Jewish peer and tried burning their Israeli flag. The flag of a terrorist group Hamas flew inside the encampment. A convicted terrorist’s wife joined and stoked the protest. Protestors took down Israeli flags, American flags, and ‘Bring Them Home’ banner. Dozens of other incidents of antisemitism. These incidents have been recorded and documented. We insist Columbia immediately restore safety for all students without exception by enforcing zero-tolerance against antisemitism. Columbia must remove illegal encampments today and take swift and strong disciplinary action against students engaged in hate

<sup>708</sup> Shea Vance, “Barnard student body votes for divestment from Israel with over 90 percent in favor as SGA releases election results,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/barnard-student-body-votes-for-divestment-from-israel-with-over-90-percent-in-favor-as-sga-releases-election-results/>.

<sup>709</sup> Stahl, “One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president’s controversial tenure so far.”

Emily Forgash, “Columbia AAUP chapter calls for vote of no confidence in Shafik, other top University leadership,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/02/columbia-aaup-chapter-calls-for-vote-of-no-confidence-in-shafik-other-top-university-leadership/>.

<sup>710</sup> Banerjee, “Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

Huddleston, “Columbia begins to suspend students in ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment,’ University spokesperson says.”

<sup>711</sup> Vettikkal, “The Stakes of Solidarity: What Low-Income Students Risked the Day of Columbia’s April 18 Mass Arrests.”

speech, threats, and criminal conduct. Empty rhetoric is inadequate. Jewish students require more robust action to feel secure, and all students deserve a campus where activities core to the university's mission proceed free of disruption. The morning's message to the community did not meet our expectations from leadership. This failure to act is a dereliction of duty to the proud legacy of the school, making it a matter of grave concern for all alumni. The current approach of placating the agents of disruption is demonstrably not working. We call on Columbia's leadership to fulfill their solemn obligation to every member of the Columbia community and take meaningful action now."<sup>712</sup>

- In "Columbia Alumni for Israel" WhatsApp chat Ari Shrage wrote that he had coauthored the letter with Lisa Carnoy, a Columbia trustee emerita and current member of the board of visitors of the School of American Studies. The alumni and donors wrote the letter "to keep pressure on the university," Shrage said in the WhatsApp group. "Lisa hired Minouche and was former co-chair of the board," he added, referring to Carnoy and Shafik.
- On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published "The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors" about the WhatsApp chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia's interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.
- Another student filed a federal lawsuit against Columbia alleging antisemitism. The specifics of this case revolve around the encampment and alleged that the environment in and around the encampment resulted in violence, intimidation, and threats. In the complaint, the plaintiff says that she felt uncomfortable on campus at times after October 7, but says that that the "level of hostility on campus escalated dramatically" after the encampment was erected on April 18, 2024. The complaint alleged that the plaintiff was unable to complete her final project because she was unable to access campus due to protests at the entrance of campus she found threatening and, at times, violent.<sup>713</sup>
- Hecker Fink, a firm representing Columbia, requested in a letter that all four cases related to antisemitism be "designated as related" and assigned to the same judge, writing that it would better serve "the interests of justice and efficiency," pursuant to laws pertaining to related cases, according to the letter. This request was denied.<sup>714</sup>

#### April 29-30, 2024: Hamilton Hall

#### **April 30, 2024:**

- Groups of protestors held meetings across campus, including in front of the Journalism School and by Philosophy Hall.<sup>715</sup>
- A group of protesters moved at least a dozen tents from the encampment to the lawn outside of Lewisohn Hall.<sup>716</sup>
- At around 12:30 AM, students began a large picket near South Lawn, marching toward the northern end of campus and away from Hamilton. A group of protesters carrying sleeping bags and backpacks diverged from the picket line, picking up black metal barricades and entered Hamilton Hall. The protesters moved metal gates to barricade the doors, blocked the entrances of the building with wooden tables and chairs from classrooms, and zip-tied the doors shut. A protester broke the window of the rightmost door as dozens more formed a human barricade directly outside the doors. As the protesters entered the building, people cheered and clapped.<sup>717</sup>
- Inside Hamilton, members of the press, student journalists, and facilities workers stood in the lobby.<sup>718</sup>
- Two students attempted to block protesters from barricading the front center doors of Hamilton, shouting, "You don't have a right to tear down our University."<sup>719</sup>

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<sup>712</sup> Alumni, "A Statement from Alumni of Columbia University," (April 29, 2024).

Lennard and Lacy, "The Columbia Network Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protesters."

<sup>713</sup> C.S. v. The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, (United States District Court Southern District of New York).

<sup>714</sup> Massel, "Title VI lawsuit against Columbia, Barnard amended to add 32 more Jewish students."

<sup>715</sup> Gabriella Gregor Splaver et al., "In Focus: When Hamilton Hall became 'Hind's Hall'," May 12, 2024,

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/main/2024/05/12/in-focus-when-hamilton-hall-became-hinds-hall/>.

<sup>716</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>717</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>718</sup> Splaver et al., "In Focus: When Hamilton Hall became 'Hind's Hall'."

<sup>719</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

- In less than five minutes, protesters sealed the building while hundreds more flooded in front of the building. Protestors did not let anyone enter Hamilton after locking down the building.<sup>720</sup>
- Upon entry, protesters quickly set down their belongings and raced up the stairs, bringing tables and chairs from classrooms to block the doors from the inside, covered security cameras with black trash bags and tape, and shuttered the blinds.<sup>721</sup>
- Three facilities workers and one Public Safety Officer were in the building when protesters entered.<sup>722</sup>
- One of the facilities workers described a confrontation with protesters to *The New York Times*.<sup>723</sup>
  - He said he was cleaning the third floor of Hamilton when he heard “a commotion” downstairs and kept working.
  - A bit later, he saw five or six protesters with their faces covered bringing chairs up the stairway. He recalled: “I’m like, what the hell is going on? Put it back. What are you doing?”
  - He said he tried to block them and they tried to reason with him to get out of the way, telling him “this is bigger than you.” One person told him he didn’t get paid enough to deal with this. Someone tried to offer him a “fistful of cash.”
  - He said he replied: “I don’t want your money, dude. Just get out of the building.”
- The facilities workers told *The New York Times* that they felt “the university had not done enough to prevent the attack or to help them once the building was under siege.”<sup>724</sup>
  - One said: “I cannot believe that they let this happen.”
  - The facilities workers called for help from the NYPD and the school’s Public Safety officers, but no one arrived in time to assist them.
- The Public Safety officer in the lobby left the building when confronted by the protesters and called for backup, according to witnesses. After the officer left, the protesters began barricading the main doors with furniture and chairs. Local 241 of the Transport Workers Union said that the occupiers appeared to have timing their break-in with the Public Safety midnight shift change, and the woman on duty was coming off her shift.<sup>725</sup>
- One facilities worker “who had worked there for five years, confronted some of the protesters, trying to protect what he saw as ‘his building.’”<sup>726</sup>
  - But as he saw the number of protesters grow to “maybe 15 or 20,” he said, he realized he could not fight them. He asked to be let out, but someone said the doors downstairs were already barricaded and that he couldn’t leave.
  - “Fear made him ‘crazy,’ he said. He grabbed an older protester and ripped off his sweatshirt and mask, demanding to be let out.”
  - The man said he could bring 20 people up to back him. ‘I was terrified,’ the facilities worker said. “I did what I had to do.” The facilities worker then grabbed a nearby fire extinguisher and pulled the pin before someone persuaded him to calm down.
- Around 12:40 PM another facilities worker saw the confrontation and radioed his supervisors for help. Then he made his way to the main doors that were fastened shut with zip ties.<sup>727</sup>
  - “So I begged them,” the second facilities worker said. “I said, I work here, let me out, let me out.”
  - Eventually, someone cut the zip ties and pushed him outside, he said, then secured the doors again.
  - He found the Public Safety Officer outside Hamilton and told her that his co-workers were stuck inside.
- Around 12:45 AM, NYPD officers arrived outside the 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue gates in unmarked cars.<sup>728</sup>
- Around 1:10 AM, 30 minutes after the second facilities worker first encountered the protesters, a student protestor cut the zip ties on the front door handle and let the second facilities worker and a third worker out of Hamilton. He yelled at the crowd, “They held me hostage.” Afterward, the protesters immediately relocked the door.<sup>729</sup>

<sup>720</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>721</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>722</sup> Sharon Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall," *The New York Times*, May 8, 2024,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/05/08/nyregion/columbia-hamilton-hall-protests.html>.

<sup>723</sup> Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall."

<sup>724</sup> Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall."

<sup>725</sup> Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall."

<sup>726</sup> Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall."

<sup>727</sup> Splaver et al., "In Focus: When Hamilton Hall became 'Hind's Hall'."

Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall."

<sup>728</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>729</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

- At 1:25 AM, the students opposed to the building occupation left and the protesters reinforced the door barricade with metal tables and trash cans from campus.<sup>730</sup>
- In front of Hamilton, students hung a brown tarp to cover the rightmost doors since a protester had broken two windowpanes and secured zip ties around the doors handles.<sup>731</sup>
- Around 1:28 AM, protesters began draping flags and banners out of the windows of Hamilton, beginning with a Palestinian flag from the third floor. Protesters also hung-up banners reading “Intifada,” “Liberation Education,” “Student Intifada,” and “Gaza Calls, Columbia Falls” from various windows and ledges around Hamilton.<sup>732</sup>
- At around 1:40 AM, Hamilton protesters unfurled a banner on the balcony of the building that read “Hind’s Hall,” renaming Hamilton Hall in honor of Hind Rajab, a six-year-old Palestinian girl killed by the Israeli military in Gaza. One protestor spoke: “This building is liberated in honor of Hind, a six-year-old Palestinian child, murdered in Gaza by the Israeli Occupation Forces, funded by Columbia University.”<sup>733</sup>
- At 2:07 AM CUAD issued a press release on X: “Protestors have voiced their intention to remain at Hind’s Hall until Columbia concedes to CUAD’s three demands: divestment, financial transparency, and amnesty.” This press release identified the protesters occupying Hamilton as an “autonomous group,” and drew parallels between their occupation and similar protests on Columbia’s campus in 1968, 1985, and 1992.<sup>734</sup>
- At 2:12 AM an NYPD spokesperson told Spectator that officers are outside of campus but are not entering.<sup>735</sup>
- At around 2:23 AM, protesters began chanting “no divestment, no commencement.”<sup>736</sup>
- At 3:32 AM Public Safety sent an email —three hours after the occupation had begun—alerting the Columbia community of “major protest activity on Morningside campus in and around Hamilton Hall.” Public Safety encouraged everyone to “avoid vicinity if possible.”<sup>737</sup>
- Several students slept outside in sleeping bags and blankets, keeping watch and delivering supplies through windows by a crate-and-pulley system. Several other students remained camped in front of the admissions office entrance into Hamilton, curled in their own bedding.<sup>738</sup>
- Throughout the night, protesters occupying the building led multiple call-and-response chants with those picketing outside of the building. Addressing the demonstrators gathered below, one of the protesters standing on the ledge declared, “This building is now liberated.”<sup>739</sup>
- A small group of individuals remained near Lewisohn Hall early into the morning. The “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” also remained in the morning.<sup>740</sup>
- By 4:00 AM dozens of protesters remained in front of Hamilton, with most sitting in front of the barricaded entrance and by the admissions office entrance on College Walk. A group of four sat on the third-floor balcony, holding a Palestinian flag and occasionally addressing the crowd below with a megaphone.<sup>741</sup>
- At 4:00 AM Provost Olinto notified Chair D’Armiento of the Hamilton occupation.
- At 4:33 AM the Emergency Management Operations Team sent an email to the Columbia community writing that “members of the University community who can avoid coming to the Morningside campus today (Tuesday, April 30) should do so.” Access to the Morningside campus and its buildings “may be restricted.”<sup>742</sup>
- At 6:23 AM Columbia Emergency Management announced in an email that there was a complete lockdown of Morningside campus. Only students residing in on-campus residence halls, Carman Hall, Furnald Hall, John Jay Hall, Hartley Hall, Wallach Hall, East Campus, and Wien Hall, and essential personnel would have access to

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Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia’s Hamilton Hall."

<sup>730</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>731</sup> Sarah Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/hamilton-hall-occupation-continues-as-columbia-further-locks-down-campus/>.

<sup>732</sup> Emily Forgash and Isha Banerjee, "'Protests must be peaceful': White House, elected officials condemn occupation of Hamilton Hall," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/protests-must-be-peaceful-white-house-elected-officials-condemn-occupation-of-hamilton-hall/>.

Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>733</sup> Splaver et al., "In Focus: When Hamilton Hall became ‘Hind’s Hall’."

Banerjee, "Timeline: The ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’."

<sup>734</sup> @ColumbiaBDS, X, April 30, 2024.

Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>735</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>736</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>737</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>738</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

<sup>739</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>740</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>741</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

<sup>742</sup> Mckee et al., "Dozens occupy Hamilton Hall as pro-Palestinian protests spread across campus."

campus. Essential personnel included “employees who provide essential services to campus buildings, labs and residential student life,” including Public Safety, building maintenance, and Columbia Dining staff. The only access point to enter and exit the Morningside campus would be the 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue gates. All other entry points were closed. Only individuals requiring disability access could enter campus through Wien Hall and East Campus. Restrictions would be lifted when “circumstances allow otherwise.”<sup>743</sup>

- Barnard restricted campus access to Barnard affiliates and cancelled all in-person campus events following Columbia’s decision to lock down its Morningside campus. Barnard dining halls, residence halls, the Milstein Center for Teaching and Learning, and health services remained open.<sup>744</sup>
- Vice President for Communications Chang issued a press release that student protestors occupying Hamilton Hall faced expulsion, student protestors who remained in the encampment faced interim suspensions, and the University had started suspending students on April 29, 2023 for their involvement in the encampment. There would be “clear consequences” from the University.<sup>745</sup>
  - “Protesters have chosen to escalate to an untenable situation – vandalizing property, breaking doors and windows, and blockading entrances – and we are following through with the consequences we outlined yesterday.”
- At 7:00 AM Senators began to receive faculty complaints regarding the lack of campus access and the Provost confirmed that only essential personnel were allowed entry to campus.
- At 7:24 AM, Rep. Anthony D’Esposito (NY) posted on X: “Antisemitic agitators have taken hammers to @Columbia and are now occupying a main building. These terror sympathizers will destroy @Columbia until leadership steps up. Shafik’s out of her depth – resign.”<sup>746</sup>
- At 9:00 AM the Office of Public Affairs announced in a public statement that “media access to campus is suspended.”<sup>747</sup>
  - “Campus is accessible only to CUID-holders and essential personnel as a safety measure and that includes media.”
- The Office of the President released an email to the Columbia community providing information on access to dining, library, transportation, mail, Public Safety, and health services during the campus lockdown. The email came a few hours after Columbia indefinitely locked down its Morningside campus. Students on dining plans that did not live in on-campus residence halls could swipe into Grace Dodge Dining Hall, located at Teachers College, from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM. All other Morningside campus dining halls were restricted to students who lived in on-campus residence halls. A subsequent announcement from Columbia Dining characterized these restrictions as extending “through End of Spring 2024.”<sup>748</sup>
- The University announced that Butler Library would be open “as a study hall only, and only to those who already have access to Morningside campus.” Several other buildings around campus were also closed. The University closed all Morningside campus libraries except Butler Library, which could still be used as a study space by those with access to campus. The closure came on the first day of reading week—the period following the end of classes when students prepare for final exams.<sup>749</sup>
- Columbia increased its Public Safety presence on all campuses, and safety escorts were “available to members of the Columbia community at any time of day.”<sup>750</sup>

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<sup>743</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "University announces restrictions on facilities, dining following Morningside campus lockdown," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/columbia-in-crisis/>.

Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Sarah Huddleston, Manuela Silva, and Amira Mckee, "Columbia locks down Morningside campus following Hamilton occupation, Barnard restricted to affiliates," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/columbia-locks-down-morningside-campus-following-hamilton-occupation-barnard-restricted-to-affiliates/>.

<sup>744</sup> Huddleston, Silva, and Mckee, "Columbia locks down Morningside campus following Hamilton occupation, Barnard restricted to affiliates."

<sup>745</sup> Sarah Huddleston, "Protestors occupying Hamilton Hall will face expulsion, University spokesperson says," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/protesters-occupying-hamilton-hall-will-face-expulsion-university-spokesperson-says/>.

<sup>746</sup> @RepDesposito, X, April 30, 2024.

<sup>747</sup> Mckee and Zuloaga, "How the press covered Columbia’s protests under lockdown."

<sup>748</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

Huddleston and Vance, "University announces restrictions on facilities, dining following Morningside campus lockdown."

<sup>749</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

Huddleston and Vance, "University announces restrictions on facilities, dining following Morningside campus lockdown."

<sup>750</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

Huddleston and Vance, "University announces restrictions on facilities, dining following Morningside campus lockdown."



- At 10:09 AM Board of Trustees Vice Chair Wanda Holland-Green texted President Shafik and Board of Trustees Co-Chair Shipman: “Spoke to Jeanine at length. Let me know when we can talk.”<sup>751</sup>
- At 10:42 AM Board of Trustees Co-Chair Shipman responded to Board of Trustees Vice Chair Holland-Green and President Shafik: “We briefed cas.”<sup>752</sup>
- At 10:46 AM, Rep. Stefanik posted on X: “the pro-Hamas, antisemitic mob took over an academic building. The university leadership has lost complete control. It is a disgrace, and it is untenable. . . And we as House Republicans will hold them to account.”<sup>753</sup>
- At 10:54 AM: Board of Trustees Vice Chair Holland-Green responded to Board of Trustees Co-Chair Shipman and President Shafik: “My strong feeling is that the key here is to keep Jeanine talking to you – and she will do that if she trusts you. She was quick to tell me that trustees had called to scream at her. She is clearly and closely connected to the students who are leading the protest. She says that we are fighting an ideological battle (anti-war) with logic (threats of discipline). What I heard her say is that we either need to speak to their idealism or prepare for their continued and coordinated escalation.”<sup>754</sup>
- At 10:57 AM: President Shafik responded to Board of Trustees Vice Chair Holland-Green and Board of Trustees Co-Chair Shipman: “I am calling her now.”<sup>755</sup>
- At 11:15 AM, House Speaker Mike Johnson posted on X: “This is not a protest; this is terrorism. President Shafik must resign immediately.”<sup>756</sup>
- Around 12:00 PM, Butler Library, the last library open to students with access to the Morningside campus, closed, and all students inside were asked to leave.<sup>757</sup>
- The tents in the original encampment, located on the west side of South Lawn, stayed in place, with a small group of students remaining in the center. The encampments on Lewisohn Lawn were unoccupied in the afternoon. Protesters also moved a set of tents to the area outside of Hartley Hall.<sup>758</sup>
- At 1:30 PM faculty and staff members of Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College wrote a letter to President Shafik, COO Holloway, Chair D’Armiento, Executive Vice President of Arts and Sciences Amy Hungerford, and Policy and Planning Committee (PPC) Chair Matt Hart: “As faculty and staff members across Columbia, Barnard, and TC, we are deeply concerned by the recent decision to deny faculty and staff access to campus amidst the ongoing crisis. This measure not only disrupts our academic duties, but also compromises our ability to support and safeguard our students during a critical time. We respectfully demand the following immediate actions:  
Reinstatement of Faculty and Staff Access: Allow all teaching faculty, lecturers, and officers of research (including Barnard, TC and Professional Schools) back on Morningside campus immediately. Our presence is crucial for maintaining academic community and ensuring that our responsibilities towards our students are met without further disruption. Well-being Check on All Students: Conduct a thorough well-being check on all students currently on campus. It is essential to assess and address their physical, emotional, and academic needs, especially under the current circumstances. De-escalation and Mediation: Recognize and utilize faculty (including lecturers and officers of research) and staff as de-escalators and mediators during this crisis. Our experience and rapport with students uniquely equip us to manage tensions and foster a conducive environment for dialogue and resolution. These steps are critical not only to the immediate resolution of the current situation, but also to uphold the principles of academic freedom, shared governance, and student welfare - tenets that Columbia University commits to as a foundation of its mission. We trust that the administration will act swiftly in response to these demands, thereby demonstrating its commitment to the well-being of its student body and the integrity of our academic institution. Thank you for your immediate attention to these urgent matters.”<sup>759</sup>
- At 2:00 PM demonstrators held a small rally outside Hamilton after CUAD posted a call for students to “Defend Hind’s Hall.” Since the rally had a small turnout within the locked-down campus, CUAD announced a rally on 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, calling on protesters outside campus to “demand to be let in.”<sup>760</sup>
- Around 2:00 PM Dozens of demonstrators convened outside the gates. Protesters within campus met with nonaffiliates and students—some of whom were no longer able to access campus due to

<sup>751</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>752</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>753</sup> @RepStefanik, X, April 30, 2024.

<sup>754</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>755</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>756</sup> @SpeakerJohnson, X, April 30, 2024.

<sup>757</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

<sup>758</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

<sup>759</sup> Faculty and staff of Columbia Barnard and Teachers College, April 30, 2024.

<sup>760</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

restrictions announced earlier in the day—at the gates on 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Rally hosted in part by the People’s Forum. Protesters chanted “We want justice, you say how? End the siege on Gaza now,” and “End the siege on Columbia now.” The NYPD placed barricades to keep protesters within the sidewalk and around 20 officers stood in front of the barricades on the street.<sup>761</sup>

- At 2:57 PM [redacted University Senators] emailed Senior Vice President for Columbia Health Melanie Bernitz. In August 2024, Bernitz was appointed Interim Executive Vice President for University Life. [Redacted Senator] wrote “[URGENT: Certified EMTs and Helpers Access to Campus]”: “We were referred to you by a member of the administration regarding the access of certified EMT students to our campus. In the event of an escalation or any situation where police intervention might be required, we have a group of approximately 10 licensed student EMTs who have volunteered to provide immediate medical assistance should anyone be injured. Additionally, we have around 20 'helpers' who are trained in basic first aid. We believe that having these trained individuals on campus could greatly enhance our emergency response capabilities and ensure the safety and well-being of our community members. Could we please discuss the possibility of granting these students access to campus for emergency medical purposes? Thank you for your attention to this matter.”<sup>762</sup>
- Protesters drew the attention of the White House, which condemned the occupation and protesters’ use of the word “intifada.”<sup>763</sup>
- Congressional Democrats wrote a letter to the Board of Trustees, expressing disappointment that “despite promises to do so, Columbia University has not yet disbanded the unauthorized and impermissible encampment of anti-Israel, anti-Jewish activists on campus.”<sup>764</sup>
- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) addressed the Hamilton occupation on the Senate floor, stating that campuses cannot be spaces for learning if protests “veer into criminality.” “Smashing windows with hammers and taking over University buildings is not free speech. It is lawlessness and those who did it should promptly face the consequences that are not merely a slap on the wrist.” Schumer condemned protests that “exhibit verbal abuse, systemic intimidation, or glorification of the murderous and hateful Hamas or the violence of October 7th. That is antisemitism. It is loathful, it is unacceptable.”<sup>765</sup>
- The White House condemned the occupation of Hamilton Hall and use of the term “intifada” by student protesters via a statement from White House Deputy Press Secretary Andrew Bates, in which he wrote, “Forcibly taking over buildings is not peaceful – it is wrong. And hate speech and hate symbols have no place in America. . . President Biden respects the right to free expression, but protests must be peaceful and lawful. President Biden has stood against repugnant, antisemitic smears and violent rhetoric his entire life. He condemns the use of the term ‘intifada,’ as he has the other tragic and dangerous hate speech displayed in recent days.”<sup>766</sup>
- Provost Olinto asked that University Senate observers reach out to ER for any information they might have on the occupation of Hamilton. University Senate observers contacted ER. ER responded that they could try to contact the Hamilton occupiers if needed, but they were not involved in the group. ER described the group as “autonomous.”
- At around 3:00 PM, a suspended student spoke at a press conference outside campus in front of the Presidents House on 116th Street and Morningside Drive. “To Columbia’s administrators and trustees, please, do not incite another Kent or Jackson State by bringing soldiers and police officers with weapons onto our campus. If you do so, students’ blood will be on your hands.”<sup>767</sup>
- At around 3:40 PM, a protester inside campus gave a speech explaining the “necessary escalation last night.” “In response to our victory, Columbia has decided to threaten us again and again and again with suspension, including a siege on its own students. Many Columbia students don’t live on this campus and they are preventing them from coming into their own campus. The administration is scared of the students and faculty. They should be.”<sup>768</sup>
- Another on-campus speaker spoke at the protest, describing the “broader context” of the occupation of Hamilton, speaking to the first successful divestment movement at Columbia, when Columbia divested from South Africa in 1985. “The people believed that what was happening in South Africa was right, just as people are saying right now. But with collective organizing, with support from faculty, from every constituency, from our neighbors outside, from the power of students here, that we can win.”<sup>769</sup>

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<sup>761</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

<sup>762</sup> Redacted University Senator, April 30, 2024.

<sup>763</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>764</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>765</sup> Forgash and Banerjee, "'Protests must be peaceful': White House, elected officials condemn occupation of Hamilton Hall."

<sup>766</sup> Forgash and Banerjee, "'Protests must be peaceful': White House, elected officials condemn occupation of Hamilton Hall."

<sup>767</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

<sup>768</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

<sup>769</sup> Huddleston et al., "Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus."

- Student University Senators worked throughout the day to obtain food and health services for students as these services were impacted by the campus lockdown.
- At 5:07 PM Vice President Bernitz responded to [redacted University Senators] re: “[URGENT: Certified EMTs and Helpers Access to Campus]”: “Thank you for reaching out. While I appreciate the offer, we do have CUEMS which is our university volunteer student ambulance crew. They are on campus and are being dispatched as needed. We also have medical services and CPS personnel on campus. We would not be able to authorize volunteer EMTs or those who can administer first aid outside of those already affiliated with CUEMS or Columbia Health.”<sup>770</sup>
- At 5:51 PM Deans Sorett and Cobb reached out via Zoom to University Senate observers to request discussion between Administration and ER. University Senate observers responded that they were no longer facilitating negotiations and requested that the Administration make direct contact themselves. After a period of discussion, University Senate observers agreed to bring ER onto the Zoom call but noted they would still not speak with ER directly.
- At 6:00 PM Mayor Eric Adams confirmed that the NYPD was in “constant dialogue” with Columbia officials, but that the department had not received authorization from President Shafik to enter campus, raid Hamilton, and arrest protestors.<sup>771</sup>
- At around 6:27 PM on Zoom call with University Senate observers, Dean Sorett presented ER with the final offer that had been presented April 27, 2024 and demanded a swift response.
- At 6:46 PM [redacted University Senators] responded to Vice President Bernitz re: “[URGENT: Certified EMTs and Helpers Access to Campus]”: “We understand the complexities involved in authorizing volunteer EMTs through Columbia Health. However, we ask that you address the pressing concerns regarding student safety without delay. As you know, situations requiring law enforcement intervention on campus can pose risks not only to students but also to EMTs. In light of this, we would like to highlight a group of ten licensed EMTs who are willing to volunteer in potentially hazardous situations involving law enforcement. Having these individuals available could prove invaluable should circumstances escalate. Our paramount objective is to ensure the safety and well-being of our student community, and we firmly believe that granting access to these dedicated EMTs can contribute significantly to achieving this goal. Further, we have attached a document the EMTs have prepared that contains their reasoning for needing to be on campus, and we ask that you review it before coming to a decision.”<sup>772</sup>
- At 6:46 PM [redacted University Senators] provided Vice President Bernitz with a letter written by medical observers affiliated with Columbia requesting campus access: “We, the medical observers affiliated with Columbia University, kindly request campus access for our volunteers. We are a group of students with medical training who have volunteered to standby at protests and demonstrations in case anyone — regardless of affiliation — requires first aid. . . the current situation on campus, particularly limited access, has made it increasingly difficult for emergency medical personnel to quickly reach those in need. This was evident on April 20th, when a student at the Gaza Solidarity Encampment suffered a seizure, possibly due to heat or dehydration, and the response time of Columbia University Emergency Medical Service (CUEMS) was hindered by campus access restrictions. . . While the students at the encampment have willingly faced the elements, our concern for their wellbeing has led us to assemble a team of medical professionals and first aid volunteers ready to provide immediate medical attention faster than an ambulance could under the current circumstances. We have observed alarmingly aggressive responses from law enforcement in dismantling similar encampments around the country, including the use of pepper spray at NYU and tear gas and tasers at Emory. We were relieved to hear days ago that the administration did not intend to involve the NYPD. However, the occupation of Hamilton Hall has drastically changed the situation on campus. We do not know how the university intends to respond to this new crisis, but we are preparing for the worst-case scenario of a violent confrontation. In such an event, CUEMS might be overwhelmed and external emergency services could be delayed. Therefore, we request that our medical observers be granted access to campus to ensure the health and safety of protestors, counter-protestors, public safety personnel, and NYPD officers. Given these serious considerations and the unpredictable nature of current events, we kindly ask the university administration to recognize the critical role our team can play in maintaining campus safety. We want to emphasize that the care we provide is completely impartial. We are not affiliated with any specific student group and are committed to offering compassionate care to all members of our community equally.”<sup>773</sup>

<sup>770</sup> Melanie Bernitz, April 30, 2024.

<sup>771</sup> Isabella Ramirez and Esha Karam, "Letter from the Editors: Columbia enabled the NYPD to suppress free press as it brutalized our peers," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 4, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/05/04/letter-from-the-editors-columbia-enabled-the-nypd-to-suppress-free-press-as-it-brutalized-our-peers/>.

<sup>772</sup> Redacted University Senators, April 30, 2024.

<sup>773</sup> Columbia University Medical Observers, "Letter Requesting Campus Access," (April 30, 2024). Redacted University Senators.

- At around 6:48 PM a few protesters on the lower balcony of Hamilton lifted one large wooden board using ropes as students below cheered them on. Protesters continued to lift more supplies into the building using the makeshift pulley system.<sup>774</sup>
- Protesters declined to speak with members of the media stationed in front of Hamilton. Demonstrators largely remained inside the building, stepping out onto the balcony to receive supplies. Earlier in the day, a protester stood on the roof and waved a Palestinian flag. Students retitled the fountain near the east end of Hamilton “People’s Fountain.” In front of it lay blankets, sleeping bags, water bottles, food, and other supplies.<sup>775</sup>
- After the morning’s announcement regarding campus restrictions, student councils, student organizations, and faculty organized community meals for those impacted by the University’s limited dining options. Columbia College Student Council (CCSC), in collaboration with the Engineering Student Council (ESC), hosted a dinner in Schapiro Hall lounge “for student support during dining hall closures.”<sup>776</sup>
- As activity inside campus remained largely quiet, protesters outside of the Amsterdam Avenue and 116th Street gates continued to chant “Disclose, divest, we will not stop, we will not rest,” and “Free, free Palestine.”<sup>777</sup>
- Around 7:00 PM University Senators provided President Shafik a letter from CLS Legal Observers: “Currently, there are three legal observers inside campus who have been there since around 6 am this morning. When two additional legal observers tried to access campus around 10 am to relieve the legal observers already there, they were denied access and told to have the National Lawyers Guild call and request access. That access has since been denied through multiple channels. We have about a dozen legal observers, all of whom are current CLS students, trained and trying to switch shifts with those inside. Due to the potential interactions between Public Safety and students, including the already multiple instances that occurred early this morning, we must have legal observers on sight to note any and all improper behavior by public safety. Additionally, if police or other law enforcement is called onto campus, it is crucial we have legal observers on sight in order to both observe any illegal, violent, or other interactions between them and students, but to also get the names of arrested or otherwise impacted students to provide them legal services.”<sup>778</sup>
- At 7:20 PM ER contacted University Senate Observers to ask if the students inside Hamilton could leave without NYPD entering the building.
- At around 7:45 PM, CUAD called for students to “please mobilize to Hind Hall” in an Instagram story. Similar stories warned of “large numbers of cops heading to 116-120 and Amsterdam.”<sup>779</sup>
- At 7:49 PM Chair D’Armiento called President Shafik to relay the information given to her by ER. President Shafik agreed to provide more time but noted that negotiations had ended, and protestors had to leave: “call them (ER) at 8:15 PM and tell them that they have half an hour left.”
- Around 8:00 PM ER again contacted the Senate Observers to confirm that the protestors had left the South Lawn encampment but would not take the Administrations’ offer. ER also said that they were promised assistance by a pastor in Harlem who had contact with a representative from the mayor’s office who would help them come out of Hamilton without the police.
- At this point, helicopters were circling overhead, and the NYPD had surrounded the main campus gates. It was reported NYPD would enter campus, and Hamilton Hall imminently.<sup>780</sup>
- At 8:01 PM and 8:03 PM Chair D’Armiento attempted to call President Shafik with no response.
- At 8:10 PM Chief of Staff Glancy called Chair D’Armiento and asked her to inform the Executive Committee that NYPD would be coming onto the campus as a matter of safety. Chair D’Armiento responded that there had been requests for more time for the protestors to leave the building without NYPD entering.
- At 8:18/19 PM Columbia Emergency Management and Operations Team issued a shelter in place order, including disciplinary actions in case of noncompliance. Columbia affiliates were notified of “heightened activity on the Morningside campus” and urged to “shelter in place for your safety.” “Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action. . . Avoid the area until further notice.”<sup>781</sup>

<sup>774</sup> Huddleston et al., “Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus.”

<sup>775</sup> Huddleston et al., “Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus.”

<sup>776</sup> Emily Chen and Surina Venkat, “Amid campus restrictions and Flex conversion confusion, students, faculty, and resident organize community meals,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 8, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/08/amid-campus-restrictions-and-flex-conversion-confusion-students-faculty-and-residents-organize-community-meals/>.

<sup>777</sup> Huddleston et al., “Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus.”

<sup>778</sup> CLS Legal Observers, “Legal Observers Letter,” (April 30, 2024).

<sup>779</sup> Huddleston et al., “Hamilton Hall occupation continues as Columbia further locks down campus.”

<sup>780</sup> Adeja Shivonne, “Inside the NYPD’s raid on Columbia University: Video,” *Fox 5: New York*, May 1, 2024, <https://www.fox5ny.com/news/police-raid-columbia-universitys-hamilton-hall-video>.

<sup>781</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, “‘Bunker mentality’ at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide.”

- At 8:20 PM Chair D’Armiento called Chief of Staff Glancy once again, asking for more time for the Hamilton Hall occupiers to leave the building. Chief of Staff Glancy restated that this was a matter of clear and imminent danger and ended call.
- At 8:26 PM Chief of Staff Glancy emailed Chair D’Armiento to inform her that University’s Trustees and President Shafik had determined that the building occupation, the encampments and related disruptions posed a clear and present danger to persons, property and the substantial functioning of the University and required the use of emergency authority to bring NYPD to protect persons and property.
- At 8:31 PM Columbia College Dean Sorett and School of Engineering and Applied Science Dean Chang emailed the Columbia community. “As a challenging day on campus transitions into night, we recommend that you remain in your residence halls and avoid public areas on and off campus. . . [W]e encourage each of you to consider the choices you and your peers make regarding your movements on and off campus amid the potential for additional protests activity.”<sup>782</sup>
- At 8:31 PM Chair D’Armiento emailed President Shafik, senior administrators, and General Counsel: “as we make every last effort to avoid the worsening of this difficult situation, can you please give me 30 minutes to work with the students on their leaving campus. Faculty, students and everyone are imploring them to take this deal so we can begin healing. I know many of the students want the deal and they are trying to get others on board.”
- At 8:35 PM ER contacted Chair D’Armiento and said “No one wants NYPD to come in.” Later ER reported to the media that he continued working with observers from the University Senate to learn if evacuating the building would prevent arrests. But he ran out of time.<sup>783</sup>
- At 8:36 PM Chair D’Armiento forwarded Chief of Staff Glancy’s 8:26 PM email to President Shafik, copying Provost Olinto, COO Holloway, and Vice President of Public Safety Gerald Lewis and added: “the students just asked if the protestors could leave Hamilton and could we let them out and not bring police onto campus.”
- At 8:41 PM a Barnard Community Accountability, Response, and Emergency Services notification warned students to “shelter in place,” citing “Police Activity.”<sup>784</sup>
- At around 8:42 PM, the NYPD began taking down the barricades outside the Carman Hall gates. Officers in riot gear, some holding batons and with zip ties on their waists, stood outside the gates. Hundreds more officers marched down 114th Street, urging people to enter the fraternity brownstones. Police officers then stood outside the brownstones to prevent people from exiting. Officers included Strategic Response Group members.<sup>785</sup>
- At 8:53 PM Chair D’Armiento emailed Administration reporting that the students informed her that they understand that representatives from the mayor’s and governor’s offices are preparing to speak with those protesters currently in Hamilton regarding their demands.
- At 9:06 PM, President Shafik replied to Chair D’Armiento’s 8:31 PM email: “they were informed many days ago. The best is if they left on their own now. Please encourage them to do so for everyone’s sake.”
- At 9:07 PM, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez posted on X in response to a post about the Mayor and NYPD: “If any kid is hurt tonight, responsibility will fall on the mayor and univ presidents. Other leaders and schools have found a safe, de-escalatory path. This is the opposite of leadership and endangers public safety. A nightmare in the making. I urge the Mayor to reverse course.”<sup>786</sup>
- Mayor Adams announced in a press conference at 1 Police Plaza that the Columbia protest has been “co-opted” and he was planning on sharing that intel at a later time. He advised students involved in the protest to leave the area and told parents to tell their kids to leave “before the situation escalates.”<sup>787</sup>
- Prior to the police entering campus, protesters formed a human chain in front of Hamilton. Protesters outside campus chanted, “The students, united, will never be defeated.” Then the protestors outside Hamilton held hands and sang: “your people are my people, your people are mine. Your people are my people, our struggles align.”<sup>788</sup>
- NYPD entered campus.<sup>789</sup>

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Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>782</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>783</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>784</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>785</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>786</sup> @AOC, X, April 30, 2024.

<sup>787</sup> @katie\_honan, X, April 30, 2024.

<sup>788</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>789</sup> Shivonne, "Inside the NYPD’s raid on Columbia University: Video."

Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

- According to WKCR reporting, one student suffered a seizure after police refused to let her access her home, where her medication was.<sup>790</sup>
- Outside the admissions office entrance, protesters barricaded the door with black metal gates and formed a human chain by linking their arms. They chanted “Zionists, have some shame. All our martyrs have a name.” Students yelled “shame” as NYPD officers gathered around the front entrance of the building, and chanted “NYPD, KKK, IOF, they’re all the same”<sup>791</sup>
- At 9:26 PM a University spokesperson wrote in a campus update that the decision to authorize the NYPD to enter campus “was made to restore safety and order to our community.” “The leadership team, including the Board of Trustees, met throughout the night and into the early morning. . . We made the decision, early in the morning, that this was a law enforcement matter, and that the NYPD were best positioned to determine and execute an appropriate response.”<sup>792</sup>
- At around 9:26 PM NYPD officers walked through the encampment with flashlights, peering into tents.<sup>793</sup>
- Around 9:26 PM the NYPD began entering Hamilton Hall through the back windows, via a ladder fixed to a police vehicle constructed on Amsterdam Avenue.<sup>794</sup>
- Officers broke a window and used an electric saw to enter the building through the back. Once inside, NYPD pried open doors to classrooms that appeared to have been locked, where demonstrators had set up sleeping bags and stockpiled supplies, while holding shields and drawing their guns.<sup>795</sup>
- Body camera footage published by the NYPD and footage obtained by CNN shows the use of stun grenades— colloquially known as “flashbangs”— which flash blinding light and make a loud explosive noise to disorient individuals when officers raided the building. The CNN footage depicted the NYPD officers’ use of roughly nine stun grenades on their way into Hamilton. One officer was recorded saying: “let’s deploy a flash bang.”<sup>796</sup>
- Body camera footage also appears to show an officer shoving a protester to the ground upon entry to Hamilton.<sup>797</sup>
- On the 114th Street and Amsterdam Avenue intersection off campus dozens of individuals demonstrated. As the NYPD made arrests on campus, dozens more joined the crowd. Protesters lined the sidewalk behind police barricades, which had blocked off the thoroughfare from all street and most foot traffic, chanting “Free, free Palestine” and jeered at officers as they walked through the street.<sup>798</sup>
- On Broadway and 114th Street, the NYPD argued with a pair of *Spectator* reporters for over half an hour about whether or not they were credentialed journalists, jeering at their makeshift press passes. The officers barred them from crossing the barricaded street toward Amsterdam Avenue, even when they insisted they were from Columbia’s independent newspaper and showed their press passes.<sup>799</sup>
- In the plaza in front of the main entrance of Hamilton, NYPD ordered members of the press and onlookers to clear the area around the building.<sup>800</sup>
- The NYPD pushed the crowd of press and onlookers to the entrance of John Jay Hall. Once the building was full and closed, officers instructed all those who did not live in on-campus dorms to leave and escorted students off campus through the gates outside John Jay Hall. “It’s the gate, or it’s arrest. You choose,” an officer told reporters. Afterwards, officers blocked the doors to John Jay, even as some student journalists had left food, backpacks, chargers, and wallets with government IDs in the building.<sup>801</sup>

<sup>790</sup> Moira Donegan, "Columbia University is colluding with the far-right in its attack on students," *The Guardian*, April 19, 2024.

<sup>791</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>792</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>793</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Emily Forghash, "'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' dismantled following police sweep of Hamilton Hall occupation," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/01/gaza-solidarity-encampment-dismantled-following-police-sweep-of-hamilton-hall-occupation/>.

<sup>794</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>795</sup> Shea Vance, "New body camera footage shows police force inside Hamilton, use of stun grenades and tactical gear," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/02/new-body-camera-footage-shows-police-force-inside-hamilton-use-of-stun-grenades-and-tactical-gear/>.

<sup>796</sup> Vance, "New body camera footage shows police force inside Hamilton, use of stun grenades and tactical gear."

<sup>797</sup> Vance, "New body camera footage shows police force inside Hamilton, use of stun grenades and tactical gear."

<sup>798</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>799</sup> Ramirez and Karam, "Letter from the Editors: Columbia enabled the NYPD to suppress free press as it brutalized our peers."

<sup>800</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>801</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

Ramirez and Karam, "Letter from the Editors: Columbia enabled the NYPD to suppress free press as it brutalized our peers."

- Other students, including one student journalist, were forced into campus buildings along the southern end of campus. The student journalist said the NYPD threatened to arrest her if she did not go to Pulitzer Hall as the NYPD began arresting protesters.<sup>802</sup>
- Another student journalist said the NYPD moved her across Law Bridge and pushed her into East Campus. Though she couldn't see the arrests, she recalled hearing "erratic banging sounds" as police began clearing campus. "It told me that the administration didn't want what was happening on campus to be documented and to be shown to the world."<sup>803</sup>
- Around 9:30 PM NYPD began arresting protesters outside the main entrance of Hamilton. Outside the admissions office entrance to Hamilton, officers pushed protesters to the ground and slammed them with metal barricades. One protester lay on the ground in front of Hamilton unmoving as police officers stood over them. Three officers then carried the individual away from the building. Another protester was thrown down the stairs in front of Hamilton, according to videos reviewed by *Spectator*.<sup>804</sup>
- Around 9:34 PM, NYPD officers entered Hamilton from the front entrance.<sup>805</sup>
- As they entered the building, officers threw down the metal and wooden tables barricading the doors and shattered the glass on the leftmost doors of Hamilton to enter with shields in hand.<sup>806</sup>
- As they entered rooms in the building, several officers drew their guns, according to footage posted by NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Operations Kaz Daughtry.<sup>807</sup>
- At around 9:37 PM NYPD officers led dozens of protesters out the entrance of Hamilton. The protesters' hands were zip-tied behind their backs. The arrested individuals chanted "Free, free Palestine" as they were led away from the building.<sup>808</sup>
- At around 9:45 PM, two Columbia University Emergency Medical Services trucks drove up Amsterdam Avenue toward campus.<sup>809</sup>
- At around 10:28 PM, NYPD officers began walking arrested protesters up Amsterdam Avenue. Protestors gathered and cheered as the arrested individuals were loaded into correctional buses.<sup>810</sup>
- At around 10:30 PM the NYPD officers loaded the arrested protesters into large correctional buses.<sup>811</sup>
- NYPD arrested 22 Columbia students and two employees, along with a handful of students from affiliated institutions and 13 others, according to information later released by the University. The protesters were charged with trespassing, a misdemeanor.<sup>812</sup>
- After the NYPD cleared the second "Gaza Solidarity Encampment," the University placed 35 students on interim suspension for failing to leave the encampment despite "earlier warnings." However, it later lifted the suspensions and dismissed the charges for 29 students after determining that it could not prove whether the students had participated.<sup>813</sup>
- At around 11:40 PM personnel disassembled the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment." Dozens of NYPD officers remained stationed in and around the encampment as Columbia personnel took down tents and removed supplies. The Morningside campus was still locked down during the dismantling as individuals were either removed from campus or moved into buildings.<sup>814</sup>
- NYPD filmed a promotional video while campus was still locked down.<sup>815</sup>
- Earlier in the day before the sweep, Columbia suspended media access, preventing most outside outlets from observing the arrest of over 100 protesters.<sup>816</sup>

<sup>802</sup> Mckee and Zuloaga, "How the press covered Columbia's protests under lockdown."

<sup>803</sup> Mckee and Zuloaga, "How the press covered Columbia's protests under lockdown."

<sup>804</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>805</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

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<sup>807</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>808</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>809</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>810</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>811</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>812</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>813</sup> Bernstein, "House committee publishes previously undisclosed details about student disciplinary proceedings."

<sup>814</sup> Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

Huddleston and Forgash, "'Gaza Solidarity Encampment' dismantled following police sweep of Hamilton Hall occupation."

<sup>815</sup> @NYPDDaughtry, May 1, 2024.

<sup>816</sup> Mckee and Zuloaga, "How the press covered Columbia's protests under lockdown."

- NYPD officers conducting the raid pushed, struck and dragged students, according to witnesses, video and medical records. One student suffered an eye socket fracture/broken orbital bone, according to medical records. Several students reported concussions. Multiple students sought medical attention after the raid.<sup>817</sup>
- A police sergeant accidentally fired his gun inside the building, the department later disclosed on May 3. NYPD said the officer who discharged their weapon was not aiming at anyone and no one was injured. A spokesperson for the NYPD said that officers acted professionally “when Columbia’s administrators asked the NYPD to regain control of the campus they had lost” and suggested that protesters had staged certain injuries while stashing gas masks, knives and hammers inside Hamilton Hall.<sup>818</sup>
- NYPD caused significant property damage while clearing the building.<sup>819</sup>
- @CampusJewHate posted videos of students being arrested on X and wrote: “Pro-Hamas of @Columbia has successfully been removed from campus thanks to the NYPD. Now we hope that some civility will be restored to campus and that graduation may take place. Only time will tell.”<sup>820</sup>
- President Shafik letter to the NYPD requesting the sweep: “with the utmost regret, we request the NYPD’s help to clear all individuals from Hamilton Hall and all campus encampments.” President Shafik specified that she had the “support of the University’s Trustees” and wrote that the building takeover and related protests “pose a clear and present danger to persons, property, and the substantial functioning of the University and require the use of emergency authority to protect persons and property.” “The individuals who have occupied Hamilton Hall have vandalized University property and are trespassing.” She alleged that the takeover was “led by individuals who are not affiliated with the University,” and she asked that police remain on campus through at least May 17 “to maintain order and ensure encampments are not reestablished.” Shafik wrote that she trusts that the NYPD “will take care and caution when removing any individual from our campus.” “The safety and security of our community is our highest priority, especially for our students.”<sup>821</sup>
  - In the letter to the NYPD requesting the sweep, President Shafik wrote, “As part of this process, we understand that the NYPD plans to use its LRAD technology to inform participants in the encampments that they must disperse.” Police use long-range acoustic devices as a method for mass communication and crowd control. The technology can cause permanent hearing damage.
- CNN reported that it took officers six minutes and 40 seconds to breach the barricades during the sweep.<sup>822</sup>
- The arrests occurred on the 56th anniversary of the 1968 police sweep of the Morningside campus, when the NYPD arrested hundreds of students occupying several buildings on campus, including Hamilton Hall.<sup>823</sup>
- In order to compensate for the closures and limited accessibility, Columbia added \$80 of Flex—a “dollar-for-dollar declining balance account” that could be used both on and off campus—to Columbia Dining plan holders’ accounts on April 30. The website also stated that “students who qualified (based on financial aid status, residence location, and account balance) received an additional conversion of meals to Flex.” Some students ended up having meal swipes “retroactively” deducted from their account as a result of the added \$80 Flex. The email from Columbia Dining did not mention meal swipe conversions or deductions. “We regret that the changes to dining operations have been frustrating for students to navigate and if account adjustments have caused confusion. The Dining team has responded to roughly 500 inquiries. We’re not aware of any miscalculations to date.” After Ferris reopened to Columbia Dining plan holders, no more meal swipe to Flex conversions were issued.<sup>824</sup>
- Barnard’s SGA released an open letter to Rosenbury and senior administrators, responding to the second NYPD sweep of campus. “This administration’s actions of never centering students in their decisions—effectively subverting their purported values of pluralistic thought, diversity of experience, and identity— have alienated every student body member.”<sup>825</sup>

<sup>817</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>818</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>819</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Banerjee, "Timeline: The 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>820</sup> @CampusJewHate, X, April 30, 2024.

<sup>821</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

Vance, "New body camera footage shows police force inside Hamilton, use of stun grenades and tactical gear."

Shea Vance and Emily Forgash, "Shafik requests police presence on campus through at least May 17 in letter to NYPD," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, April 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/04/30/shafik-requests-police-presence-on-campus-through-at-least-may-17-in-letter-to-nypd/>.

<sup>822</sup> Vance, "New body camera footage shows police force inside Hamilton, use of stun grenades and tactical gear."

<sup>823</sup> Karam et al., "NYPD sweeps occupied Hamilton Hall, arrests dozens."

<sup>824</sup> Chen and Venkat, "Amid campus restrictions and Flex conversion confusion, students, faculty, and resident organize community meals."

<sup>825</sup> Stahl, "One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president's controversial tenure so far."



- Arts and Sciences held a town hall.<sup>826</sup>
- The University sent an additional letter to the January 9 student who had recorded the livestream of the CSSI meeting and issued an interim suspension “based on reports from April 29, 2024.” The University stated charges that differed from their April 26 suspension letter. A later lawsuit filed by the student claimed that this interim suspension letter was “inappropriate, in error and a violation of his Tedeschi Rights, because Columbia had knowledge that” the student “was not on campus, or even in New York City” on April 29.<sup>827</sup>
- A facilities worker that was in Hamilton Hall when it was occupied filed a university accident report that showed a raw wound on his knuckles and stated that he had bruises on his neck. It also stated that he had been “assaulted and battered, and wrongfully imprisoned.”<sup>828</sup>
  - “I had no protection whatsoever from campus police or N.Y.P.D. and felt abandoned by those whose duty it is to protect me.”
  - Alex Molina, the president of the local union chapter, which represents both the facilities workers and the security guards, said that the guard on duty was not allowed to detain anyone and was unarmed.

### Post-encampments / and post Hamilton

#### **May 1, 2024:**

- At 12:13 AM Union Theological Seminary President Serene Jones wrote to the UTS community to condemn President Shafik’s authorization of the NYPD’s sweep of occupied Hamilton Hall. “I have been in war zones before and that is what our neighborhood has become. A war zone. A militarized territory. A literal state of siege. . . A space where strategically executed terrorizing tactics were on full display, all of it designed to strike fear not just in those arrested but throughout the entire community of Morningside Heights and, indeed, on campuses and communities across the nation. . . To be clear, I and the UTS administration adamantly condemn the actions of the CU administration and the NYPD for tonight’s vicious assault on unarmed civilians – many of them students, faculty, and witnesses. . . It is unconscionable that this community of schools committed to education, to expanding minds and hearts, to cultivating knowledge and practices of care, has descended into a state of violence.”<sup>829</sup>
- CSSI sent letters to students accused of participating in the occupation of Hamilton Hall with preliminary charges listed.<sup>830</sup>
  - “Student Conduct received a report dated Wednesday, May 1, 2024, alleging that you engaged in egregious misconduct involving the occupation of University facilities, including Hamilton Hall.”
  - “This occupation and disruption on Columbia’s campus not only created an intimidating and threatening environment for members of our community, but also caused destruction of campus property. The occupation has resulted in many students continuing to feel unsafe on campus in ways that impeded their access to academic programs and University spaces.”
  - “It is specifically alleged that you participated in the occupation of University facilities and therefore violated multiple University policies. The preliminary charges are as follows”: disruptive behavior, violation of law, violation of University Policy, failure to comply, vandalism/damage to property, unauthorized access/egress
  - “If the University receives information suggesting that you may have contributed to the harassing environment, the Hearing Officers reserve the right to add or modify the charge(s) based on information gathered throughout the investigation, including, but not limited to, possible charges of Harassment and/or violation of the Columbia University Non-Discrimination Statement. . . , to more appropriately reflect the nature of the incident.”
  - “As in interim measure, you have been immediately suspended and banned from Columbia University with the expectation that you will be permanently expelled after an expedited hearing. This means that you are fully restricted from: (1) all access to all of Columbia’s campuses and buildings, including but not limited to residence halls; and (2) participation in any class, event, organization, or any other activity connected in

<sup>826</sup> Shea Vance, "Faculty of Arts and Sciences passes vote of no confidence in Shafik," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 16, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/16/faculty-of-arts-and-sciences-passes-vote-of-no-confidence-in-shafik/>.

<sup>827</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of 'Tedeschi Rights'."

<sup>828</sup> Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall."

<sup>829</sup> Emily Forgash, "UTS president writes to 'adamantly' condemn NYPD sweep of Hamilton Hall," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 6, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/06/uts-president-writes-to-adamantly-condemn-nypd-sweep-of-hamilton-hall/>.

<sup>830</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

any way to Columbia University. In addition, a hold is being placed on your transcript, registration, grades, and/or diploma. You are not permitted to enter campus or any University property at all and there are no exceptions. You may request a prompt and reasonable review of the need for and terms of any interim measure or accommodation that directly affects you and you may submit evidence in support of this request.”

- “Our office will be in touch with you to coordinate scheduling an expedited hearing.”
- NYPD held a press conference:<sup>831</sup>
  - Chief John Chell announced that 109 individuals were arrested for their alleged participation in the occupation of Hamilton Hall and the protests outside of it.
  - NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban said that “preliminary charges range from trespass to criminal mischief to burglary.”
  - Mayor Adams defended the decision to sweep Hamilton, stating that “outside agitators were on their grounds training and really co-opting this movement. . . I know that there are those who are attempting to say, ‘Well, the majority of people may have been students.’ You don’t have to be the majority to influence and co-opt an operation. That is what this is about.” Neither the mayor nor the NYPD provided substantive evidence for this claim.
  - Mayor Adams described the raid of Hamilton Hall: “we went in and conducted an operation. . . to remove those who have turned the peaceful protests into a place where antisemitism and anti-Israel attitudes were pervasive.”
  - Mayor Adams praised the operation’s “precision.”
  - Mayor Adams stated that Rebecca Weiner, Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence and Counterterrorism of the NYPD and Adjunct Professor at SIPA, “was the one monitoring the situation” during the NYPD raid on Hamilton and that the sweep occurred after Weiner’s “team was able to conduct an investigation.”
  - Deputy Commissioner Weiner stated: “This is not about students expressing ideas. It is about a change in tactics that presents a concern and a normalization and mainstreaming of rhetoric and I’m not just talking about language I’m now talking about tactics and that’s what shifted our response yesterday. But a normalization and mainstreaming of rhetoric associated with terrorism that has now become pretty common on college campuses. You see people wearing headbands associated with foreign terrorist organizations. This happened in October when you had a viral TikTok reissuing of Osama bin Laden’s 2002 Letter to America. So that’s a larger concern. It’s separate from what happened yesterday. But they’re related. We do not want ideas, we do not want campuses, which are where people are supposed to be learning and being in a conducive environment for all the things that we do in schools, being turned into places where people are committing vandalism, property damage, and people are committing crimes.”
  - There was no mention at this press conference that a firearm had been discharged during the police operation.
- President Shafik sent a letter to campus community: “Early Tuesday morning, tensions on our campus rose to new heights when a small group of protestors broke into Hamilton Hall, barricaded themselves inside, and occupied it throughout the day. This drastic escalation of many months of protest activity pushed the University to the brink, creating a disruptive environment for everyone and raising safety risks to an intolerable level. Over the last few months, we have been patient in tolerating unauthorized demonstrations, including the encampment. Our academic leaders spent eight days engaging over long hours in serious dialogue in good faith with protest representatives. I thank them for their tireless effort. The University offered to consider new proposals on divestment and shareholder activism, to review access to our dual degree programs and global centers, to reaffirm our commitment to free speech, and to launch educational and health programs in Gaza and the West Bank. Some other universities have achieved agreement on similar proposals. Our efforts to find a solution went into Tuesday evening, but regrettably, we were unable to come to resolution. Because my first responsibility is safety, with the support of the University’s

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<sup>831</sup> Natanson and Felton, “Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show.”

Sarah Huddleston and Maya Stahl, “Manhattan DA’s office dismisses cases against 30 Hamilton Hall protestors, 14 due to reappear in court,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 21, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/21/manhattan-das-office-dismisses-cases-against-30-hamilton-hall-protesters-14-due-to-reappear-in-court/>.

Maya Stahl, “Thirteen protestors who occupied Hamilton were nonaffiliates, spokesperson says,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/02/thirteen-protesters-who-occupied-hamilton-were-nonaffiliates-spokesperson-says/>.

Emily Forgash, “All final exams, ‘academic activities’ on Morningside campus will be remote for rest of semester,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/01/all-final-exams-academic-activities-on-morningside-campus-will-be-remote-for-rest-of-semester/>.

Claire Cleary, “Officer fired gun during Hamilton Hall sweep, NYPD confirms,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 3, 2024,

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/03/officer-fired-gun-during-hamilton-hall-sweep-nypd-confirms/>.

@mtracey, X, May 1, 2024.

Trustees, I made the decision to ask the New York City Police Department to intervene to end the occupation of Hamilton Hall and dismantle the main encampment along with a new, smaller encampment. These actions were completed Tuesday night, and I thank the NYPD for their incredible professionalism and support. Columbia has a long and proud tradition of protest and activism on many important issues such as the Vietnam War, civil rights, and the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. Today’s protesters are also fighting for an important cause, for the rights of Palestinians and against the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza. They have many supporters in our community and have a right to express their views and engage in peaceful protest. But students and outside activists breaking Hamilton Hall doors, mistreating our Public Safety officers and maintenance staff, and damaging property are acts of destruction, not political speech. Many students have also felt uncomfortable and unwelcome because of the disruption and antisemitic comments made by some individuals, especially in the protests that have persistently mobilized outside our gates.”<sup>832</sup>

- As of the afternoon, Morningside campus remained indefinitely locked down, with only essential staff and students living in on-campus residence halls able to enter.<sup>833</sup>
- Media access to campus remained suspended “as a safety measure.”<sup>834</sup>
- Columbia College Dean Sorett wrote to students about NYPD’s sweep of Hamilton: “Police entering campus en masse for the second time in 12 days, and seeing them lead those participating in the occupation of Hamilton Hall out in zip-ties, are images that will not leave our collective memory for some time, if ever.”<sup>835</sup>
- At 2:21 PM Vice President Bernitz responded to [redacted University Senators] “re:[URGENT] Certified EMTs and Helpers Access to Campus”: “I apologize for not getting back to you last night. I appreciate the thoughtfulness around this request, and hope you understand the reasoning behind my response yesterday.”<sup>836</sup>
- At 2:37 PM Senator Marsha Blackburn (TN) posted on X “Chants of ‘We Are Hamas’ and ‘Death to America’ by students on college campuses are national security threats. Put any student who promotes terrorism on behalf of Hamas on the terrorist watchlist.”<sup>837</sup>
- At 4:44 PM NYPD posted a video of police raiding Hamilton with dramatic music in the background on X: The NYPD footage shows officers strategizing in advance of the sweep, looking at images of campus and Hamilton Hall on a television screen. Then there is a walk-through of the building while the NYPD are sweeping. At the end, outside the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” Deputy Commissioner of Public Information Tarik Sheppard: “This is not a tent city, this is New York City, it’s our city. And if you’re thinking of doing something like this, take a look around, see how fast we cleared it out, this could be you.”<sup>838</sup>
- The political group No Labels hosted a “special Zoom call” with “the leading voices in their parties” opposing student protests against the war in Gaza” with Reps Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Mike Lawler (R-NY).<sup>839</sup>
  - “The bipartisan pair praised the responses of universities that have called on police to violently quell protests and promised that Congress would be doing more to investigate the student movements, according to a recording of the meeting obtained by *The Intercept*.”
  - “Gottheimer said that he had been in touch with officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation about campus protests. ‘Based on my conversations with the FBI — there’s activity I can’t get into, you know, given my committee responsibilities, I can’t get into more specifics — but I can just say that I think people are well aware this is an issue,’ said Gottheimer, who is on the House Intelligence Committee.”
  - Gottheimer: “I can’t speak for the local FBI field offices, but it’s got to be all hands on deck. . . I believe following the money is the key. Gotta follow the money. A lot of these universities are not transparent at all, remotely, about where the money comes from, you know, they just, they want it — and that has to be a big part of this.”
  - New York University (NYU) Chair Emeritus and Executive Vice Chair Bill Berkley:

<sup>832</sup> Minouche Shafik, "A Message from President Minouche Shafik," (Office of the President: Announcements, May 1, 2024).

<https://president.columbia.edu/news/message-president-minouche-shafik-5-1-24>.

<sup>833</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "‘It is going to take time to heal’: Shafik issues statement addressing Hamilton Hall police sweep," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/01/it-is-going-to-take-time-to-heal-shafik-issues-statement-addressing-hamilton-hall-police-sweep/>.

<sup>834</sup> Stahl, "Thirteen protesters who occupied Hamilton were nonaffiliates, spokesperson says."

<sup>835</sup> Emily Forgash, "'Where do we go from here?': Sorett writes on community healing following NYPD sweep of occupied Hamilton," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/01/where-do-we-go-from-here-sorett-writes-on-community-healing-following-nypd-sweep-of-occupied-hamilton/>.

<sup>836</sup> Melanie Bernitz, May 1, 2024.

<sup>837</sup> @MarshaBlackburn, X, May 1, 2024, <https://x.com/MarshaBlackburn/status/1785740395772531197>.

<sup>838</sup> @NYPDDaughtry.

<sup>839</sup> Prem Thakker and Akela Lacy, "In No Labels Call, Josh Gottheimer, Mike Lawler, and University Trustees Agree: FBI Should Investigate Campus Protests," *The Intercept*, May 4, 2024, <https://theintercept.com/2024/05/04/josh-gottheimer-mike-lawler-campus-protests/>.

- “Berkley claimed that ‘we have deciphered messages’ that showed the group directing people to the encampment at Columbia. He also suggested that, because many of the tents at campus protests were the same, the demonstrations had been orchestrated externally.”
    - “Berkley then asked why the FBI hadn’t yet taken action against the demonstrations. ‘And, by the way, the FBI and the terrorist monitoring groups know this — why haven’t we seen any action by the federal government?’ He did not respond to requests for comment.”
  - “Lawler applauded the response from the New York Police Department, whose counterterrorism unit he said was doing a good job of ‘finding some leads,’ but said that the FBI could aid its response. ‘I definitely think the FBI could certainly be a little more helpful here. But again, I think Congress is going to take action,’ he said.”
- At the White House Press Briefing, Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, SIPA ’03, commented on the occupation of Hamilton Hall: “Americans have the right to peacefully protest. They have the right to peacefully protest, as long as it’s within the law and that it’s peaceful. Forcibly taking over a building is not peaceful, it’s just not. Students have the right to feel safe, they have the right to learn, they have the right to do this without destruction. . . They have the right to attend their Commencement without feeling unsafe, and what we’re seeing is a small percentage of students, that’s what we’re seeing, they should not be able to disturb or disrupt the academic experience that students have.”<sup>840</sup>
  - When asked about the protests, Press Secretary Jean-Pierre also said: “What we have said, and I don’t think I’ve iterated that yet from here, is that the DOJ and FBI is going to continue to offer support to universities and colleges in respect to federal laws. So that is something that the DOJ and FBI is doing. As far as local organizations and what is all being reported on the ground, that is something that local law enforcement certainly is looking into.”
- President Trump spoke about the mass arrests at Columbia rally in Waukesha, Wisconsin: “Columbia University was a great school, it’s been badly damaged, I think reputationally. But the person that heads it up—a woman—she waited so long, she was so weak, she was so afraid, she was so bad. . . They could have done this with the tents and it would have gone quickly.” Trump praised the NYPD’s response to the occupation of Hamilton Hall, saying it was “a beautiful thing to watch, New York’s finest. . . You saw ‘em go up in ladders, they’re breaking the windows and getting in, and that’s dangerous because you don’t know what’s on the other side of that window. . . They went and they knocked it out, and they were incredible.”<sup>841</sup>
- House Speaker Johnson (R-LA), who visited Columbia on April 24, 2024 posted on X that House Republicans would continue to investigate universities for antisemitism: “Amid the absolute chaos at Columbia University, Joe Biden is absent because he is afraid to face the issue. . . Meanwhile, House Republicans are leading the effort to investigate these institutions for their failure to protect Jewish students and maintain order on campus.”<sup>842</sup>
- Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.), who visited the encampment, condemned the “guns being drawn on peaceful protesters at Columbia University. . . And for what? Simply exercising their First Amendment rights to peacefully assemble as they protest the collective punishment and murder of civilians in Gaza. . . Are we in a police state or is this a democracy? We must stand with our young people.” in a speech on the House floor.<sup>843</sup>
- Provost Olinto announced that all final exams, assessments, and other academic activities on the Morningside campus would be moved online for the rest of the semester.<sup>844</sup>
  - For all courses offered through Columbia College, the School of Engineering and Applied Science, the School of General Studies, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, final exams scheduled for May 3 would be automatically rescheduled for May 10. Final papers, presentations, projects, and take-home exams that were due through May 5 were reassigned to a date that was on or after May 6 and before May 10.
  - The new guidelines did not apply to the School of Professional Studies and graduate programs in the School of the Arts. Olinto wrote that professors should be in touch with students as soon as possible to explain how their remote exams and assessments would be conducted.

<sup>840</sup> Isha Banerjee, “White House, Trump comment on NYPD sweep of Hamilton Hall and ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/01/white-house-trump-comment-on-nypd-sweep-of-hamilton-hall-and-gaza-solidarity-encampment/>.

“Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre 5/01/24,” <https://www.rev.com/transcripts/press-briefing-by-press-secretary-karine-jean-pierre-5-01-24>.

<sup>841</sup> Banerjee, “White House, Trump comment on NYPD sweep of Hamilton Hall and ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>842</sup> Banerjee, “White House, Trump comment on NYPD sweep of Hamilton Hall and ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>843</sup> Banerjee, “White House, Trump comment on NYPD sweep of Hamilton Hall and ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’.”

<sup>844</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

Forgash, “All final exams, ‘academic activities’ on Morningside campus will be remote for rest of semester.”

- Faculty were “encouraged to provide accommodations in their final assessments” such as “modifying the final’s weight, . . . making the final exam optional, or canceling the final exam.” In addition, professors were told to provide an “asynchronous option to accommodate students who have left campus and returned to homes that may be in different time zones.”
- Students on the Manhattanville and Columbia University Irving Medical Center campuses would take exams as regularly scheduled but would be granted “accommodations based on religious reasons, or approved disability accommodations.”
- Columbia College and SEAS informed students that, given the updates to final exams and academic activity, “we strongly encourage students who are able to rearrange their plans to consider departing early. . . Graduating students are, of course, encouraged to stay on campus through Commencement — as are students either unable to make alternate arrangements or who need to stay through their previously scheduled move-out date.”<sup>845</sup>
- A town hall was organized for Arts and Sciences.<sup>846</sup>
- In the evening students projected a lightshow on the side of Hamilton Hall.<sup>847</sup>
- A message that primal scream had been moved to the President’s House was posted on Sidechat, an anonymous social media site with a page for Columbia students.<sup>848</sup>
- Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) posted an Instagram story reading, “PRIMAL SCREAM TN AT MIDNIGHT!!!”<sup>849</sup>
- Before 12:00 PM, students gathered in front of the President’s House in celebration of biannual “primal scream” tradition. Primal scream, historically a time for students to express their frustration at professors and heavy workloads, instead became an outlet for students enraged at the recent police sweeps. The gathering, typically held outside Butler Library and around campus, quickly morphed into a protest.<sup>850</sup>

#### May 2, 2024:

- Around 12:00 PM, students gathered in front of the President’s House screamed for a minute as part of “primal scream” tradition. Afterwards, a group of roughly 100 students chanted “resign,” “shame on you,” and “disclose, divest, we will not stop, we will not rest.” Public Safety officers stood by the residence, which was surrounded by barricades.<sup>851</sup>
  - Over two dozen NYPD officers arrived around the protest, lining up and parking vehicles along 116th Street and Morningside Drive.
  - As officers arrived, protesters chanted “Oink oink piggy piggy, we will make your lives shitty.”
  - As the crowd cleared out, a group of around two dozen remained and sang “We shall not be moved,” which protesters sang in front of Hamilton as they braced for arrest and at the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.” “Your people are my people, your people are mine, your people are my people, our struggles align.”
  - At around 12:45 AM the protest ended.
  - One protester yelled “get some rest” and “we’ll be back tomorrow.”
  - Roughly 45 minutes after the rally ended, a small group returned with a drum and a tambourine to continue chanting. “NYPD, KKK, IOF they’re all the same.”
- University spokesperson Chang announced during an evening press briefing that at least 44 of the 113 demonstrators arrested inside Hamilton Hall during the NYPD sweep were nonaffiliates. The other protesters occupying Hamilton included six students from institutions affiliated with Columbia, 14 undergraduate students, nine graduate students, and two employees of the University, Chang said. “The numbers shared by the NYPD regarding arrests reflect the expectations we had regarding the occupation. . . A significant portion of those who broke the law by occupying Hamilton Hall were outsiders.”<sup>852</sup>

<sup>845</sup> Forgash, “All final exams, ‘academic activities’ on Morningside campus will be remote for rest of semester.”

<sup>846</sup> Vance, “Faculty of Arts and Sciences passes vote of no confidence in Shafik.”

Clery, “Officer fired gun during Hamilton Hall sweep, NYPD confirms.”

<sup>847</sup> Yasmeen Altaji, “‘We won’t stop’: How Columbia’s students etched a new Gaza protest legacy,” *Aljazeera*, May 4, 2024, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/4/we-wont-stop-how-columbias-students-etched-a-new-gaza-protest-legacy>.

<sup>848</sup> Shea Vance, Isha Banerjee, and Esha Karam, “Biannual ‘primal scream’ tradition morphs into pro-Palestinian rally outside President’s House,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/03/biannual-primal-scream-tradition-morphs-into-pro-palestinian-rally-outside-presidents-house/#:~:text=Primal%20scream%2C%20historically%20a%20time,200%20arrests%20of%20pro%2DPalestinian>.

<sup>849</sup> Vance, Banerjee, and Karam, “Biannual ‘primal scream’ tradition morphs into pro-Palestinian rally outside President’s House.”

<sup>850</sup> Vance, Banerjee, and Karam, “Biannual ‘primal scream’ tradition morphs into pro-Palestinian rally outside President’s House.”

<sup>851</sup> Vance, Banerjee, and Karam, “Biannual ‘primal scream’ tradition morphs into pro-Palestinian rally outside President’s House.”

<sup>852</sup> Stahl, “Thirteen protesters who occupied Hamilton were nonaffiliates, spokesperson says.”

- University spokesperson Chang announced media access to campus remained suspended “as a safety measure.” “Hamilton Hall continues to be an active crime scene being investigated by the NYPD, and we continue to have safety concerns for campus. We will keep you posted on any changes when it comes to Morningside campus access.”<sup>853</sup>
- Public Safety issued a statement stating that the University was storing items left at the encampments on South Lawn and the Math lawns, and that individuals could retrieve their items from the lawns at designated times. The statement instructed individuals to bring their CUID or other official identification to claim their items. A member of Dar Jafra said that a member of CUAD reached out regarding artwork that coalition members had not been able to find at Public Safety’s locations. The member was told that it was being held at Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML).<sup>854</sup>
- Barnard President Rosenbury wrote to students in her first message since the NYPD sweep on Hamilton Hall.<sup>855</sup>
  - “This week’s events on Columbia’s campus have profoundly affected us all, testing our community in ways that none of us could have imagined when the school year began.”
  - Rosenbury stated that Barnard already increased its safety team and limited campus access to Barnard ID holders to ensure safety for community members.
  - Rosenbury wrote that while the NYPD was not on Barnard’s campus, officers were permitted to use the restrooms located on the first floor of Barnard Hall and the lower level of the Milstein Center for Teaching and Learning.
  - “Many of you have reached out to understand Barnard’s response. When we learned of the heightened activity, we immediately notified the Barnard community and coordinated closely with Columbia. . . We are still gathering information about the students involved and are working through the necessary conduct procedures while providing needed support.”
- Following the April 30, 2024 announcement regarding campus restrictions, student councils, student organizations, and faculty organized community meals for those impacted by the University’s limited dining options. The General Studies Student Council (GSSC) started hosting meals for students in collaboration with the Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) and the Engineering Student Council (ESC).<sup>856</sup>
- CUAD organized a lunch for students and community members at St. John’s Cathedral followed by a dinner in Sakura Park. The dinner, which was advertised on social media as a “Community Healing Dinner,” drew around 100 attendees. Two organizers of the dinner said that they hoped their event could both provide food for students facing food insecurity and help community members affected by the events of the NYPD sweep of Hamilton two days prior. According to the dinner’s organizers, they started the evening with enough food for 300 people and the food was gone within an hour.<sup>857</sup>
- The General Studies Student Council (GSSC) voted against holding a referendum about the University’s divestment from Israel, the cancellation of the Tel Aviv Global Center, and the termination of the dual degree program with Tel Aviv University. Each of the three proposed referendum initiatives considered by the council failed to meet the three-fourths minimum required to pass.<sup>858</sup>
- Letter from UAW Local 2110 to the University after administrative assistant in a Columbia language department and union member of UAW Local 2110 participated in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” on April 18 while on her lunch break, during which she was arrested after President Shafik authorized the NYPD to sweep the encampment. Following her arrest, she was unable to return to work and was soon after “suspended pending investigation.”<sup>859</sup>
- Columbia’s chapter of the AAUP called for a vote of no confidence in University President Minouche Shafik, the Co-Chairs of the Board of Trustees, and COO Holloway in a news release.<sup>860</sup>
  - The AAUP wrote that Shafik’s decision to authorize the NYPD to sweep campus “was made without consultation with the University Senate, in violation of established procedures, by recourse to so-called emergency powers.” Section 444.f of the University Statutes requires the University president to consult

<sup>853</sup> Stahl, "Thirteen protesters who occupied Hamilton were nonaffiliates, spokesperson says."

<sup>854</sup> Levine, "A Columbia activist took art from the 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment.' Students are demanding space to archive their movement in return.."

<sup>855</sup> Maya Stahl, "Rosenbury releases first statement following sweep of Hamilton Hall," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/02/rosenbury-releases-first-statement-following-sweep-of-hamilton-hall/>.

<sup>856</sup> Chen and Venkat, "Amid campus restrictions and Flex conversion confusion, students, faculty, and resident organize community meals."

<sup>857</sup> Chen and Venkat, "Amid campus restrictions and Flex conversion confusion, students, faculty, and resident organize community meals."

<sup>858</sup> Hamilton, "GSSC votes against holding referendum on divestment from Israel."

<sup>859</sup> Maya Stahl, "Staff member reaches \$50,000 settlement with Columbia following termination," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 10, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/10/staff-member-reaches-50000-settlement-with-the-university-following-termination/>.

<sup>860</sup> Forghash, "Columbia AAUP chapter calls for vote of no confidence in Shafik, other top University leadership."

- with “a majority of a panel established by the University Senate’s Executive Committee” before authorizing “external authorities to bring about the end” of disruptive protests.
- “The choice of Columbia’s administrators to ignore University statutes and customary practices honored over the past six decades, to have our students violently arrested, and to impose a militarized lockdown of our campus, has irrevocably undermined our trust in them.”
  - In its resolution, the AAUP chapter wrote that the administration’s actions since Oct. 7, 2023, amount to an “erosion of trust” that “did not happen all of a sudden.” It pointed to “new rules of conduct and opaque and arbitrary disciplinary procedures” that were revised unilaterally in November 2023 and Shafik’s April 18, 2024 authorization of the NYPD to sweep campus.
  - “President Shafik breached a long-term standard of administrative restraint by summoning the NYPD to campus to arrest nonviolent student protestors. . . The pattern of escalation, punishment, and surveillance that has characterized the administrative response to the crisis has now culminated in the horrifying events of the evening of April 30.”
  - The AAUP called “upon the University Senate and the representative faculty bodies of individual schools to pass a vote of no confidence in President Shafik, the Co-Chairs of the Board of Trustees, and the COO. . . A vote of no confidence in the President and her administration is the only way to begin rebuilding our shattered community and re-establishing the University’s core values of free speech, the right to peaceful assembly, and shared governance.”
- At 11:48 AM Board Chair Emeritus Lavine texted Board Co-Chair Greenwald a social media post that Columbia faculty were planning a no confidence vote on Shafik in the aftermath of the NYPD clearing Hamilton Hall.<sup>861</sup>
    - At 11:49 AM Board Chair Emeritus Lavine added to Board Co-Chair Greenwald: “I think the board should take a no confidence vote of the Senate and faculty leadership.”
  - New York State Assembly member Jeffrey Dinowitz introduced a bill to the New York State Legislature seeking to criminalize the use of masks at protests by classifying them as an offense against public order.<sup>862</sup>
  - President Biden commented on the pro-Palestinian protests at college campuses across the country, stating they “put to the test two fundamental American principles . . . the first is the right to free speech and for people to peacefully assemble and make their voices heard. The second is the rule of law. Both must be upheld. . .”<sup>863</sup>
  - The U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights opened an investigation following a complaint filed by Palestine Legal alleging a pattern of anti-Palestinian discrimination in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.<sup>864</sup>
    - The investigation was at least the third active Department of Education investigation into Columbia.
    - *Spectator* obtained a copy of the letter sent from the Department of Education to Palestine Legal attorneys, which confirmed that the department will investigate whether Columbia “responded in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI to alleged harassment,” “violated Title VI by engaging in disparate treatment,” or “violated Title VI by engaging in retaliation” of Palestinian affiliates.
    - Title VI prohibits discrimination based on “race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance.” If found in violation of Title VI, Columbia’s federal funding could be in jeopardy.
    - Palestine Legal filed a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights on April 25, 2024 on behalf of Columbia’s chapter of SJP and four students—including three of Palestinian origin. The complaint detailed a number of incidents since Oct. 7, 2023, where Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, and pro-Palestinian students experienced harassment or disparate treatment. The April 25 complaint followed Shafik’s authorization of the April 18 NYPD sweep of the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.”
    - The Office of Civil Rights announced that they would collect information and evidence from the complainant, the University, and other sources as part of its investigation.

### May 3, 2024:

<sup>861</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>862</sup> Rebecca Massel, "Students petition UTS to hire professor who Shafik said 'will never work at Columbia again'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 15, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/15/students-petition-uts-to-hire-professor-who-shafik-said-will-never-work-at-columbia-again/>.

<sup>863</sup> Joseph Zuloaga, "President Biden directly comments on pro-Palestinian protests on college campuses," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/02/president-biden-directly-comments-on-pro-palestinian-protests-on-college-campuses/>.

<sup>864</sup> Karam and Vance, "Department of Education opens Title VI investigation into Columbia following complaint of anti-Palestinian discrimination."

- At 8:19 AM President Shafik emailed the Columbia community announcing that “starting today. . . faculty based on the Morningside campus can access Morningside campus.” Campus was also open to students living in residential buildings on Morningside campus.<sup>865</sup>
  - “Many of us are still navigating – and sometimes struggling under – the restrictions and constraints on Morningside campus resulting from measures taken in the interest of campus safety and security. While those conditions remain, we also appreciate the suggestions sent by many of you and the patience and forbearance of all of you.”
  - COO Holloway update on campus access: “The experience of faculty access puts teaching, mentorship and research on a better footing for the end of the term. We will continue to restrict broader community access with specific carve outs for lab personnel and others engaged in practice-based work. By restricting the campus temporarily, we are able to keep the units of the University that cannot function remotely (dining halls, residential halls, research labs, and other entities) running smoothly. We are guarding against further disruptions to our academic mission and carefully weighing the risk that tensions and activities in the City and around the country could spill over onto our campus and threaten the safety of our community.”
  - “Morningside campus access: Campus is now open to faculty based on Morningside campus, students living in residential buildings on Morningside campus (Carman, Furnald, John Jay, Hartley, Wallach, East Campus, and Wien), and employees providing essential services to campus buildings, librarians, labs, and residential student life (Dining, Public Safety, and building maintenance staff). There is no additional access to the Morningside campus. The only access point into and out of campus remains the 116<sup>th</sup> Street and Amsterdam gate.”
  - “Dining services: Lerner Hall will be opening for dining on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, to students who have access to Morningside campus (those living in Carman, Furnald, John Jay, Hartley, Wallach, East Campus, and Wien).”
  - “Columbia Health for Morningside, Manhattanville, and Teachers College students (most services provided via telehealth and virtual options; walk-in not available).”
- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>866</sup>
  - “Executive Committee - Next Steps for the University Senate: 1. Our plan is to identify a neutral external investigator to support a task force made up mainly of members outside the Senate, including a prominent outside academic. We will make a request for support of this task force through the administration evoking Section 28 of the University Statutes: The University shall furnish, to the extent provided for in the University’s budget, assistance to the University Senate as a whole and to its committees in connection with its official business, as may be authorized by the Executive Committee of the University Senate. This task force will be overseen by the executive committee and the final report will be presented to the executive committee. 2. It is our recommendation that our administration engage with the student protesters as a matter of urgency. Our university should not require an encampment to meet with our students in dialogue and negotiation. 3. We would like to restate that at times of great difficulty, we should remain constant, including in our use of legitimate policies and procedures. We include in this the Rules of University Conduct.”
  - “Columbia College Student Council - A Statement on Shared Governance: As representatives of the Columbia College student body, we are writing to you to express the extreme ways in which Columbia University administration has failed us over the course of the year. In the past couple of days, circumstances on campus have changed drastically as the administration’s decision to completely close campus to the majority of the student body has severely impacted learning. This shutdown has created food insecurity, healthcare insecurity, and has deprived students of access to educational spaces where they can study and complete assignments. While we understand that administration is citing student safety as the reason for keeping campus closed, the University has provided nothing to ensure that students are well, safe, and fed. Thousands of students only have access to one dining hall that is only open from 11 AM to 7 PM. Today, that dining hall is only accessible to TC ID holders, so undergrads that live off campus are without any dining hall. There are no dining halls open to students who don’t live in the 7 dorms within campus. Instead, \$80 for Grubhub is not acceptable for 3 meals a day for 7 days. We are appreciative of Columbia Dining’s work and the pop-up breakfasts they offered this morning, but students don’t know

<sup>865</sup> Minouche Shafik, May 3, 2024.

<sup>866</sup> Columbia University Senate, "May 3, 2024 Plenary."

Columbia University Senate, "July 19, 2024 Plenary." [https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US\\_Plenary%20Binder\\_20240719-PP.pdf](https://senate.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/content/Plenary%20Binders%202023-24/US_Plenary%20Binder_20240719-PP.pdf).



where the rest of their meals today will be coming from. This is unacceptable. You are starving your students. Student Councils have been taking the responsibility of feeding our peers and using our budgets to buy them dinner for the past three nights, with hundreds of students waiting in line to receive food from us. This should not be our responsibility. Senior administration's neglect and apathy shown towards student well-being over the past several weeks is astounding, and the fact that student councils have shouldered the burden of feeding our peers, helping them seek academic accommodations, and more is completely unacceptable. On April 30th, we watched in horror as hundreds of police in riot gear flooded our beloved campus and brutalized our classmates. The next morning, students awoke with faces swollen from being kicked by police, wrists bruised from being handcuffed with zip ties, and lacerations from being thrown down staircases. Shots were fired inside our own Hamilton Hall. President Shafik commended the NYPD's behavior and called it 'professionalism.' Since then, our students have reported being sexually and verbally harassed by the NYPD officers that administration has enlisted to allegedly keep us safe. The past two weeks have been tumultuous, marked with mass arrests of student demonstrators, national media attention, and vile acts of hatred that have unfolded on our campus. None of these issues started four days ago, or even two weeks ago. By enforcing punitive actions against student groups without due process, the University has been creating a hostile environment that is un conducive to dialogue since the beginning of the year. . . The administration has continued to make decisions without input from student leaders, disregarding our community's well-being, values, and rules. Had the University been committed to dialogue, respected student group's rights, and followed due process from the start, we might not have seen the escalations that have occurred over the past few weeks. . . The approach that the University has taken throughout the year — repeatedly enacting discipline without recourse or due process — has clearly led students to feel unseen, unheard, and unsafe. These are the sentiments that led to the recent escalations we have seen on campus — if students felt they had other means to advocate for themselves and their values, they would have used them. University administration has betrayed Columbia in unimaginable ways, and has left a wound on our community that will take years to heal. The administration has failed every member of this community — no one feels safe here, and that responsibility ultimately lies with them. . . The Columbia College Student Council, as well as other councils, senators, and student journalists have worked tirelessly and thanklessly to address the needs of our community members in the capacity that we can. Again, this should not be our responsibility, but we have had no choice but to shoulder the burden of keeping our peers fed, safe, and healthy.”

- Sen. Carol Garber (Ten., TC) expressed appreciation for the Senate's commitment to pursue an independent examination. She called attention to another issue that had not arisen in Senate discussion—the persistent problem of polarization on campus. She said she was seeing a lot of language that was truly disturbing for many at the present meeting. She recognized that many Columbia people were deeply upset about the police, but she also wanted to raise the issue of security on campus. She said a number of people with known ties to terrorist organizations were able to pass through tight security to get onto campus.
  - Sen. D'Armiento interrupted Sen. Garber, and there was cross-talk, including some from a spectator without speaking privileges.
  - Sen. D'Armiento said she had had to mute Sen. Garber because the Columbia community had no evidence of terrorist involvement in the Columbia protests, and it was unfair to bring that up without evidence.
  - Sen. Smiley disagreed with Sen. D'Armiento. He said senators say a lot of things at Senate meetings, and Sen. Garber should be allowed to speak.
  - Sen. D'Armiento agreed that Sen. Garber had a right to speak but could not make such inflammatory statements at a time like this without presenting evidence. She said the Senate works through committees, and if a committee provided evidence for Sen. Garber's statement, it could be presented, but the University was now in a difficult moment, and such unsubstantiated claims were inappropriate. She said she had had to mute Sen. Garber because Sen. Garber had not let her speak. She then unmuted Sen. Garber.
  - Sen. Erick Zent (Stu., CC) said statements like the one Sen. Garber was making are dangerous.
  - Sen. Jeanine D'Armiento said Sen. Zent was speaking out of turn. She said she was in charge of the present meeting—it was her meeting, and she had not called on him.
  - She agreed that there was danger in Sen. Garber's statement, but said Sen. Smiley was correct, and Sen. Garber could speak now. She repeated that there was no evidence of terrorists, and that that word would not help to calm the meeting down, as she needed to do. She acknowledged that she

- might have broken the rules, but she could not allow that kind of statement at a time like the present. She asked Sen. Garber to speak.
- Sen. Garber said the question of who was involved in the occupation of Hamilton Hall needed to be investigated. Speaking generally, she said there was evidence that there were groups who were influencing campus groups in this country to behave in certain ways, and this evidence needed to be addressed. She said many people were afraid because of this. She said she did not discount anyone else’s perspective, or intend to suggest that anyone on Columbia’s campus was affiliated with such groups. She stressed that the security of Columbia’s campuses is a vital priority.
  - According to “Update from the Structure and Operations Committee” during the November 22, 2024 Plenary: “During that meeting, the Chair muted Senator Garber for about 25 seconds and then unmuted her. After another 55 seconds, during which two other Senators, both of whom were out of order, debated the muting, Senator Garber continued speaking and concluded without further interruption or limitation on her speaking time. Before Senator Garber started speaking again, the Chair acknowledged that she had made a mistake.”
- Students received notice from CSSI that they were to attend mandatory disciplinary meetings, starting May 6, 2024 and lasting through May 9, 2024, to address allegations related to the April 30<sup>th</sup> occupation of Hamilton Hall.<sup>867</sup>
    - “The Student Conduct team received a report dated May 1, 2024, alleging that you may have engaged in conduct that violates the University Policy. Specifically, it is alleged that you entered Hamilton Hall without authorization and occupied the building. Entered Hamilton Hall and occupied the building without authorization. It was further reported that you were arrested by the NYPD on April 30, 2024.”
    - “This behavior may meet the definition of the following policies”: disruptive behavior, violation of law, violation of University Policies, failure to comply, vandalism/damage to property, and unauthorized access/egress.
    - “We are following up on that report so we can further discuss this matter with you. Your attendance at this hearing is mandatory. The hearing is part of an educational process, and provides you the opportunity to share your perspective on the incident, respond to questions, and reflect on your personal experience.”
    - “\*Please note that during the Dean’s Discipline process, our office reserves the right to add or modify the charge(s) based on information gathered during our conversation(s), and any subsequent investigations to more appropriately reflect the nature of the incident.”
  - Campus remained largely locked down through the end of the academic year, with restrictions gradually lifting for select affiliates.<sup>868</sup>
  - *Spectator* reported on April 20, 2024 General Studies Gala alleged attack: “Six pro-Palestinian students report harassment, assault at General Studies Gala.”<sup>869</sup>
    - “Since the incidents at the gala on April 20, the students said they have generally been afraid. One student reported having a class on the morning of April 22 with one of the people she said was harassing her friends and was ‘really nervous to go into that class,’ but fortunately classes were on Zoom. One student said that after being kicked and seeing a friend kicked and pushed, she has been afraid to leave her home. Several students expressed fears for their safety on campus as a result of the incidents.”
  - Carlos Valdez, commanding officer of the NYPD Emergency Service Unit, confirmed an officer fired their gun inside of Hamilton Hall during the sweep in a press conference.<sup>870</sup>
    - “During the course of this operation, while clearing an unoccupied vacant area of the building on the first floor, one ESU member, a sergeant, did unintentionally discharge one round from his firearm.”
    - Valdez said that the sergeant was attempting to gain access to a barricaded office when he discharged the weapon. Officers had broken the window to enter the office and the sergeant attempted to reach through the hole in the glass to unlock the door from inside.
    - “To do this, he transitioned his firearm from his dominant right hand to his non-dominant left hand. When the sergeant transitioned his firearm to his non-dominant hand, he began to use his dominant hand to gain entry through the window, which is when the unintentional discharge occurred.”
    - The bullet traveled into the office that the officers were attempting to enter and “landed on the floor of the office and didn’t travel anywhere else.”

<sup>867</sup> Columbia Legal Support and Solidarity Working Group for Palestine, "CSSI Letter," (May 6, 2024).

"Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>868</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>869</sup> Mendell, "Six pro-Palestinian students report harassment, assault at General Studies Gala."

<sup>870</sup> Cleary, "Officer fired gun during Hamilton Hall sweep, NYPD confirms."

- NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Public Information Tarik Sheppard said that he did not have “any intention of releasing body cam on accidental discharge,” despite the incident being “newsworthy.”
- In a May 1 press conference the day after the arrests, Mayor Adams praised the operation’s “precision” and made no mention of the firearm discharge. Also on May 1, President Shafik thanked the NYPD for their “incredible professionalism” in her statement to the Columbia community following the sweep.
- President Shafik addressed the community in a three-minute video message on Instagram, in which she discussed the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” and the occupation of Hamilton Hall. Shafik did not directly address the campus police sweeps that resulted in a combined total of over 200 arrests or the continuing police presence on campus. The post on Instagram garnered nearly 2,000 comments in less than 24 hours, most of them negative.<sup>871</sup>
  - “These past two weeks have been among the most difficult in Columbia’s history.”
  - “The turmoil and tension, division and disruption, have impacted the entire community. You, our students, have paid an especially high price. . . We tried very hard to resolve the issue of the encampment through dialogue. Many people who gathered there were largely peaceful and cared deeply about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Academic leaders talked with students for eight days and nights.”
  - “The University made a sincere and good offer, but it was not accepted. A group of protesters crossed a new line with the occupation of Hamilton Hall. It was a violent act that put our students at risk, as well as putting the protesters at risk.”
  - Shafik said she walked through Hamilton and “saw the damage, which was distressing.”
  - Shafik highlighted the listening sessions she had held with students throughout the semester, emphasizing the importance of respectful dialogue and the recognition of “the other side.”
  - She referenced her personal history of having been born in the Middle East, growing up in a Muslim family, and having “many Jewish and Christian friends.”
  - “Every one of us has a role to play in bringing back the values of truth and civil discourse that polarization has severely damaged. . . Here at Columbia, parallel realities and parallel conversations have walled us off from other perspectives. . . The issues that are challenging us: the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, antisemitism, and anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bias, have existed for a long time. And Columbia, despite being a remarkable institution, cannot solve them single-handedly. . . What we can do is be an exemplar of a better world, where people who disagree do so civilly, recognize each other’s humanity, and show empathy and compassion for one another.”
- In the evening, President Shafik met with available University Senate student leaders and other student government representatives to discuss how to move forward. Students expressed disappointment and frustration with events that had occurred and the current state of campus.
- *Spectator* reported: “The Stakes of Solidarity: What Low-Income Students Risked the Day of Columbia’s April 18 Mass Arrests.” Several students arrested for participation in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” were low-income, first-generation college students. For these students, suspension and arrest threw their financial aid, work-study income, access to food and housing, privacy, family’s immigration status, and job prospects into uncertainty. Several students were suspended without access to campus, dining halls, and their work-study jobs. Barnard students were evicted from their dorms.<sup>872</sup>

#### May 4, 2024:

- At 3:16 PM a [redacted] University Senate observer of the negotiation process emailed Chair D’Armiento and Senate observers in an email titled “Role of the University Senate”: “As mentioned in our meeting before, I believe that we need to answer what the Senate did. In particular, what was the role of the Senate in negotiations and in police action (whether we were informed, consulted, or tried to prevent). Yes, this can come out in investigations, but we have a clear picture of what happened – and we are not yet at liberty to share all of it, but we may need to share some of it. Here is my account of the events:”<sup>873</sup>
  - “From Friday 4/19 to 4/27: Beginning the morning of April 19<sup>th</sup> sincere negotiations began although much of the conversation was often overshadowed with constant threats of impending deadlines. Senate worked

<sup>871</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

Shea Vance, “‘Division and disruption’: Shafik addresses community in video message following Hamilton arrests,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 4, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/04/division-and-disruption-shafik-addresses-community-in-video-message-following-hamilton-arrests/>.

<sup>872</sup> Vettikkal, “The Stakes of Solidarity: What Low-Income Students Risked the Day of Columbia’s April 18 Mass Arrests.”

<sup>873</sup> [redacted University Senate observer], May 4, 2024.

- to maintain good faith negotiations on both sides – and this was a challenge as both sides had external pressures and internal factions that were not fully under their control.”
- “Tuesday 4/30: Senate members work to try and get access to campus for student journalists, medics, legal observers, faculty, and Senate members.”
  - The day of the Hamilton Hall raid after the Administration spoke with ER: “encampment folks are trying to get the message out to everyone in and around the encampment. They ask for more time. Student negotiators call Senate and inform that protestors have left encampment but ask if they can have more time to help the Hamilton Hall occupiers to leave without police. Senate informs administration directly by telephone and by email asking for more time.”
  - “I understand that we cannot share all of this – but I believe it is important for us to be as transparent and forthright as possible.”
- Chair D’Armiento responded to [redacted] University Senate observers of the negotiation process “Re: Role of the University Senate”: Chair D’Armiento agreed “that we should memorialize what occurred. Others may have more details that should be added. Of note, is that there was no contact made by administration with Hamilton Hall occupiers despite the encampment negotiators informing them that they have the telephone number to contact occupiers.”<sup>874</sup>
  - At 4:11 PM *The Intercept* reported “In No Labels Call, Josh Gottheimer, Mike Lawler, and University Trustees Agree: FBI Should Investigate Campus Protests.”<sup>875</sup>
    - “During a call hosted by the centrist political group No Labels, Reps. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., and Mike Lawler, R-N.Y., spoke with close to 300 attendees, including trustees from several universities, about how Congress could help crack down further on student protesters — and how the FBI could get more involved.”
  - *Spectator* reported “Letter from the Editors: Columbia enabled the NYPD to suppress free press as it brutalized our peers.”<sup>876</sup>
    - “The night prior, *Spectator* reporters and editors had stayed up all night to break the news that dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters had occupied Hamilton. Unlike most nights, we had left our office early, in anticipation of the escalation. Near a bench to the left of Low Plaza, one of our editors briefed a handful of younger reporters on what to do if they were arrested; photographers passed around a sharpie to write our phone numbers on their arms, and we collected a list of staffers’ emergency contacts. Throughout the night, reporters ran back and forth between Hamilton and Butler Library, switching off between writing and gathering information in shifts as we live-updated our article until nearly 6:30 a.m. The two of us eventually went home as others slept on hard tables under the fluorescent lights of Butler that night, if they even slept at all.”
    - “Then, at around 6:23 a.m., the Emergency Management Operations Team announced a complete lockdown of our campus, effectively trapping our reporters still stuck in Butler inside—and the two of us and countless other journalists outside. We scrambled to contact Columbia’s Office of Public Affairs to grant four of us access to campus despite the security crackdown. A spokesperson first told us they couldn’t let all of us in, asking us to pick a smaller crew. After we insisted on the importance of having senior reporters and editors on the ground—emphasizing it would be negligent for the University to restrict campus access to student journalists at this time—all four of us were escorted in. But this initial hesitance from Columbia to allow reporters onto campus amid a crisis was only the beginning of a day marked by suppression of free press unlike anything we’ve ever seen during our time on *Spectator*.”
    - “From the first-floor lounge of John Jay Hall—where we had moved after the University closed Butler unannounced—we tried to calculate the University’s next move. We covered a relatively quiet morning in front of Hamilton, a rally on 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, and several press conferences.”
    - “While the NYPD said it was in “constant dialogue” with Columbia officials, Mayor Eric Adams confirmed around 6 p.m. that the department had not received authorization from University President Minouche Shafik—yet. But as hundreds of police encircled our campus Tuesday evening, breaking down the barricades blocking our gates, we knew it was any minute before they’d breach our campus again.”
    - “WKCR. . . field reporters were forced into Pulitzer Hall as they reported live and were told they would be arrested if they left”
    - Columbia “has broken one of the most vital backbones of this University.”

<sup>874</sup> Jeanine D’Armiento, May 4, 2024.

<sup>875</sup> Thakker and Lacy, "In No Labels Call, Josh Gottheimer, Mike Lawler, and University Trustees Agree: FBI Should Investigate Campus Protests."

<sup>876</sup> Ramirez and Karam, "Letter from the Editors: Columbia enabled the NYPD to suppress free press as it brutalized our peers."

- “The University must make a commitment to never again weaponize campus access against the press, and especially its student press—no matter how severely events escalate. It should not have fallen squarely on the shoulders of the Journalism School to correct the errors of central administration and facilitate journalists’ entry.”
- “Considering the “constant dialogue” between the NYPD and Columbia, the University should have defended the rights of the press to remain on campus to the police.”
- “Shafik must also recognize that it is in our community’s best interest that she stop evading our interview requests and finally come to the table to speak with her student journalists. If she can answer before Congress, she can respond to the tough questions from the people with a direct stake in the future of Columbia.”
- Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) published a letter in *The Guardian* “We Columbia University students urge you to listen to our voices” arguing “media outlets and politicians have created a distorted narrative – one which unfairly characterizes our community. . . The traumatic environment and militarization of our campus are not the sole product of ill-intended protestors or reckless non-affiliates, as claimed by administrative emails; rather, they are the fault of the senior administration themselves. . . For months, this crisis has brewed as administrators neglected student and faculty voices. The seeds of the NYPD’s 30 April raid on Columbia University were planted nearly six months ago. On 24 October, Columbia’s senior administration unilaterally created an illegitimate university event policy in the aftermath of peaceful pro-Palestinian demonstrations, granting them the power to regulate protests and “sole discretion’ to determine sanctions on students organizations and their members. . . Thus senior administration circumvented process and procedure and undermined shared governance, rather than adhere to the rules of university conduct, adopted by our university senate and set out in the university statutes.”<sup>877</sup>
- *Spectator* reported: “Should Columbia’s President Resign? And 27 other questions we asked the school’s students, faculty, and staff.” The *Columbia Daily Spectator* and *New York Magazine* conducted a poll of 719 students, professors, and others between April 26, 2023 and May 2, 2023. Only active members of the university community, verified by email, were able to participate.<sup>878</sup>
- *Spectator* published photography project “Listen Up, Columbia! Portraits from a campus in crisis.”<sup>879</sup>
  - “On April 26, photographers for the *Spectator* set up a white backdrop in front of Butler Library, opposite the encampment. They began asking anyone who walked by—students entering and leaving the encampment, professors, counterprotesters, and those just trying to get to the library—if they would stop for a portrait. Those who said “yes” were given tape and a marker and asked to write their message to the university and affix it to their clothing.”

#### May 5, 2024:

- At 10:41 AM Columbia College Dean Sorett texted Journalism School Dean Cobb: “Senate sounds like CUAD.” Cobb responded at 10:42 AM, “It’s a spinoff.”<sup>880</sup>
- A letter from 289 faculty members objected to what they called a lack of due process and “predetermined sanction of expulsion” for protestors involved in Hamilton Hall <sup>881</sup>

#### May 6, 2024:

- A Barnard students’ lawyer requested their disciplinary hearings undergo oversight by Columbia’s University Judicial Board rather than the college. The student said they requested their hearing go under Columbia because Barnard’s disciplinary proceedings are “unilateral, or a nearly unilateral decision.”<sup>882</sup>
- U.S. Speaker of the House Johnson posted on X: “President Shafik and Columbia University administrators have displayed a shocking unwillingness to control their campus. They’ve allowed outside agitators and terrorist-

<sup>877</sup> Columbia College Student Council, “We Columbia University students urge you to listen to our voices,” *The Guardian*, May 4 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/may/04/columbia-university-student-protest-gaza>.

<sup>878</sup> Isabella Ramirez et al., “Should Columbia’s President Resign? And 27 other questions we asked the school’s students, faculty, and staff.,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 4, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/04/should-columbias-president-resign/>.

<sup>879</sup> Gabriella Gregor Splaver, “Listen Up, Columbia! Portraits from a campus in crisis.,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 4, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/photo-essays/2024/05/04/listen-up-columbia/>.

<sup>880</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>881</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>882</sup> Maya Stahl, “Barnard indefinitely postpones disciplinary hearings against students,” *Columbia Spectator*, July 3, 2024,

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/03/barnard-indefinitely-postpones-expulsion-suspension-hearings-against-students/>.

sympathizing students and faculty to rewrite campus rules and spew vile, anti-Jewish aggression. Now, thousands of students who've worked hard to achieve their degrees will not get the recognition they deserve. Because it is abundantly clear that President Shafik would rather cede control to Hamas supporters than restore order, Columbia's Board of Trustees should immediately remove her and appoint a new president who will. Our once great universities desperately need strong moral leadership, now more than ever."<sup>883</sup>

- The Columbia Legal Support and Solidarity Working Group for Palestine sent the University Senate a letter concerning student discipline of protestors going through CSSI.<sup>884</sup>
  - “We are a collective of law students writing on behalf of the dozens of Columbia and Barnard students who on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> received notice that they are to attend mandatory disciplinary meetings this Monday (today), Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to address allegations related to the April 30<sup>th</sup> occupation of Hamilton Hall. For the reasons outlined in this letter, the process by which CSSI scheduled these mandatory hearings – which will impact the students’ academic future, professional career, emotional health, financial wellbeing, and more – is rife with procedural deficits. As laid out in this letter, we object to CSSI as the disciplinary body handling this case and request removal to University Rules processes. Furthermore, if Columbia is to approximate norms of justice and due process, the hearings must be rescheduled until they have adequate time to consult with counsel regarding their case. At a minimum, we demand students be given at least one additional week before being subjected to these incredibly high stakes hearings.”
  - “CSSI is not the appropriate body for the proposed disciplinary proceedings, which fall under the purview of the Rules of the University Rules – the body specifically designed to address protest-related accusations.”
    - “Critically, the Rules provide students with the right to adequate time for preparation and the right to not make self-incriminating statements in addition to the right to have an attorney as an advisor.”
  - “CSSI is demonstrably non-neutral and cannot justify act as prosecutor, judge, and jury”
  - “Irrespective of the prosecuting body, the seriousness of these charges require that students be given sufficient time to prepare.”
  - “Basic rules of the legal profession make clear that students have the right to counsel in disciplinary proceedings.”
  - “Subjecting students to hearings at this time violates their Fifth Amendment rights.”
- John Samuelson, the international president of the Transport Workers Union that represents Columbia’s maintenance workers, wrote to President Shafik, saying she had “epically failed to protect the safety of these university employees, who were forced to fight their way out of the building.” Mr. Samuelson added that though Columbia had briefings with the NYPD about the possibility that protests could escalate, “they conveyed none of that information to the union.”<sup>885</sup>
- *Spectator* published op-ed “My final message to Columbia” in which a student described their experience being doxxed by the doxxing truck in Fall 2023. The student did not sign the October 9, 2024 statements the doxxing truck targeted students from.<sup>886</sup>
  - “Being the first doxxed student to file a lawsuit, I initially hoped that I would have the school on my side; however, all I received was a message that the school would not be able to compensate me for any of the legal fees I incurred.”
  - “I was falling behind in my classes, so I asked Columbia if there was some sort of option that could be made to help me. A pass/D/fail option, anything. Again, nothing.”
  - “Since being doxxed, I have dealt in my final months at Columbia with people treating me differently, shooting me dirty looks, and calling me a “terrorist.” I try to ignore it—the hate comments, the racism from people who have never even met me.”
  - “When I began to integrate back to campus, I felt weird and uncomfortable. I always felt like hiding my face. I would wear a hood, a hat, or a mask. I ended up cutting off my hair. I wanted a disguise, but behind the disguise was just a little boy who wanted to go home. A boy who never felt safe in a place he thought he was able to call home.”

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<sup>883</sup> @SpeakerJohnson, X, May 6, 2024.

<sup>884</sup> Palestine, "CSSI Letter."

<sup>885</sup> Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia's Hamilton Hall."

<sup>886</sup> Hafez, "My final message to Columbia."

- “That picture still haunts me, and that is what people associate me with. What was once a dream had become one of my biggest nightmares.”
- “Not only was the doxxing situation traumatizing, but the University’s reaction to everything was just as traumatizing as their treatment of Muslim and Arab students as second-class citizens. Maybe the media was right—the world does see me and my people as ‘human animals.’”
- “I can guarantee things would have been different in this doxxing situation if I were not Muslim, given the administration’s consistent failure to acknowledge Islamophobia.”
- “Regardless of what would’ve happened, Columbia’s lack of action spoke volumes to me. This event has caused me permanent damage and pain, and when I looked to you in a time of need and support, you looked away. You turned a blind eye to my struggles, just like you did to the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims at this school and around the world.”
- The Administration cancelled its University-wide Commencement ceremonies and moved most school-specific Class Days off-campus. The decision followed several messages from the University stressing the urgency of dismantling the encampment to allow Commencement to occur on campus. The University had already set up bleachers on Low Steps and made preparations for the ceremonies. The decision was based on discussions between deans, faculty who work directly with students, and student leaders. “Our students emphasized that these smaller-scale, school-based celebrations are most meaningful to them and their families. They are eager to cross the stage to applause and family pride and hear from their school’s invited guest speakers. . . As a result, we will focus our resources on those school ceremonies and on keeping them safe, respectful, and running smoothly.”<sup>887</sup>

#### May 7, 2024:

- Reuven Kahane, a 57-year-old man, drove a car into a crowd of protestors at a picket organized by CUAD in front of Barnard trustee Francine LeFrak’s home. Police arrested three individuals at the demonstration, including Kahane and the 55-year-old female protestor he struck, who sustained a leg injury and was hospitalized. She and a 63-year-old male protestor with CUAD were arrested for banging on the hood of a driver’s car when it drove into the crowd. The 55-year-old protestor, a Columbia alum, was arrested for attempted criminal mischief in the fourth degree and unlawful assembly, which are class A and class B misdemeanors, respectively. The 63-year-old protestor was arrested for attempted criminal mischief in the fourth degree, a class A misdemeanor.”<sup>888</sup>
- At 8:57 PM COO Holloway emailed the Columbia community about “access changes to Columbia’s Morningside campus”: “Beginning tomorrow at 8:00 a.m., we will expand access at the Morningside campus to all Columbia undergraduates and to GSAS MA and PhD students in teaching or academic support roles this semester.”<sup>889</sup>
  - “Restoring access for these Columbia Morningside-based affiliates will strengthen the pedagogical undertaking and provide students with greater access to dining halls, libraries, and the Dodge Fitness Center during this period of final exams. Faculty and students will be able to interact in person, and researchers will be able to advance their critical discovery work. Together we will take another important step forward in rebuilding community on our campus while providing for the safety and security of everyone.”
  - “Researchers who require physical access to their laboratories for research continuity purposes should request approval for access from their relevant dean. Restriction at the Morningside campus remains in effect for affiliates of Barnard and Teachers College as well as Columbia affiliates based at CUIMC, Manhattanville, and other campuses.”
  - “We have added an additional entry point to increase access to campus.”
  - “We all have a role to play in making this effort successful, and I ask that we come together in support of Columbia’s academic mission; adhere to our common values of honoring learning, mutual respect, civil disagreement, free expression, and kindness; and respect Columbia’s rules and policies, which are in place for the benefit of all.”
  - “As a reminder, tents and camping are not permitted on campus.”

<sup>887</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Emily Forgash, "Columbia Commencement ceremonies canceled, school Class Days moved off campus," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 6, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/06/columbia-commencement-ceremonies-canceled-school-class-days-moved-off-campus/>.

<sup>888</sup> Surina Venkat, "Motorist charged with assault for striking CUAD protestor with car at picket outside trustee's home," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 8, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/08/motorist-charged-with-assault-for-striking-cuad-protester-with-car-at-picket-outside-trustees-home/>.

<sup>889</sup> Cas Holloway, May 7, 2024.

- “Please know that the safety and security of our students, faculty, and staff is our top priority. As I conveyed in my message to you last Thursday, we continue to guard against further disruptions to our academic mission and carefully weigh the risk that tensions and activities in the city and around the country could spill over onto our campus and threaten the safety of our community.”
- “The Morningside campus is at the heart of the community, and we are committed to bringing it back to all of you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and support.”
- Law Professor and University Senator David Pozen published a blog post “Seeing the University More Clearly.”<sup>890</sup>
  - “Crisis can be clarifying. Recent events on campuses across the country have forced many of us to look more closely at how our own universities work. I have no special insight into most aspects of the Columbia protests or the administration’s response. But as someone who studies public law and nonprofit law, I have been struck by a number of legal-institutional forces that helped bring Columbia to its current conjuncture—all of which relate, in various mutually reinforcing ways, to the power of the president’s office.”
  - “Shafik has made a series of ‘bold’ decisions without first securing community support. These include unilaterally revising event policies and calling the cops on student protesters in defiance of the senate executive committee’s unanimous opposition. If Shafik has broken with various specific campus norms, however, we should acknowledge that the brand of centralized leadership she brings to Columbia is nothing new, and on the contrary is precisely what is expected of a modern university president.”
  - Pozen described how faculty and students, while awarded certain privileges and individual rights, have little say in how Columbia is governed—which he described as a hallmark of an illiberal autocracy as opposed to a democracy.
  - “What none of us have are governance rights against the trustees who really run the place. . . We enjoy various individual privileges and protections, but not the franchise.”
  - “With regard to the past few months, at least, the charge is not that the administration bypassed existing processes altogether or that it misapplied any particular process. The charge is that the administration routed student protesters’ cases to certain disciplinary channels, rather than others, on the expectation that those channels would mete out swifter or sterner punishment.”
  - “In an Orwellian twist, this policy is administered by the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI), which helps students flourish by denying them representation in a process that could lead to their expulsion. Shafik’s shenanigan, according to the University Senate, was to start charging student protesters under the Standards and Discipline Policy, instead of the Rules of University Conduct, so as to punish them more efficiently.
  - “It is nevertheless hard to escape the conclusion that she invoked Title VI not so much in acknowledgment of a regrettable legal fact as in service of public persuasion—as an effort to reassure audiences in Congress, the Department of Education, and beyond that she is taking antisemitism seriously, and to justify to constituencies on campus the police raid that would soon follow.”
  - “There is no shortage of immediate repair work that needs to be done at Columbia, as at many other universities. But if the thrust of this post is right, we should redirect some of our critical attention away from President Shafik herself and toward the office she occupies, away from the latest divisive decision and toward the decades-long drift toward presidential administration, which shaped how that decision got made. Reversing this drift, and developing a more democratic model of internal governance, may be a prerequisite not only for rebuilding intellectual community but also for avoiding future campus conflagrations.”

**May 8, 2024:**

- At 8:00 AM the University expanded campus access to all Columbia undergraduates and some Graduate School of Arts and Sciences students. Campus remained restricted from affiliates of Barnard and Teachers College as well as those based at the medical center, Manhattanville, and other campuses. Columbia affiliates with access to Morningside campus were able to enter through the 116th Street and Amsterdam Avenue gate and the Earl Hall gate at 117th Street and Broadway.<sup>891</sup>

<sup>890</sup> David Pozen, "Seeing the University More Clearly," May 7, 2024, <https://lpeproject.org/blog/seeing-the-university-more-clearly/>.

<sup>891</sup> Maya Stahl, "Columbia to open Morningside campus to the public for the first time since 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 15, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/15/columbia-to-open-morningside-campus-to-the-public-for-the-first-time-since-gaza-solidarity-encampment/>.



- “We continue to guard against further disruptions to our academic mission and carefully weigh the risk that tensions and activities in the city and around the country could spill over onto our campus and threaten the safety of our community. . . I ask that we come together in support of Columbia’s academic mission; adhere to our common values of honoring learning, mutual respect, civil disagreement, free expression, and kindness; and respect Columbia’s rules and policies, which are in place for the benefit of all. . . As a reminder, tents and camping are not permitted on campus.”
- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>892</sup>
  - The University Senate passed a resolution calling for a halt in ongoing disciplinary proceedings against students for their alleged involvement in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” and the Hamilton occupation, citing concerns over proper adjudication. At the time, the disciplinary cases were under the jurisdiction of CSSI, which was established in Fall 2022 to oversee behavioral and academic violations and designed to take a rehabilitative approach to discipline by examining the underlying reasons as to why students violate University policies. Historically, protest-related discipline was adjudicated through the University Judicial Board and the Rules of University Conduct, established after the 1968 campus protests. CSSI functions separately from the Rules of University Conduct and oversees behavioral and academic violations laid out in its Standards and Discipline document.
  - The resolution was proposed during the plenary session by Professor Richard Smiley, a member of the Rules Committee.
  - Resolution: “Columbia should adhere to the University Statutes, including the Rules of University Conduct, which serve as our constitution. . . The Senate has grave concern that the CSSI process is being used for issues that are designed for expulsion of students, and that the due process and representation rights of student or faculty will not be properly protected.”
  - CSSI was pursuing disciplinary action against students it said were involved in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” and the occupation of Hamilton Hall. University spokesperson Ben Chang previously wrote in an April 30, 2024 press release that students whom the University identified as being inside of Hamilton Hall were facing expulsion.
  - A letter from CSSI to a student accused of being inside Hamilton Hall was included in the Senate’s plenary binder. The student was preliminarily charged with disruptive behavior, violation of law, violation of University policy, failure to comply, vandalism or damage to property, and unauthorized access or egress—the same charges leveled against students suspended for the April 17 and April 18 “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.”
    - “As an interim measure, you have been immediately suspended and banned from Columbia University with the expectation that you will be permanently expelled after an expedited hearing.”
  - Members of the Senate’s Rules of University Conduct committee primarily raised concerns about the legitimacy of CSSI’s authority to discipline students for their involvement in protest activity. The rules concretize a robust protection of free expression and assembly while also laying out certain actions that infringe on the University’s academic mission or present a clear and present danger.
  - Law Professor Daniel Pozen said that CSSI’s model, “which it describes as educational and conversational, is not appropriate for charges of this gravity,” referring to the expulsion sanctions levied against students the University says were involved in the Hamilton occupation.
    - “You have very few procedural rights before CSSI. You can’t have an attorney, you can’t be witnesses. You’re not permitted to make opening statements or closing statements. Your advisors can’t speak on the record. . . I don’t think it’s appropriate for a situation where the students face expulsion, and the situation is inherently adversarial, not educational, conversational.”
  - Professor Pozen also expressed concerns with the potential for self-incrimination in the CSSI process, as students facing disciplinary proceedings for being inside Hamilton were also facing misdemeanor criminal trespassing charges.
    - “CSSI wants the students to confess and repent, basically, that’s the spirit of it—and it encourages you to do that. . . That is invitation to self-incrimination when you’re facing parallel criminal

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Emily Forgash and Sarah Huddleston, “Morningside campus to open to Columbia undergraduates, some GSAS students beginning Wednesday,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 7, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/07/morningside-campus-to-open-to-columbia-undergraduates-some-gsas-students-beginning-wednesday/>.

<sup>892</sup> Huddleston, “University Senate calls for pause on student protestors’ disciplinary proceedings over concerns on proper adjudication.”

Columbia University Senate, “May 8, 2024 Plenary.”

Columbia University Senate, “May 24, 2024 Plenary.”

- charges, and you're supposed to talk about the bad things you did and what you learned from it. So all the more inappropriate when criminal proceedings are happening in parallel."
- Professor Pozen also raised issues with the ability of CSSI to "prejudge their cases," as the letters sent to students accused of occupying Hamilton seemed to indicate that students would be expelled regardless of the content of their disciplinary hearings.
  - Professor Pozen reaffirmed the rules' jurisdiction to oversee disciplinary proceedings related to not only protests, but specifically occupation of University facilities. Section 443 of the Rules of University Conduct outline potential violations, which include situations where an individual "enters or remains in a University facility without authorization at a time after the facility has been declared closed by the University."
  - At the plenary, Angela Nelson, co-chair of the rules committee, described the committee's April 15 letter to General Counsel Felice Rosan. Questions posed by the letter included what basis CSSI had under the University Statutes to adjudicate violations related to protest activity, what due process protections CSSI had, and what were the "names and positions of the individual(s) who made final decisions for CSSI."
  - The resolution passed with 40 in favor, zero opposed, and five abstentions.
  - At 3:54 PM Director Cohen emailed President Shafik and Trustees Co-Chairs Shipman and Greenwald "Accountability": I know these are difficult times for you and for the greater University community. I have been in numerous meetings, including several University Senate meetings, where I have heard faculty and others demand that you drop any disciplinary action against their colleagues and students involved with the encampment and the takeover of Hamilton Hall. I want to be very clear that I, and the Columbia/Barnard Jewish community, expect the University will hold anyone who violated the University's rules accountable to the greatest degree possible. I also expect that the University will be transparent in sharing what disciplinary actions, including suspensions, expulsions, and terminations of employment, have been taken. These measures are essential if you seek to restore order and calm to our academic and student life environment. I am happy to discuss this further at your convenience."<sup>893</sup>
  - *Spectator* reported: A Columbia College student who was suspended for his involvement in the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" expressed concerns about the "alternative resolution" the University gave to students identified as participating in the encampment.<sup>894</sup>
    - According to the student, the agreement required students to admit to all of the charges brought against them.
    - The students suspended for the April 18 encampment received the same set of charges: disruptive behavior, violation of law, violation of University policy, failure to comply, vandalism or damage to property, and unauthorized access or egress. The violation of University policy pertained to "operations policies regarding 'tenting,'" according to a disciplinary letter obtained by *Spectator*.
    - The student expressed concerns with the blanket violations leveled against all students the University identified as participating in the encampment. He said that while he did participate in the encampment, he and some other students did not pitch a tent, vandalize University property, nor violate the law. All charges against the students arrested on April 18 had been dropped by the district attorney, according to the student.
    - The student also expressed concern about the lack of negotiations between the students' legal teams and the University regarding the terms of the "alternative resolution," the fact that suspended students were unable to attend classes or submit academic work, and a chilling effect while students are on disciplinary probation.
    - Students who did not sign the alternative resolution agreement were suspended without a hearing date and could not complete their classes for Spring 2024.
  - Faculty in the Arts and Sciences held a faculty meeting where they began a vote of no confidence in President Shafik, a move brought to the body by members of the Columbia chapter of AAUP. The group amended its initial motion to censure following Shafik's April 30 authorization of the police sweep of the Hamilton Hall occupation and the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment." David Lurie, president of the Columbia AAUP chapter, said that while a motion to censure "refers to our judgment about past actions," a vote of no confidence refers to "our feelings about the ... potential for positive action in the future."<sup>895</sup>
  - *Spectator* reported: The restrictions to Morningside campus access left many Columbia students with limited dining options. Campus closures and limited access to dining halls caused a rise in food insecurity for students navigating

<sup>893</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>894</sup> Huddleston, "University Senate calls for pause on student protestors' disciplinary proceedings over concerns on proper adjudication."

<sup>895</sup> Shea Vance, "Faculty of Arts and Sciences advances vote of no confidence in Shafik as internal pressure mounts," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 11, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/11/faculty-of-arts-and-sciences-advances-vote-of-no-confidence-in-shafik-as-internal-pressure-mounts/>.

expensive off-campus dining options in Morningside Heights. The Food Pantry at Columbia, operating out of Lerner Hall, was inaccessible for several days following April 30. Over one week after initial restrictions, Morningside campus access reopened to undergraduate students.<sup>896</sup>

- *Spectator* reported: The Morningside Heights community was impacted by Columbia’s restricted access to the Morningside campus. Columbia Housing Equity Project, a campus organization that provides food and toiletries to unhoused people in Morningside Heights, was unable to operate as usual due to the closure of Earl Hall, where the organization stores its resources. The direct outreach initiative organized by the project operates in two shifts a day from 1 to 3 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. and has been running for seven years. Every week, the organization makes 250 sandwiches, collects snacks and bottles of water, and distributes them to unhoused residents in the community. At least 70 meals were not delivered to those in need within Morningside Heights because of campus closures. The organization worked around campus limitations and implemented a “pared down version” of direct outreach after receiving some funding from the 116th Initiative, a mutual aid organization led by students, and with leftover food from the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.” One of the organizers credited the encampment as the projects “biggest wealth of support” during this time.<sup>897</sup>
- *The New York Times* reported “An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia’s Hamilton Hall: Maintenance workers had a firsthand view of how protestors seized the building, and wondered why the university failed to stop it.”<sup>898</sup>
  - A maintenance worker reported that “he had caught a woman hiding under tables or behind doors ‘three or four times’ over the last several weeks.”
  - Five days before the Hamilton occupation, another different maintenance worker opened the door to a third-floor closet just before midnight just before midnight and found a woman “crouching in the slop sink, hiding and holding the door shut.” The worker said he brought the woman to Public Safety officers and was not sure what happened next.

#### May 9, 2024:

- President Shafik emailed the Columbia community “Update for Our Community, May 9.”<sup>899</sup>
  - “We are further expanding access to the Morningside campus to include all Morningside-based graduating students, all Columbia Law School students, and all Morningside-based Columbia staff. This expanded access will allow 2024 graduates to fully participate in activities related to their last days as Columbia students and will enable our staff to return to campus to support students, faculty, and other important operations.”
  - “Restriction at the Morningside campus remains in effect for affiliates of Barnard and Teachers College as well as Columbia affiliates based at CUIMC, Manhattanville, and other campuses.”
  - “As of Wednesday, May 8, all individuals based on the Morningside campus involved in externally sponsored research, regardless of the sponsor, may access the Morningside campus research-related activities.”
  - “Your deans for research will communicate the process by which access will be granted. These deans will then contact Public Safety for ID activation. For those working on research that is not externally sponsored if your project requires on-campus activity, you may continue to obtain access for yourself and team members through your research dean as needed.”
  - “The Public Safety team is available at any time of day, every day. We have increased the presence of public safety officers across all of our campuses.”
  - “Columbia Health for Morningside, Manhattanville, and Teachers College students (services provided in-person as needed, as well as telehealth and virtual options).”
- The Union Theological Seminary’s Board of Trustees endorsed divestment from “companies substantially and intractably benefiting from the war in Palestine.” UTS has a partnership with Columbia and holds its faculty of theology but has a separate endowment worth \$110 million.<sup>900</sup>

<sup>896</sup> Chen and Venkat, "Amid campus restrictions and Flex conversion confusion, students, faculty, and resident organize community meals."

<sup>897</sup> Chen and Venkat, "Amid campus restrictions and Flex conversion confusion, students, faculty, and resident organize community meals."

<sup>898</sup> Otterman, "An Inside Look at the Student Takeover of Columbia’s Hamilton Hall."

<sup>899</sup> Minouche Shafik, May 9, 2024.

<sup>900</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Sarah Huddleston, Shea Vance, and Esha Karam, "Union Theological Seminary trustees endorse divestment from ‘companies profiting from the war in Palestine’," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 9, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/09/union-theological-seminary-trustees-endorse-divestment-from-companies-profiting-from-the-war-in-palestine/>.

- “Although our investments in the war in Palestine are small because our previous, strong anti-armament screens are robust, we hope that our action today will bring needed pressure to bear to stop the killing and find a peaceful future for all.”
- UTS become the first affiliate school of Columbia to commit to divestment from Israel.
- Shafik wrote a message to faculty emphasizing her dedication to “rebuilding this community, for the sake of our students, our institution, and a world that needs us now more than ever. . . We need to pursue our mission while fostering an environment that encourages open inquiry, that allows for vigorous and constructive debate and does so in a way that is welcoming and inclusive for all. . . I trust that this community—with its collective brilliance and history of engaging in critical dialogue about the important issues of our time—can come through this period, that has tested our institution, even stronger.”<sup>901</sup>
- President Shafik published an op-ed in the *Financial Times* “Universities must engage in serious soul searching on protests,” about “the university’s role in the context of a major political crisis like the war in Gaza” and higher education’s role in “defining the boundaries” of free speech rights and discrimination. In the op-ed, President Shafik reflected on the protests at Columbia.<sup>902</sup>
  - President Shafik compared protests to “opposition to the Vietnam War, the anti-apartheid struggle and the civil rights movement.”
  - “We were unable to come to an agreement but this cannot be the end of the dialogue.”
- In a library Zoom meeting, a University archivist said that she had collected a few items from the encampment. The archivist said that she wanted to maintain and preserve a historical record of what happened and prevent the materials from being thrown away. The transcript of the meeting shows that when an employee on the call asked about the ownership records of materials being collected by the University Archives, the archivist responded that she picked up some of the paper materials because they were being handed out, that she was in contact with Public Safety to collect materials to preserve, and that the students were informed by Public Safety of what was happening. “There were questions about how things were being collected, from whom they were being collected, and were things being collected with consent” at the May 9 meeting.<sup>903</sup>

#### May 10, 2024:

- A former administrative assistant in a Columbia language department and union member of UAW Local 2110 was terminated from her position “due to the serious misconduct that occurred on April 18, 2024,” according to her termination notice. The assistant participated in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” and was arrested. Following her termination, UAW Union 2110 filed a grievance alleging that the University violated the union’s collective bargaining agreement.<sup>904</sup>
- At a press conference, hundreds of faculty and staff across Columbia, Barnard, and Teachers College signed onto a strike, pledging to “only do work that directly serves students” until the NYPD was removed from campus. Activities covered by the strike included all that “directly serve the administration,” such as work with University institutes, centers and task forces, conversations about “new/next directions” with administrators, participation in committees and listening sessions, Commencement activities, and attending and organizing campus events. The strike did not call upon faculty to withhold grades, recommendation letters, or other “student-serving” work. Faculty and staff participating in the strike wrote in a press release that the NYPD presence on campus “has created an unsafe work environment,” especially for members of “communities who are disproportionately profiled by police,” including “faculty, staff, and students who are Black, Palestinian, Middle Eastern, Latinx, South Asian, Arab, Muslim, immigrants, trans, [or] queer. . . The University administration’s brutal punishment and suppression of peaceful, anti-war student protest, its refusal to consult with faculty, complete rejection of shared governance, abrogation of University rules, and arbitrary use of force has made our campus unsafe for the entire community.” Faculty at the press conference also condemned the ongoing disciplinary proceedings against students who allegedly

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Massel, "Students petition UTS to hire professor who Shafik said 'will never work at Columbia again'."

<sup>901</sup> Vance, "Faculty of Arts and Sciences passes vote of no confidence in Shafik."

<sup>902</sup> Emily Forgash, "Shafik writes op-ed urging universities to do 'serious soul searching' about their role in free speech, global conflicts," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 9, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/09/shafik-writes-op-ed-urging-universities-to-do-serious-soul-searching-about-their-role-in-free-speech-global-conflicts/>.

<sup>903</sup> Levine, "A Columbia archivist took art from the 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment.' Students are demanding space to archive their movement in return.."

<sup>904</sup> Stahl, "Staff member reaches \$50,000 settlement with Columbia following termination."

participated in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” and occupation of Hamilton Hall. Though the strike was not sponsored by either AAUP chapter, the Columbia chapter helped bring faculty together to organize the strike.<sup>905</sup>

- The Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee Mark Green and the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence August Pfluger sent a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray and the Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas asking “whether the FBI had any related undercover employees, online covert employees, or confidential human sources” among what it called “pro-Hamas protests” on college campuses.<sup>906</sup>
  - “We write to request information regarding any efforts by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to assist law enforcement and other partners against the surge of anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas mobs on college campuses. While we recognize that every American has the right to peacefully protest, individuals who endorse or espouse terrorist activity or support a terrorist organization are patently dangerous, and potentially criminal.”
  - “Since October 7th, when Hamas terrorists carried out the horrific terrorist attacks against innocent Israelis and dozens of U.S. citizens, we have seen a troubling increase in pro-Hamas, anti-Israel mobs on college campuses throughout the United States. These mobs have threatened violence against Jewish students and the Jewish community, while also endorsing or espousing terrorist activity or support of a terrorist organization.”
  - “Despite receiving substantial federal funding under DHS’ Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) grant program, many universities have failed to effectively respond to an increase in threats and acts of violence directed at Jewish students and the Jewish community.”
  - “It is unclear, however, that DHS is taking sufficient steps to ensure the safety and security of the homeland.”
  - The letter requested:
    - “All documents and communications, including but not limited to, memoranda, intelligence bulletins, threat assessments, situational information reports, briefing materials, and requests for assistance, referring or relating to the anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas protests on college campuses, from October 7, 2023, to the present”
    - “All documents and communications, between or among DHS and the FBI shared with state, local, and campus law enforcement agencies, referring or relating to anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas protests on college campuses, from October 7, 2023, to the present”
    - “A document sufficient to explain whether any DHS or FBI employees communicated with any of the participants in the anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas protests on college campuses, including whether the FBI had any related undercover employees, online covert employees, or confidential human sources, from October 7, 2023, to the present”
    - “All applications, documents, and communications relating to Columbia University in the City of New York’s request for financial assistance under the DHS TVTP grant program, or any other DHS grant program, from January 1, 2019, to the present.”

#### May 11, 2024:

- At 11:09 AM Board of Trustees Co-Chair Shipman texted Co-Chair Greenwald: “I sent you something from Michael Nutter. He called me this am. Former Philly mayor as you probably know. He has some really interesting ideas for moving forward. He’s very practical, he said he dialed into a senate meeting this week and it blew his mind. He thinks that some of faculty are just nuts. We talked about how to activate other faculty members how to get through what is basically a big political crisis. I think he could be an asset to Angela. And it might be good for you guys to talk as well. He’s just a great guy and really wants to be useful so I think he could be a powerful voice for sanity in a lot of this.”<sup>907</sup>
  - At 12:04 PM Co-Chair Shipman responded to Co-Chair Greenwald: “Please connect me with Mayor Nutter.”

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<sup>905</sup> Maya Stahl, “Hundreds of faculty, staff pledge to strike from activities that ‘directly serve the administration’ until NYPD is removed from campus,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 11, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/11/hundreds-of-faculty-staff-pledge-to-strike-from-activities-that-directly-serve-the-administration-until-nypd-is-removed-from-campus/>.

<sup>906</sup> Mark Green and August Pfluger, May 10, 2024.

Ken Klippenstein, “The Intelligence Community Is Spying on Student Protesters,” *Ken Klippenstein*, May 20, 2024.

<sup>907</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

- At 11:22 AM *The New York Post* posted an article about the May 3, 2024 University Senate Plenary: “Columbia professor has mic cut after warning university infiltrated by ‘groups who are supporting terrorists’ at faculty meeting.” Chair D’Armiendo received threatening emails, texts, and calls after this article was published, as well as harassment on social media.<sup>908</sup>

#### May 12, 2024:

- Over 200 independent student workers pledged to withhold their labor—including withholding final grades—until the University granted amnesty to all students, faculty, and staff disciplined for their involvement in pro-Palestinian protest activity and permanently removed NYPD from campus. The student workers sent letters to their deans informing them of their sick-out pledge. Merriam Webster defines a sick-out as “an organized absence from work by workers on the pretext of sickness.” The sick-out action was not affiliated with any union, but built off a foundation of rank-and-file organizing at Columbia. One student workers said they were motivated by a call from CUAD directed to faculty and staff that “encouraged them to take labor actions.” The group’s letter to the deans also stated that the presence of NYPD created “untenable living and working conditions on and around the Morningside campus,” expressing that “numerous students have already reported being catcalled and sexually harassed by NYPD officers on campus.”<sup>909</sup>
- *The Washington Post* published “‘Bunker mentality’ at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide.” The article described how “decision-making at Columbia became increasingly centralized and shrouded even to high-level university officials as the crisis intensified” and included interviews with administrators, trustees, and donors. At least two University trustees spoke to the *Post* anonymously.<sup>910</sup>

#### May 13, 2024:

- At a biweekly curators meeting, Librarian Springer asked what the timeline was for returning the materials to CUAD. Chartier said that the Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML) would not be returning the materials because their owners were not known.<sup>911</sup>
- The School of General Studies (\*24) hosted its annual Class Day at the Baker Athletics Complex. President Shafik was absent. Several students donned keffiyehs and Palestinian flags and refused to shake Dean Rosen-Metsch’s hand as they received their diplomas. General Studies Dean of Students Marlyn Delva delivered the presentation of graduates. One student crossed the stage with a “Divest Now” poster in hand. As Dean Rosen-Metsch began her closing remarks, students from the crowd began chanting “Free, free Palestine” and “Disclose, divest, we will not stop, we will not rest.” At least six students stood up and turned their backs on the dean. In response, some in the crowd booed at and shushed the protestors, with one person in the crowd shouting “Shut up,” followed by an eruption of cheers.<sup>912</sup>

#### May 14, 2024:

- Columbia College held its annual Class Day at the Baker Athletic Complex after the ceremony was moved off campus. The Columbia College ceremony went uninterrupted by protests, though several graduates wore keffiyehs and carried signs calling for divestment or Palestinian flags as they walked across the stage.<sup>913</sup>
- Columbia Mailman School of Public Health held its annual Class Day.<sup>914</sup>
  - [Redacted] student gave a speech calling for the school to take action on Israel’s continued bombardment of Gaza. Minutes into the students’ remarks, their microphone began cutting out. The crowd booed as the

<sup>908</sup> Jon Levine, "Columbia professor has mic cut after warning university infiltrated by ‘groups who are supporting terrorists’ at faculty meeting," *The New York Post*, May 11, 2024.

<sup>909</sup> Sarah Huddleston, "Over 200 student workers pledge to withhold labor until University grants full amnesty, permanently removes NYPD from campus," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 13, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/13/over-200-student-workers-pledge-to-withhold-labor-until-university-grants-full-amnesty-permanently-removes-nypd-from-campus/>.

<sup>910</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>911</sup> Levine, "A Columbia archivist took art from the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment.’ Students are demanding space to archive their movement in return.."

<sup>912</sup> Maya Stahl, "School of General Studies celebrates 2024 Class Day," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 13, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/13/school-of-general-studies-celebrates-2024-class-day/>.

<sup>913</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Columbia College celebrates 2024 Class Day," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 15, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/15/columbia-college-celebrates-2024-class-day/>.

<sup>914</sup> Katie Hawkinson, "Columbia students boo as graduation speaker’s mic cuts off when she starts to scold college on Gaza," *The Independent*, May 15, 2024, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/columbia-university-graduation-speaker-gaza-b2545703.html>.

student took a brief pause. The student resumed their speech, but moments later the microphone cut out again. The crowd chanted: "Let her speak." A university spokesperson told *The Independent* the momentary loss of audio was due to an unintended technical glitch.

- The Chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce Virginia Foxx and the Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability James Comer sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.<sup>915</sup>
  - "The Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on Education and the Workforce have grave concerns about the ongoing chaos and related illegal and antisemitic activities taking place on an increasing number of campuses across the country. The Committees are investigating the sources of funding and financing for groups who are organizing, leading, and participating in pro-Hamas, antisemitic, anti-Israel, and anti-American protests with illegal encampments on American college campuses. This investigation relates both to malign influence on college campuses and to the national security implications of such influence on faculty and student organizations."
  - "The Committees are considering potential legislation to strengthen federal transparency laws regarding foreign funding at institutions of higher education. We will also examine and make recommendations regarding federal laws and regulations to ensure that financial institutions have the proper internal controls and compliance programs to alert federal agencies of potential malign influence at these institutions."
  - "To assist with the Committees' investigation, please produce the following documents and information no later than May 28, 2024: All Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) generated in connection to the following organizations, or any known officer or employee thereof: 1. Students for Justice in Palestine (including any individual chapter thereof); 2. Jewish Voice for Peace (including any individual chapter thereof); 3. Within Our Lifetime; 4. American Muslims for Palestine; 5. IfNotNow; 6. Open Society Foundations; 7. Rockefeller Brothers Fund; 8. Tides Foundation; 9. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; 10. Solidaire Action; 11. Libra Foundation; 12. Westchester Peace Action Committee Foundation; 13. Muslim Community Network; 14. Council on American-Islamic Relations; 15. Center for Popular Democracy; 16. Peace Action New York State; 17. People's Forum; 18. Samidoun 19. Adalah Justice Project; and 20. Palestine Legal."
- At 8:09 PM Dennis Mitchell texted President Shafik: "I am on the phone with Jeanine and having a hard time without continuing our dialogue with the students. She doesn't think that Rules adjustments alone will work. She believes that we must do both together."<sup>916</sup>
  - At 8:55 PM President Shafik responded: "What does dialogue with students mean? Pursuing the proposals we discussed with encampment? We can do that I think."
  - At 8:56 PM Mitchell responded: "Yes, that for sure, but also including them in even the planning and discussions around the Rules that will ultimately govern them."
  - At 9:02 PM President Shafik responded: "I see. I think we can do that."
  - At 9:07 PM Mitchell responded: "That would be incredibly important because she doesn't see a successful outcome that does not engage the students in a respectful manner. She believes that one of our errors was not engaging them appropriately in the Fall, which would have allowed both sides to see each other with humanity. That has led to both sides dehumanizing the other and we must stop that especially since we are the grownups in this equation."

#### May 15, 2024:

- Barnard's Class of 2024 Commencement ceremony, held at Radio City Music Hall.<sup>917</sup>
  - Unlike prior graduation ceremonies, no administrators gave speeches, and though Rosenbury sat on stage, she did not give an address.
  - Many graduates donned keffiyehs, pinned signs to their robes calling for divestment, sported painted caps, and wore red poppies with the names of children killed by the Israeli military in Gaza. Some graduates also wore stoles with yellow ribbons, a symbol calling for the return of the Israeli hostages held in Gaza.
  - In a section on Barnard's 2024 Commencement web page titled "Barnard Community Standards and Event Policies," the college stated that although graduates may wear decorations on their regalia, they cannot

<sup>915</sup> James Comer and Virginia Foxx, May 14, 2024.

Klippenstein, "The Intelligence Community Is Spying on Student Protesters."

<sup>916</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>917</sup> Maya Stahl, Sarah Huddleston, and Shea Vance, "Barnard graduates celebrate 2024 Commencement, protest administration," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/16/barnard-graduates-celebrate-2024-commencement-protest-administration/>.

Stahl, "One year of Rosenbury: A look at the Barnard president's controversial tenure so far."

- violate the Barnard Student Code of Conduct or the college's anti-discrimination policies. Graduates were not required to seek pre-approval of their regalia decorations. The web page also stated that graduates and attendees may not interrupt speakers or create disruptions from the audience. "Anyone interrupting or disrupting the proceedings will be asked to discontinue and may be asked to leave the venue."
- The Barnard SGA President spoke at the ceremony. "To stand on the stage today is a privilege. It is a privilege that over 15,000 children in Gaza will never see. The faculty, staff, and students of the universities in Gaza have had that privilege taken from them. So I ask you, I urge you, and I challenge you to recognize that our representation in high places is not enough as future pioneers of diverse environment. Do not let your race, your gender, your religion merely become the face of oppressive structures that gate-kept you from those spaces to begin with." Sissoko received a standing ovation from a majority of the graduating class and some audience members.
  - A group started singing "we shall not be moved" from the back of the house, which protestors sang during both police sweeps, as audience members booed, shouted, and cheered.
  - As graduates cheered after Sissoko's speech, an audio played over the speaker system stating that Sissoko's speech did not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of Barnard College.
  - A back-and-forth between audience members commenced after the speech, with several people shouting "Free, free Palestine" and others chanting "Bring them home."
  - Dean Grinage read out students' names while Rosenbury stood on stage to shake the graduates hands, though the majority of the class did not shake her hand.
  - One student draped an Israeli flag over the front of their dress, and another painted an Israeli flag on their cap.
  - From the upper balcony, attendees hung banners reading "Divest" and "Parents for Palestine" as well as a Palestinian flag as Rosenbury concluded the ceremony.
  - In response to *The Washington Post's* "Bunker mentality" article, Board of Trustees co-chairs Claire Shipman, CC '86, MIA'94, and David Greenwald, Law '83, issued a response supporting President Shafik. The article described the decision-making process of administrators at the University throughout the protests.<sup>918</sup>
    - Shipman and Greenwald: "One of the principal reasons we hired Minouche Shafik as president is because a hallmark of her leadership style, in every organization she has run, is collaborative decision-making. . . She consults, she listens and she shares responsibility. Her leadership style at Columbia has been just that. She relies on a council of deans, a university leadership team and her board, all of which are consulted regularly and were consulted throughout this crisis. We have witnessed this over and over."

#### May 16, 2024:

- President Shafik texted Board of Trustees Co-Chairs Greenwald and Shipman outlining an agreement with the University's deans to run the Hamilton Hall cases through Dean's Discipline "with multiple offenders getting most severe punishments after due process," but noted that she would discuss "clarity on jurisdictional issues" with the University Senate. President Shafik also raised that students being disciplined for their conduct in the encampments would receive conditional probation that would last only "until after our alumni events in June," referring to Columbia's annual alumni weekend (May 30, 2024-June 1, 2024).<sup>919</sup>
- *The Washington Post* reported: "A group of billionaires and business titans working to shape U.S. public opinion of the war in Gaza privately pressed New York City's mayor last month to send police to disperse pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University, according to communications obtained by the Washington Post and people familiar with the group."<sup>920</sup>
- At 1:00 PM hundreds of graduates, faculty, and community members gathered at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine for "The People's Graduation," a ceremony organized by an independent group of faculty who "wanted to create a

<sup>918</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Shea Vance, "Board of trustees co-chairs back Shafik in response to Washington Post article on University leadership," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/17/board-of-trustees-co-chairs-back-shafik-in-response-to-washington-post-article-on-university-leadership/>.

<sup>919</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>920</sup> Natanson and Felton, "Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protests, chats show."



graduation ceremony for their students who have been excluded from campus for peacefully protesting Israel's genocide in Gaza," according to an Instagram post by the organizers.<sup>921</sup>

- The commencement was open to any student "who wants to be a part of it," including those from City College of New York, the New School, and New York University.
- The event featured speakers including Noura Erakat, human rights attorney and professor at Rutgers University; Fady Joudah, Palestinian poet and physician; Randa Jarrar, Palestinian-American filmmaker, professor, actor, and author; and adrienne maree brown, an activist and writer. Actress and comedian Amanda Seales served as the event's emcee.
- Columbia attendees gathered in their regalia, with many donning keffiyehs or painted caps.
- As attendees lined up to enter the cathedral, individuals distributed a pamphlet with opening remarks from CUAD, with Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese translations. The remarks reiterated the coalition's demand for divestment and financial transparency and recognized the Nakba. The cover of the pamphlet featured a drawing of occupied Hamilton Hall. Staff members distributed event programs with an illustrated poppy on the cover and the names of Palestinians killed in Gaza who were between the ages of zero and two years old on the inside.
- The People's Graduation was organized following the cancellation of the University-wide Commencement ceremonies and in the aftermath of the police sweeps of the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" and Hamilton.
- Arts and Sciences Dean Amy Hungerford announced that the Faculty of Arts and Sciences passed a vote of no confidence in President Shafik. With 709 faculty participating—a 79 percent response rate—65 percent voted in favor of the no-confidence resolution, while 29 percent voted against and 6 percent abstained. The Faculty of Arts and Sciences makes up roughly 20 percent of the University's full-time faculty body.<sup>922</sup>
  - The motion was brought to the faculty by members of the Columbia chapter of the AAUP.
  - Voting began May 8.
  - The AAUP's resolution raised concerns about the state of shared governance and academic freedom at Columbia—specifically regarding the April 18 and April 30 police sweeps of the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" and the disciplinary proceedings that followed.
  - Hungerford's email emphasized that "while resolutions such as this are an expression of the will and opinion of a voting majority of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, they do not commit the University, or any other body, to a specific path of action."
  - In a second message to faculty, Hungerford stated that with the vote completed, "the more consequential question is how we move forward focusing on the aims and goals that I believe the faculty and the university's highest leadership share."
- The Barnard and Columbia chapters of the AAUP published a joint news release addressing the votes of no confidence in both Barnard President Rosenbury and Shafik. "These motions insist on the vital need for shared governance and due process and call for resistance against external influences over our university community. . . We must now rebuild. We need university leaders who appreciate the critical national stakes of what is happening on our campuses and are willing and able to defend the values of academic freedom, free expression, and faculty governance."<sup>923</sup>

#### May 17, 2024:

- The last day NYPD was requested to stay on campus by President Shafik in her letter authorizing the sweep of Hamilton.<sup>924</sup>
- Columbia professor Mohamed Abdou, who was mentioned in the April congressional hearing, said in conversation with Black Power Media that his contract with Columbia was set to end on May 30, 2024.<sup>925</sup>

#### May 18, 2024:

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<sup>921</sup> Maya Stahl and Sarah Huddleston, "'You have become our teachers': Community gathers for the 'The People's Graduation,'" *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/17/you-have-become-our-teachers-community-gathers-for-the-peoples-graduation/>.

<sup>922</sup> Vance, "Faculty of Arts and Sciences passes vote of no confidence in Shafik."

Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>923</sup> Vance, "Faculty of Arts and Sciences passes vote of no confidence in Shafik."

<sup>924</sup> Stanley-Becker and Svrluga, "'Bunker mentality' at Columbia lit protest spark that spread nationwide."

<sup>925</sup> Massel, "Students petition UTS to hire professor who Shafik said 'will never work at Columbia again'."

- Interim Executive Vice President for University Life Mitchell told Provost Olinto and President Shafik that “he had spoken with Trustee Greenwald for ‘two and a half hours,’ going over the status of ‘every single one of our disciplinary cases,” “in an apparent attempt to lobby Greenwald to support a softening of discipline.”<sup>926</sup>
  - “Whether I changed is mind on anything is not clear. I did ask him for clarity from the Trustees so that we can better do our jobs and get to de-escalation on campus.”
  - Mitchell called news that Harvard had suspended students in its own encampment “not helpful” but noted that Greenwald had concurred with releasing interim suspensions on 17 encampment students.
  - President Shafik responded, “Thanks for doing this.”

#### May 20, 2024:

- At 4:29 PM [redacted student] emailed Vice President Greenwell in an email titled “Washington Post Article”: “As a representative of the Palestinian community at Columbia, I write to you with grave concern about the recent *WaPo* article titled ‘Business titans privately urged NYC mayor to use police on Columbia protestors.’ The article alleges that influential business leaders pressured the mayor and Columbia administration to deploy law enforcement against student activists. The Palestinian community is deeply troubled by these revelations. We are equally concerned about the news of hiring of private investigators (something Columbia’s administration already did) to surveil our community. We would greatly appreciate transparency from the administration regarding any efforts to monitor our activities and right to peaceful protest. We were already disappointed by the abrupt termination of negotiations with CUAD, but this article sheds light on the potential external influences that have driven such a hostile decision by the administration. Having said this, we request information about any communications or meetings between the administration and these business groups or other entities that may have impacted policies toward our community. The Palestinian Community urges the administration to take meaningful steps to protect our rights and ensure a safe environment for all students. We urge the administration to issue a public statement addressing our concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.”<sup>927</sup>
- Ken Klippenstein reported “The Intelligence Community Is Spying on Student Protestors: Congress is pressuring the FBI to infiltrate college protests with informants.”<sup>928</sup>
  - “The National Counterterrorism Center, created in the wake of 9/11 to combat al Qaeda, is now working overtime to find evidence of foreign funding of pro-Palestinian student protesters, I have learned.”
  - “The effort follows repeated calls by Congress for the federal government to investigate university protesters’ purported links to Hamas, and coincides with a push by the FBI and homeland security bureaucracies to link the campus demonstrations to foreign actors. Tempting as it might be to laugh off the specter of foreign powers directing undergraduate protesters, evidence of this would provide the legal basis for the intelligence community to spy on Americans. Absent a foreign connection, the protests are constitutionally-protected speech.”
  - “The National Counterterrorism Center’s (NCTC), a part of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, is beefing up its intelligence collection and analysis of ‘extremist’ groups associated with domestic terrorism, particularly a domestic category called ‘Anti-government and anti-authority violent extremists,’ according to a source inside the community.”

#### May 23, 2024:

- Columbia sent the student who had livestreamed a January 9 meeting they had with CSSI another letter stating that they had violated the student Code of Conduct by “participating in a ‘human chain’ at the encampment” on or about April 21, 2023.<sup>929</sup>
  - A lawsuit later brought by the student stated that by charging them for the April 21, 2023 incident Columbia charged the student for an incident that preceded their previous April 26 charge. “Lacking a subsequent violation of the student code, Columbia ‘piles on’ the students it perceives as troublemakers, by utilizing chronologically earlier alleged violations, in order to get them off campus by suspending or expelling them.”

<sup>926</sup> Sarah Huddleston, “Columbia’s production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/12/03/columbias-production-of-disciplinary-cases-in-congressional-subpoena-raises-privacy-concerns/>. “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>927</sup> [redacted student], May 20, 2024.

<sup>928</sup> Klippenstein, “The Intelligence Community Is Spying on Student Protestors.”

<sup>929</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, “Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’.”

- A video of the “human chain” shows three individuals entering the encampment, prompting the student to respond, “Attention, everyone. Can I get everyone to form a human chain right here, please? ... We have Zionists that have entered the camp.”

**May 25, 2024:**

- Provost Olinto texted Vice President Mitchell and Vice Provost Kachani: “Things I need to know: what do the trustees do not like about the UJB process (I can see the composition of the UJB being an issue) and what does the senate does not like about the interim demonstration policy and the CSSI. In addition, I believe the outcome we (the 3 of us) are looking for current discipline is leniency on those not inside HH [Hamilton Hall] and a CSSI full process on HH.”

**May 27, 2024:**

- At 8:57 PM a suspended student emailed Associate Vice President for Student Success Claudia Andrade and Student Conduct in an email titled “Appeal to Interim Suspension while Awaiting CSSI Decision”: “Following my hearing with CSSI last week regarding my conduct case related to the “Resistance 101 event on March 24<sup>th</sup>, the CSSI staff encouraged me to resubmit by appeal of my interim suspension. Since April 3 I have been placed under interim suspension while awaiting the due process hearing promised to meet through Columbia’s policies. Last week I had the hearing and am awaiting the decision of CSSI regarding any possible sanctions. I am requesting that until a formal decision is made by the CSSI office, the interim suspension be lifted as it has placed me under immense hardship for over 54 days now. Over the last 54 days of unjustified and unevicenced suspension, I have been deprived of the right to complete my classes for the semester, including taking Final Exams which I had been preparing for. As a student on a full university scholarship and a recipient of SNAP and Medicaid benefits, as well as a federal work study appointment on campus due to my marginalized class status, I am at severe risk of poverty due to the loss of my sole source of income due to these measures. In addition, I lost access to campus, including my weekly in-person therapy, psychiatry, and doctors appointments. Furthermore, and most painfully for me personally, I have been living with housing security for the last 54 days due to this interim suspension, with Columbia telling me that I am no longer allowed to live in my graduate student housing, which occurred in violation of my lease, state tenant laws, and my rights per the ADA. As a student whose primary residence has been outside of the US for the last 5 years until coming to Columbia in August 2023, the current process seeking to evict me from my housing places me at extreme risk of homelessness. I am requesting that these interim measures be lifted until the adjudication process regarding my case is concluded. At minimum, I am requesting that my access to housing be maintained and protected through at least the end of the summer so that I can have adequate time to find alternative housing.” The student also cc’d SIPA Associate Dean for Student Affairs Tsuya Yee, redacted lawyer, and a redacted advisor.<sup>930</sup>

**May 29, 2024:**

- Shafik wrote in a text message to Greenwald and Shipman that the University Senate had “rejected a ‘dual process’” of putting students through both the University Judicial Board and CSSI and that the “proposal now is to put Hamilton thru rules and put repeat offenders (7 of them) thru CSSI.” Greenwald responded: “I’m afraid that this will not meet the board’s expectations.” Shipman responded: “Yes. Very difficult from what we outlined to people when we called around a week or so. Worried it will make for a very difficult session.”<sup>931</sup>
  - 4:08 PM Shipman: “We are meeting with Jeanine soon. If the possibility of a dual process comes up should we discuss? Just to confirm – helpful for her to know where the board stands on this and how strongly the board might feel?”
  - 4:10 PM Shafik: They rejected dual process. Our proposal now is to put Hamilton thru rules and put repeat offenders (7 of them) thru CSSI.”
  - 5:37 PM Greenwald: “I’m afraid that this will not meet the board’s expectations.”
  - 5:40 PM Shipman: “Yes. Very difficult from what we outlined to people when we called around a week or so. Worried it will make for a very difficult session.”
  - 5:43 PM Shafik: Let me know how your conversation goes.

<sup>930</sup> Redacted student, May 27, 2024.

<sup>931</sup> Huddleston, "Columbia’s production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns." "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

- 6:24 PM Greenwald: Our conversation with Jeanine was fine. Discipline did come up, although she did mention that the senate wants to change the rules without describing the changes. She wants to focus tomorrow on the way forward and the autumn. She mentioned that the students will speak about their point of view.

### May 30, 2024:

- The St. Antony's Graduate Common Room—the student body representatives of St Antony's College of the University of Oxford—passed a motion to request suspension of the alumni privileges of President Shafik, a St. Antony's alum.<sup>932</sup>
  - “This motion expresses St. Antony's students' solidarity with those affected by police violence at Columbia University and represents a symbolic rebuttal of Dame Baroness Shafik's handling of the encampment.”
  - An overwhelming majority voted in favor of the motion.
  - The Graduate Common Room wrote in the motion that it believed the actions of prominent alumni reflect on St Antony's College, especially actions “contrary to the values of free speech, human rights, and ethical leadership that our university upholds.”

### May 31, 2024

- A panel was held during alumni weekend titled “Jewish Life on Campus: Past, Present and Future.” The panel was moderated by Lisa Carnoy, CC '89, the former co-chair of the Board of Trustees, and featured panelists David Schizer, the co-chair of the Task Force on Antisemitism; Brian Cohen, the executive director of Columbia/Barnard Hillel; Ian Rottenberg, the director of the Earl Hall Center for Religious Life; and student Rebecca Massel, CC '26. Three administrators, vice dean and the college's chief administrative officer Susan Chiang-Kim, dean of undergraduate student life Chisten Kromm, associate dean for student and family support Matthew Patashnick, and the dean of Columbia College Josef Sorett were in the audience. A person sitting behind Dean Chiang-Kim at the panel photographed text messages the administrators sent in a group chat. A full transcript of the exchanges was subpoenaed and released by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on July 2, 2024. One of the texts described the panel as “difficult to listen to,” one suggested that a speaker was exaggerating concerns for fund-raising purposes, and another included vomit emojis while referring to a *Spectator* op-ed written by a campus rabbi. Dean Sorett participated in the text exchanges to a lesser extent.<sup>933</sup>
- At 7:00 PM roughly two dozen pro-Palestinian protesters occupied South Lawn, pitching a new “Revolt for Rafah” encampment for the University's annual alumni weekend. The new encampment participants demanded that Columbia cut its financial ties with Israel and provide full financial transparency of its direct and indirect investments and called on alumni to withhold their donations. The encampment was met with mixed reactions from alumni and forced the University to alter its initial programming for the weekend as protesters occupied one of the tents dedicated to reunion-related events.<sup>934</sup>
- One protester hung a banner that read “We're back bitches” on the University's tent. Once canvas banners surrounded the perimeter of the University's tent, demonstrators adorned the tent with red streamers. Protesters used chairs and tables to build barricades around the perimeter of the tent, and put up posters with Barnard President Laura Rosenbury and University President Minouche Shafik, covering their eyes with signs reading “BOOTLICKER!”, “\$SELL OUT!”, and “RACIST.”<sup>935</sup>
- At around 7:40 PM, protesters began chanting “Free, free Palestine” and “We want justice you say how, divestment right now.”<sup>936</sup>

<sup>932</sup> Surina Venkat and Joseph Zuloaga, “University of Oxford student body representatives pass motion to suspend Shafik's alumni privileges,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 11, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/11/university-of-oxford-student-body-representatives-pass-motion-to-suspend-shafiks-alumni-privileges/>.

<sup>933</sup> Shea Vance, “Three administrators ‘permanently removed’ as Shafik denounces leaked texts as playing into ‘ancient antisemitic tropes’,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 8, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/08/three-administrators-permanently-removed-as-shafik-denounces-leaked-texts-as-playing-into-ancient-antisemitic-tropes/>.

<sup>934</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

<sup>935</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Maya Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protesters repitch encampment on South Lawn during annual alumni reunion,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, May 31, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/05/31/pro-palestinian-protesters-repitch-encampment-on-south-lawn-during-annual-alumni-reunion/>.

<sup>936</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protesters repitch encampment on South Lawn during annual alumni reunion.”

- As protesters settled into the camp, they gathered to listen to a set of speakers who discussed the encampment’s purpose. “Columbia University thinks that just because it’s the summer, they don’t have as many classes, they don’t have as many students, . . . that we’re tired, that we’re scared, that we’re not going to be on their campus because they have a few ID checks. They’re wrong. As long as the genocide rages on in Gaza, students at Columbia University will be present. They will be agitating at this University, learning together, educating, agitating, and organizing at Columbia.”<sup>937</sup>
- At around 7:55 PM several Public Safety officers entered South Lawn and began removing tents as protesters chanted “Shame.” Protesters sat inside the tents to prevent officers from taking them and officers attempted to rip tents from protesters’ hands. An organizer left the lawn with the officers. Five tents remained on the lawn after the officers left.<sup>938</sup>
- At around 8:15 PM, protesters barricaded the large white tent in the center of the lawn with wooden tables, reinforcing them with chairs.<sup>939</sup>
- At around 10:00 PM roughly a dozen pro-Palestinian protesters stood outside the 116th Street and Broadway and chanted “Columbia your hands are red, over 40,000 dead.”<sup>940</sup>
- Protesters gathered for a nightly assembly, where a speaker noted that a central goal for the encampment is to ask alumni to withhold donations. The speaker also restated the encampment’s central demands for the University: full divestment from Israel, full financial transparency, and amnesty for all disciplined student protesters. The speaker said that the encampment was a “Palestinian-led event” in response to the images and news coming from Rafah. They spoke about their reaction to a widely-circulated image of a Palestinian father holding his beheaded child. The speaker also invited protesters to reflect on the earlier Public Safety intervention. Protesters discussed what to do if Public Safety officers returned to the encampment and agreed to stay. Another speaker advised each participant to consider how much risk they were willing to take and said that individuals should feel free to leave the encampment.<sup>941</sup>
- *Bloomberg Law* reported “Columbia Hires Wall Street Lawyers for Student Protest Probes.”<sup>942</sup>
  - “Columbia University is using lawyers from Manhattan’s Debevoise & Plimpton to investigate student misconduct complaints stemming from recent pro-Palestine protests on campus.”
  - “A group of mostly junior Debevoise lawyers has reached out to students on behalf of the university to conduct interviews, according to two students who were contacted. The attorneys referred to themselves as ‘interim hearing officers’ for Columbia, used school-provided email addresses, and listed phone numbers connected to the university. They include at least four associates and one counsel from the elite firm, emails provided by the students show.”
  - “The investigations relate to complaints filed to the school by and against students who participated in some of the events. . . The investigations also touch on complaints filed by student protesters alleging harassment and improper enforcement of university regulations to quell student protests.”
  - “At least one of the Debevoise lawyers working for Columbia—counsel Sarah Wolf—advised the Sacklers, according to the firm’s website. Junior associates Amela Bajramovic, Grant Simon, Jeremy Liss, and Adrianna Finger are also working as hearing officers for Columbia, the emails show.”
  - One email from attorney Simon read: “Our role at the Center for Student Success and Intervention is to thoroughly investigate reports such as the one you filed. . . As part of our investigation into the incidents you described, it would be extremely helpful to speak with you.”

#### June 2024 (specific date unknown):

- A student accused of participating in “Resistance 101” reported they had their CSSI hearing for “Resistance 101” in June, where they were “found responsible” for “not complying” with private investigators. According to the student

<sup>937</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protesters repitch encampment on South Lawn during annual alumni reunion.” Gaby Diaz and Heather Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 11, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/photo-essays/2024/06/11/in-focus-revolt-for-rafah-encampment-disrupts-alumni-reunion-weekend/>.

<sup>938</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protesters repitch encampment on South Lawn during annual alumni reunion.”

<sup>939</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protesters repitch encampment on South Lawn during annual alumni reunion.”

<sup>940</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protesters repitch encampment on South Lawn during annual alumni reunion.”

<sup>941</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protesters repitch encampment on South Lawn during annual alumni reunion.”

<sup>942</sup> Tatyana Monnay, “Columbia Hires Wall Street Lawyers for Student Protest Probes,” *Bloomberg Law*, May 31, 2024, <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/business-and-practice/columbia-hires-wall-street-lawyers-for-student-protest-probes>.

all other initial charges were dropped, but they were suspended through the 2024-25 academic year for participating in other unauthorized events on campus.<sup>943</sup>

- Another student investigated for alleged involvement in “Resistance 101” was found “not responsible” for any charges related to “Resistance 101” by CSSI.<sup>944</sup>
- In June, the Manhattan district attorney’s office dropped criminal trespassing charges against 30 pro-Palestinian protesters accused of occupying Hamilton Hall because available evidence failed to show that they damaged property or injured NYPD officers. When protesters initially entered Hamilton, they covered security cameras with black trash bags. Prosecutors said they were unable to determine what happened inside because protesters blocked the cameras.<sup>945</sup>
- Union Theological Seminary (UTS) students put out a petition urging the institution to hire Mohamed Abdou, the former Arcapita visiting assistant professor in modern Arab studies at Columbia, who did not receive a letter of renewal for the 2024-25 academic year.<sup>946</sup>

#### June 1, 2024:

- Over a dozen protesters remained on South Lawn overnight in “Revolt for Rafah encampment,” sleeping in about eight tents. Protesters began the day with a community breakfast before reviewing their internal programming for the weekend.<sup>947</sup>
- Demonstrators started the day by crafting cardboard boxes into a life-size model of a 2000-pound MK-84 bomb, a weapon that the Israeli military has used extensively in the war in Gaza. A smaller model of the bomb was placed parallel, reading “More afraid of students than bombs.” Students pasted photos of Shafik; Rosenbury; Board of Trustees co-chair David Greenwald, Law ’83; vice chair Abigail Black Elbaum, CC ’92; and trustee Jeh Johnson, Law ’82, former secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, over the surface of their to-scale cardboard MK-84 bomb. Protesters also glued to the replica copies of Shafik’s April 18 email in which she informed the community of her decision to authorize the NYPD to sweep the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment.” Protesters then displayed it at the north end of the lawn along with a sign reading “This is a to scale MK-84 2000LB 13ft missile. Hundreds have dropped on Gaza. One (1) would level Columbia.” Organizers created a map of Columbia’s Morningside campus if it were to be hit by an MK-84 and placed the to-scale bomb beside it. One alum posed next to the to-scale MK-84 bomb. The alum took out an enamel pin of the Palestinian flag in his left hand and threw a peace sign with his right hand.<sup>948</sup>
- Students created several resource guides and zines to distribute to alumni who passed by or entered the encampment.<sup>949</sup>
- There was a workshop on tatreez, the art of Palestinian embroidery.<sup>950</sup>
- Throughout the day, a couple dozen protesters joined the encampment.<sup>951</sup>
- Scheduled programming for Saturday included an art build, a teach-in about pinkwashing, a resistance of poetry workshop with the Narrative Medicine Abolition Coalition, yoga, prayers, open storytelling hours, and a vigil.<sup>952</sup>
- Protesters delivered news updates on Rafah and Gaza three times during the day—in the morning, afternoon, and evening.<sup>953</sup>

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<sup>943</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia's surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."

<sup>944</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia's surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."

<sup>945</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia's surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."

<sup>946</sup> Massel, "Students petition UTS to hire professor who Shafik said 'will never work at Columbia again'."

<sup>947</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Maya Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/01/revolt-for-rafaq-encampment-continues-into-second-day-during-alumni-reunion-weekend/>.

<sup>948</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>949</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>950</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>951</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

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Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

- On the west side of the main tent, protesters hung a pride flag and a banner featuring quotes from Queering the Map.<sup>954</sup>
- At around 11:30 AM staff removed power lines and equipment from the main tent on the west lawn.<sup>955</sup>
- Throughout the day, several alumni entered the “Revolt for Rafah” encampment and spoke with protesters.<sup>956</sup>
- Protesters displayed signs reading “All are welcome” and “Ask us anything,” and opened a gate for alumni to enter. Other alumni stood outside South Lawn and took photos of the protesters participating in the encampment.<sup>957</sup>
- Around 12:00 PM, a speaker from the Narrative Medicine Abolition Coalition led a workshop on resistance poetry, inviting protesters to join them and read work.<sup>958</sup>
- At around 12:30 PM, an alum approached the external perimeter of the encampment and shouted, “I’m a Jew and I’m French so go fuck yourself” and “Be afraid of me, be fucking afraid of me.”<sup>959</sup>
- At around 2:30 PM organizers held a press conference by the Broadway and 116th Street gates. A small group of press stood outside the gates as students inside answered questions.<sup>960</sup>
  - One speaker said that there was no definite timeline for how long protesters planned to remain in the encampment and that the main objective is to “raise awareness during the alumni reunion and to say to Columbia that we are here to remain and summertime wouldn’t stop us.”
  - Another student stated that “alumni are very upset” at the University’s treatment of their students.
  - “This is an institute of education. This is not a hedge fund, this is not a business, and y’all need to treat your students better. It’s appalling.”
  - When asked about what risk they are undertaking by remaining inside the encampment, multiple speakers responded that any academic or professional risk they are taking pales in comparison to the violence in Gaza.
  - “A lot of us are risking job and career prospects. A lot of us have been doxxed, blacklisted. That is nothing compared to what people in Gaza are dealing with. Me not getting a summer internship, that’s nothing. We feel that we have a moral imperative to speak up against the genocide and ongoing destruction in Gaza, even if we face consequences for it.”
- Campus access remained restricted to Columbia ID holders, excluding Barnard and Teachers College affiliates.<sup>961</sup>
- Around 2:52 PM, three alumni counterprotested the “Revolt for Rafah” encampment by waving a banner fusing the Israeli and American flags together.<sup>962</sup>
- Around 5:50 PM, an alum followed and recorded a protester outside of the lawns until they reentered the encampment. The alum then said “I hope you’ll be raped. ... You are destroying the campus, it’s an alumni weekend, you’re not supposed to be here. Get over yourselves, nobody supports you.” The alum later walked down the west side of the encampment, yelling “rapists” at the protesters repeatedly before entering Lerner Hall.<sup>963</sup>
- At around 5:50 PM, CU Alumni 4 Palestine staged a picket outside the 116th Street and Broadway gates. Roughly two dozen protesters marched, chanting “Disclose, divest, we will not stop, we will not rest” and “There is only one solution, intifada revolution.”<sup>964</sup>
- At around 7:20 PM, protesters gathered at the north end of the lawn for a vigil honoring Palestinians killed in Gaza and the West Bank. A speaker led a prayer before participants lit candles, which burned as speakers read works by Palestinian poets, including “We Deserve a Better Death” by Mosab Abu Toha and “We Teach Life, Sir” by Rafeef Ziadah. At the end, protesters exited the lawn to place the extinguished candles alongside bouquets of flowers on a bench outside of the north lawn fence. Afterward, protesters placed the extinguished candles on a bench outside the lawn.<sup>965</sup>

<sup>954</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>955</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>956</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

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<sup>958</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>959</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

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<sup>960</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>961</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>962</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>963</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>964</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

<sup>965</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "'Revolt for Rafah' encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend."

- At 10:26 PM, the Office of the President sent an email to the Columbia community, sharing information about the new encampment. The email stated that Public Safety officers and University Life delegates informed protesters that they were in violation of University rules and removed four unoccupied tents. Faculty members entered the encampment to “initiate discussions with student leaders.” The email reported that there were seven tents remaining. The email also outlined campus access restrictions.<sup>966</sup>

## June 2, 2024:

- The “Revolt for Rafah” encampment continued.<sup>967</sup>
- Throughout the day, the encampment prioritized cleaning the space, configuring an exit strategy, and intermittently facilitating teach-ins as well as community meals. Leaders were keen on strategizing a lasting message to suggest that the demonstration was the first of many to come.<sup>968</sup>
- Throughout the day, protesters gathered inside the main white tent in the center of the lawns for several teach-ins, including one held over Zoom titled “Gaza Mutual Aid 101.”<sup>969</sup>
- At around 5:00 PM, protesters painted a Palestinian flag on the turf.<sup>970</sup>
- At around 8:15 PM, following a group meeting, the encampment leaders called for protesters to begin the final stages of their dismantling. An organizer used a megaphone to direct protesters on how to dismantle the encampment. Protesters dismantled tents and folded blankets, sleeping bags, rental chairs, and tables, including equipment rented by the University for the alumni reunion. An organizer told protesters at the meeting to ensure they did not take items that do not belong to them and to clean up all trash.<sup>971</sup>
- Two protesters carried the to-scale MK-84 bomb toward the south end of the encampment, where other signage and art created throughout the weekend were being stored.<sup>972</sup>
- Protesters used moving bins to transport tent equipment, sleeping bags, pillows, and other items out of the occupied space.<sup>973</sup>
- By 9:10 PM, protesters finished breaking down their tents, cleaning up the space, and placing rental equipment in designated areas.<sup>974</sup>
- Before leaving the “Revolt for Rafah” encampment, a few protesters spray-painted messages on the rental tent. Messages included “It is right to rebel,” “40,000 people dead,” and “Israel bombs Columbia pays.”<sup>975</sup>
- At around 9:50 PM, protesters left the encampment and a few protesters tore the panels of the spray-painted partition of the tent and laid them on Low Steps. The panels read “Long live the Intifada,” “Activate the chat \$\$\$,” “Divest from murder,” and “We’ll be back bitches.”<sup>976</sup>
- Protesters left a cardboard sign in the middle of the lawn, with “#Revolt4Rafah” and “#We’ll Be Back” written on it.
- At around 11:00 PM, NYPD arrived. A Public Safety officer guided NYPD through the spray-painted area, and NYPD took pictures of the tent.<sup>977</sup>

<sup>966</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment continues into second day during alumni reunion weekend.”

Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

<sup>967</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Sarah Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/02/protestors-dismantle-revolt-for-rafaq-encampment-after-alumni-weekend-ends/>.

<sup>968</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”

<sup>969</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”

<sup>970</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”

<sup>971</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”

<sup>972</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”

<sup>973</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”

<sup>974</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”

<sup>975</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”

<sup>976</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

<sup>977</sup> Diaz and Chen, “In Focus: ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend.”

Huddleston, “Protestors dismantle ‘Revolt for Rafah’ encampment after alumni weekend ends.”



- A University spokesperson confirmed in a statement that “Public Safety escorted members of the NYPD to take a record of the vandalism that occurred as part of “a complaint of criminal mischief.” The tent was owned by an outside vendor, the spokesperson added. The spokesperson also noted that documenting criminal mischief complaints “is a routine action” and does not require permission from the University president.<sup>978</sup>

### June 3, 2024

- In response to the “Revolt for Rafah” encampment, the Office of the President emailed: “The University is moving forward with the process described in the Rules of University Conduct for those students who were identified as part of the encampment.”<sup>979</sup>
- Provost Olinto texted Chair D’Armiento: “We need to work together in the rules, guidelines, and enlarging the sanctions menu (restorative justice, . . .) with the rules committee and students. This will be an intense 2 months so we can be on the same page and transparent by august.”<sup>980</sup>
  - Chair D’Armiento replied to Provost Olinto: “I agree about the rules and of course will work with your office to do so.”
- The Columbia Law Review website was shut down by the review’s Board of Directors in response to the publication of the article “Toward Nakba as a Legal Concept” by Rabea Eghbariah, a Palestinian human rights lawyer and doctoral candidate at Harvard Law School.<sup>981</sup>
- The leaders of six House committees sent letters to senior administrators at Columbia and Barnard announcing a “Congress-wide probe” into how the institutions have dealt with antisemitism on campus and their access to federal funding.<sup>982</sup>
  - “The House of Representatives will not countenance the use of federal funds to indoctrinate students into hateful, antisemitic, anti-American supporters of terrorism,” the letters read.
  - The chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), led the list of signatories. Five House committee chairs joined Foxx in signing the letters: Reps. Jason Smith (R-Mo.) of the Ways and Means Committee, Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) of the Judiciary Committee, James Comer (R-Ky.) of the Oversight and Accountability Committee, and Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.
  - In their letter to Columbia, the House Republicans specifically addressed Shafik, Shipman, and Greenwald, while in their letter to Barnard, they named President Laura Rosenbury and Barnard board of trustees chair Cheryl Glicker Milstein, BC ’82.
  - “The U.S. House of Representatives is deeply concerned by ongoing and pervasive acts of antisemitic harassment and intimidation. . . Failing to act decisively to ensure a safe learning environment for all students would be a grave dereliction of your responsibilities. . . Postsecondary education is a unique opportunity for students to learn and have their ideas and beliefs challenged. However, universities receiving hundreds of millions of federal funds annually have denied students that opportunity and have been hijacked to become venues for the promotion of terrorism, antisemitic harassment and intimidation, unlawful encampments, and in some cases, assaults and riots. . . The fight against antisemitism is not a partisan issue. The undersigned Committee chairs are proud to conduct this work with substantial bipartisan support and will not rest until the facts are known and Columbia University and others restore a safe learning environment for your students and properly steward the taxpayer funds placed in your care.”

### June 4, 2024:

<sup>978</sup> Diaz and Chen, "In Focus: 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment disrupts alumni reunion weekend."

Huddleston, "Protestors dismantle 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment after alumni weekend ends."

<sup>979</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia's surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors."

<sup>980</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>981</sup> Ayaan Ali, "Columbia Law Review student editors to strike after directors intervene with article on Nakba," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 7 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/07/columbia-law-review-student-editors-to-strike-after-directors-intervene-with-article-on-nakba/>.

<sup>982</sup> Rebecca Massel, "Business School assistant professor Shai Davidai testifies in Congress on antisemitism, federal funding," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 21, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/21/business-school-assistant-professor-shai-daividai-testifies-in-congress-on-antisemitism-federal-funding/>.

Noah Bernstein, "Six House leaders announce expanded Congressional investigation into federal funding, University's handling of antisemitism," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 10, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/10/six-house-leaders-announce-expanded-congressional-investigation-into-federal-funding-universitys-handling-of-antisemitism/>.

- Columbia announced it would hire a “Safe Passage Liaison” and maintain a 24/7 Public Safety escort program as part of its settlement of a class action lawsuit, filed by a Jewish student in late April in response to an alleged rise in “round-the-clock harassment of Jewish students” on and near Columbia’s campus.<sup>983</sup>
  - The lawsuit, which was filed on April 29, 2024 against the University, was submitted by anonymous plaintiff “C.S.,” a second-year Jewish student at Columbia. She submitted the class action complaint on behalf of herself and “all others similarly situated” at Columbia, alleging that the administration allowed an “extremist element of demonstrators” to “target Jewish students and faculty with harassment, hate speech and violence.”
  - The “Safe Passage Liaison” would serve as the “designated point of contact” for students who express safety concerns related to demonstrations on Columbia’s Morningside campus and would assist in coordinating walking escorts for students through the Public Safety escort program.
  - Both the “Safe Passage Liaison” and the Public Safety escort program would remain in place at least until December 31, 2024.
  - The University also committed to providing a process for students to retrieve their belongings on campus during periods when campus access is restricted; an appeals process for students who were unable to complete coursework or exams due to campus demonstrations; and a method for the University’s COO to coordinate with the “Safe Passage Liaison” and “campus stakeholders” to create alternate campus entrance and exit routes for escorted students.
  - Additionally, the University affirmed its “continued commitment to the academic tradition of free thought and open debate” in its settlement.
  - In return, the plaintiff agreed to withdraw her emergency motion for a temporary restraining order and dismiss the claims in her complaint. The terms of settlement leave room for some claims to be refiled in court.
  - Both Columbia and C.S. requested that the court temporarily retain jurisdiction “for the sole purpose of adjudicating any disputes” that arise when the parties meet again about the settlement. The meeting would occur sometime in the next six months, and both parties would have the opportunity to discuss concerns regarding the other’s ability to meet the stipulations of the settlement.
  - The class action complaint alleged that Jewish students had their safety and education disrupted by the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” and that Columbia had “effectively cancelled in-person classes for Jews for the remainder of the semester.” The complaint also alleged that Columbia’s shift to hybrid learning created an experience that resulted in Jewish students receiving a “second-class education” in comparison to their non-Jewish peers, stating that Jewish students “are relegated to their homes to attend classes virtually, stripped of the opportunity to interact meaningfully with other students and faculty and sit for examinations with their peers.” The policy shift was “a clear admission” that the campus had “become a place that is too dangerous for Columbia’s Jewish students to receive the education they were promised,” according to the complaint. “The ongoing incidents of violence and harassment on campus directly violate the university’s own rules and commitments,” the complaint reads, citing the University’s nondiscrimination policy, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action policies and procedures, the Rules of University Conduct, and other policies regarding student events and conduct. The complaint also condemned the University’s “inaction and willingness to capitulate” to the demands of student protesters in the encampment.

## June 5, 2024

- At 10:56 AM Provost Olinto texted Vice President Mitchell: “Hi Dennis, just to align on the message in the meeting. The Rules of University Conduct speak directly to the issue of building occupations and we came to the view that the proper and legitimate way to handle these cases is to put them through the rules. The 7 repeat offenders will go through a dual process with CSSI. Let’s focus the conversation on the work that we’ll do on the Rules over the summer that needs a lot of work. It would also be good to focus on the anti-semitism trainings and discussions/orientation for faculty and students.”<sup>984</sup>
  - At 10:58 AM Vice President Mitchell responded to Provost Olinto: “I agree fully. Thanks.”

<sup>983</sup> Surina Venkat, “Columbia reaches settlement in class action suit alleging hostile environment for Jewish students, establishes additional security measures,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 6, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/06/columbia-reaches-settlement-in-class-action-suit-alleging-hostile-environment-for-jewish-students-establishes-additional-security-measures/>.

<sup>984</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

- Laura Kirschstein joined Columbia as Vice Provost for the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE). The University established OIE over the summer as a resource to address on-campus discrimination and harassment.<sup>985</sup>
- A UAW Union 2110 grievance meeting was held and found the University “did not violate the Collective Bargaining Agreement by terminating the employment.” A letter sent following the meeting by Columbia’s executive director of labor and employee relations and grievance hearing officer to UAW Local 2110 stated that “contrary to the Union’s belief, [redacted] was not terminated because of the arrest; instead, she was terminated due to her decision to enter and remain in the encampment on April 18. As such, [redacted’s] termination was for just cause under the CBA.”<sup>986</sup>
- The Morningside campus opened to Barnard and Teachers College ID holders, with systems for all students to register guests to visit campus.<sup>987</sup>

#### June 6, 2024:

- The Columbia Law Review’s Board of Directors relaunched the website after taking it down June 3, 2024 and added a disclaimer statement to the bottom of the front page regarding Eghbariah’s article. The statement said that the board received reports that the article went through a “secretive” editing process.<sup>988</sup>
- The Columbia Law Review administrative board of student editors voted to begin a strike. The motion passed with 20 votes in favor, five opposed, and two abstentions. The editors demanded the removal of the disclaimer statement and total editorial independence from the board of directors, stating, “the strike sends a message to the board of directors that the students who are the engine of the production process and the heart of our operations are demanding editorial independence, which is what we’ve historically enjoyed and what we have a right to expect.”<sup>989</sup>

#### June 7, 2024:

- CSSI notified students arrested inside Hamilton Hall that they were no longer interim suspended from Columbia University, no longer restricted from University property, that their cases were being transferred over the Rules process, and that Rules administrators would be in touch with next steps.<sup>990</sup>

#### June 8, 2024:

- Student artists from CUAD and Dar Jafra wrote an email to Columbia library employees to demand studio, storage, and exhibition space to independently archive the “living materializations of our ongoing movement.” Students also asked that all items confiscated by the University be “returned as soon as possible to their rightful owners.”<sup>991</sup>

#### June 9, 2024:

- After they discovered artwork from the encampment was taken by Columbia’s Libraries without student permission, Dar Jafra wrote in an Instagram post: “Libraries and archives are not isolated from the institution- and are not exempt from complicity. We refuse to have our activism co-opted by the institutions who refuse to heed our calls for divestment.”<sup>992</sup>

#### June 10, 2024:

- At 3:02 PM Vice President Mitchell texted Vice President Greenwell and COO Holloway: “Hi Joseph! I just spoke with Cas. Can you please send him a copy of each of the different disciplinary letters that went out last week. I

<sup>985</sup> Emily Pickering, "Office of Institutional Equity issues new antidiscrimination and harassment policy training for students," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/12/02/office-of-institutional-equity-issues-new-antidiscrimination-and-harassment-policy-training-for-students/>.

<sup>986</sup> Stahl, "Staff member reaches \$50,000 settlement with Columbia following termination."

<sup>987</sup> Stahl, "Columbia to open Morningside campus to the public for the first time since 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>988</sup> Ali, "Columbia Law Review student editors to strike after directors intervene with article on Nakba."

<sup>989</sup> Ali, "Columbia Law Review student editors to strike after directors intervene with article on Nakba."

<sup>990</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

<sup>991</sup> Levine, "A Columbia archivist took art from the 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment.' Students are demanding space to archive their movement in return.."

<sup>992</sup> Levine, "A Columbia archivist took art from the 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment.' Students are demanding space to archive their movement in return.."

believe there were 3 different ones for inside HH and 3 different ones for encampments. You will correct it o got those numbers wrong. Thanks.”<sup>993</sup>

- At 3:06 PM Vice President Greenwell responded to Vice President Mitchell and COO Holloway: “Hi Dennis and Cas. The letters included the following: 3 versions for the first encampment – 1 for students who have not signed, 1 for students who signed and graduated. 1 for students who signed and returning. A letter to HH informing the IS was released and that there is being forwarded to Rules. All but the repeaters got this letter. I will ask CSSI to send copies of the letters.”<sup>994</sup>
- The Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML) posted a statement to the top of its website saying that the University Archives “gathered a small number of banners and signs held by Facilities and Operations after the April 2024 protests. . . The Libraries is committed to addressing all requests concerning unique materials among these items, including in-person or mailed return to their original owners and/or creators.” The statement also highlighted that it was the responsibility of the University Archives to document, preserve, and provide access to University history. The statement is no longer on the University Archives website.<sup>995</sup>

#### June 11, 2024:

- *Spectator* published an op-ed “Task Force on Antisemitism, can you hear us now?”<sup>996</sup>

#### June 12, 2024:

- All of the protest-related materials taken by Columbia’s libraries was moved to Earl Hall as a central location for student retrieval. “All materials in the library related to the protest have been moved in their entirety to Earl Hall as a central location for retrieval by students. . . No protest-related materials remain in the library.”<sup>997</sup>
- *The Washington Free Beacon* published “Columbia Administrators Fire Off Hostile and Dismissive Text Messages, Vomit Emojis During Alumni Reunion Panel on Jewish Life.”<sup>998</sup>
- House Committee on Education and the Workforce reportedly followed up with Columbia, asking the University to produce all of the priority items and sets a June 26, 2023 deadline.<sup>999</sup>

#### June 13, 2024:

- A nonaffiliate was arrested regarding conduct that occurred at an April 20, 2024 protest off-campus near Columbia. The nonaffiliate allegedly threw a rock at a student’s face, according to the student and a video reviewed by *Spectator*. New York Criminal Court records show the nonaffiliate was arrested and charged with one count of assault in the third degree as a hate crime and one count of aggravated harassment in the second degree. The nonaffiliates lawyer wrote to *Spectator*: “My client, who has had no prior contact with the criminal legal system, vigorously denies these allegations and will continue to challenge them in court.”<sup>1000</sup>
- Professor Davidai testified before the House Committee on Ways and Means at a hearing titled “The Crisis on Campus: Antisemitism, Radical Faculty, and the Failure of University Leadership,” about antisemitism and federal funding and called on Congress to address the “hostile environment for Jews and Israelis” on Columbia’s campus.<sup>1001</sup>
  - Davidai testified alongside Talia Dror, Cornell alumnus; Jonathan Pidluzny, director of Higher Education Reform for the America First Policy Institute; Kenneth L. Marcus, founder and chairman of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law; and Ted Deutch, CEO of the American Jewish Committee.

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<sup>993</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>994</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>995</sup> Levine, “A Columbia archivist took art from the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment.’ Students are demanding space to archive their movement in return..”

<sup>996</sup> Ethan Fraenkel et al., “Task Force on Antisemitism, can you hear us now?,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 11, 2024,

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/06/11/task-force-on-antisemitism-can-you-hear-us-now/>.

<sup>997</sup> Levine, “A Columbia archivist took art from the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment.’ Students are demanding space to archive their movement in return..”

<sup>998</sup> Eliana Johnson and Aaron Sibarium, “Columbia Administrators Fire Off Hostile and Dismissive Text Messages, Vomit Emojis During Alumni Reunion Panel on Jewish Life,” *The Washington Free Beacon*, June 12, 2024, <https://freebeacon.com/campus/columbia-administrators-fire-off-hostile-and-dismissive-text-messages-vomit-emojis-during-alumni-reunion-panel-on-jewish-life/>.

<sup>999</sup> Virginia Foxx, August 21, 2024.

<sup>1000</sup> Massel, “Non-affiliate protestor indicted for allegedly burning Israeli flag during April protest.”

<sup>1001</sup> Massel, “House committee chairs pen letters to Columbia, Barnard requesting information about preparations for future protests.”

Massel, “Business School assistant professor Shai Davidai testifies in Congress on antisemitism, federal funding.”

- Davidai suggested that if Congress were to threaten the University’s federal tax exemptions, it would eradicate antisemitism on campus.
- Davidai said that the University “refused to deal” with pro-Palestinian student groups on campus, claiming that these student groups “publicly supported Hamas, the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine], and the Islamic Jihad; illegally occupied public spaces on campus from which they denied entry to Jewish and Israeli students; violently took over a University building; and held an employee hostage against his will.”
- Pidluzny testified that through diversity, equity, and inclusion programming, “Jews are coded as the oppressors by virtue of their political and economic success” because of how DEI’s “divisive ideology primes students to make snap judgments about each other based on skin color and identity group stereotypes.” He said that major universities fund many DEI programs. which “helps to explain why antisemitism is more pronounced on elite campuses. They have been funding what drives it for over a decade.”
- Rep. Adrian Smith (R-Neb.) asked Davidai about the impact of Columbia professors on the student body.
- Davidai responded: “There has been a systematic purging of certain viewpoints from Columbia University,” “Now students are just not educated; they are indoctrinated.” Davidai said that some faculty have “egged [students] on” to protest in support of Palestinians and “defended with their bodies to stop police enforcement of the illegal encampment.”
- Davidai said that a “complete lack of leadership and accountability from the administration” showed students “that they can do whatever they want with complete impunity.”
- Rep. Brad Wenstrup (R-Ohio) asked about what would happen if federal funding to universities was cut.
- Davidai responded: “If only the thought of losing that tax exemption would pass through their minds, you would see no more antisemitism, you wouldn’t see any misdoing, anything, on campus.”
- Davidai closed the hearing with a five-point plan of what he believed should be done to address antisemitism on college campuses. His plan included calling to permanently ban “pro-terrorist student organizations,” expelling student leaders of those organizations from the University, sanctioning or firing the faculty advisers of these organizations, preventing faculty who “openly support terrorism” from interacting with students, and adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

#### June 14, 2024:

- Columbia College Dean Sorett wrote an email to Columbia College’s board of visitors apologizing for messages leaked from a May 31, 2024 panel on Jewish Life at Columbia. “I have already spoken to each person involved and we understand that, as leaders, we are held to a higher standard. These texts are not emblematic of the totality of their work, nor do they indicate the views of any individual or the team. . . I am cooperating fully with the University’s investigation of these matters. I am committed to learning from this situation and to the work of confronting antisemitism, discrimination and hate at Columbia.” Sorett also described the photos taken of people’s texts as an “invasion of privacy.”<sup>1002</sup>
- At 4:45 PM COO Holloway emailed the Columbia community regarding “Expanded campus access beginning Monday, June 17”: “Beginning Monday, June 17, the Morningside campus will be open to everyone – including non-CUID holders – between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week. . . Between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. each day, the Morningside campus will be open to all individuals with a valid Columbia University ID. . . Columbia affiliates should continue to pre-register guests visiting the Morningside campus. Please keep in mind that circumstances may arise that require a return to restricted campus access, and continued adherence to university rules and policies is fundamental to achieving our shared goal of maintaining an open campus.”<sup>1003</sup>

#### June 17, 2024:

- Morningside campus opened to everyone, including non-CUID holders between the hours of 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Campus was accessible through the College Walk gates at 116th Street and Broadway and 116th Street and

<sup>1002</sup> Noah Bernstein and Shea Vance, “Three Columbia deans resign after controversy surrounding leaked texts sent during panel on Jewish life,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 8, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/08/three-columbia-deans-resign-after-controversy-surrounding-leaked-texts-sent-during-panel-on-jewish-life/>.

Noah Bernstein, “Three Columbia College administrators placed on leave amid investigation into leaked texts sent during panel on Jewish life,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 21, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/21/three-columbia-college-administrators-placed-on-leave-amid-investigation-into-leaked-texts-sent-during-panel-on-jewish-life/>.

<sup>1003</sup> Foxx.

Amsterdam Avenue, as well as the Wien Hall gates and Earl Hall gates. In the announcement regarding the changes in access COO Holloway added: "Please keep in mind that circumstances may arise that require a return to restricted campus access, and continued adherence to university rules and policies is fundamental to achieving our shared goal of maintaining an open campus."<sup>1004</sup>

- Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP amended its lawsuit against Columbia and Barnard to include an additional 32 Jewish students as plaintiffs. The lawsuit accused Columbia of "enabling" the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" and "the harassment and abuse of Jewish and Israeli students" and claimed that Columbia and Barnard violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 234-page lawsuit was originally filed on February 21, 2024 in the Southern District of New York on behalf of five Jewish students and two organizations. According to the complaint, anti-Zionism is "a direct attack against Israel as a Jewish collectivity." The lawsuit stated anti-Zionism is "discriminatory and antisemitic" in certain instances, including when one is "applying double standards not applicable to other countries or peoples in assessing Israel's legitimacy and conduct" and "denying the Jewish people's right to self-determination or the right of the State of Israel to exist." Hecker Fink LLP represented the University in this case.<sup>1005</sup>
- House Education Committee requested text messages of Columbia administrators.<sup>1006</sup>

#### June 20, 2024:

- The Manhattan District Attorney's office dropped criminal trespassing charges against 30 pro-Palestinian protesters who allegedly participated in the April 30 occupation of Hamilton Hall.<sup>1007</sup>
  - At 1:30 PM Pro-Palestinian organizers set up a "court support" at Columbus Park and called on individuals to "pack the court" in support of the "Hind's Hall 46."
  - The office offered 13 other defendants an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, which would result in a full dismissal of charges following a probationary period.
  - All of them declined to take the deal through their lawyers.
  - Prosecutors declined to further prosecute the 43 defendants as none had any criminal history, and all available evidence failed to show that they damaged property or injured NYPD officers. Because protesters covered security cameras inside the building, the prosecutors said they were unable to determine what happened inside.
  - All 30 of the protesters whose charges were dropped were current Columbia students at the time of their arrest, according to prosecutors, and will still be subject to University disciplinary proceedings. Students accused of participating in the occupation of Hamilton are currently facing expulsion.
  - The 13 protesters offered adjournment in contemplation of dismissal were not enrolled at Columbia at the time of the April 30 occupation, according to the prosecutors.
  - The protesters' defense attorney called for the 13 protesters to also have their cases dismissed, stating that those 13 individuals include "alumni of Columbia University" and "community members who are concerned about the genocide that is happening." All of the protesters were subject to the same arrest, charges, and time in custody, the defense attorney argued.
  - At a 4:00 PM. press conference protesters condemned the DA's ruling to not dismiss all of the defendants' cases and declared their unity with the national pro-Palestinian movement and international liberation movements as a whole. "We stand here today united by our actions and the Palestinian cause. The state has attempted once again to divide us, dismissing some of our cases and offering others deals in accordance with their 'outside agitator' status. As ever, we categorically reject the division, drawn along arbitrary, classist lines, that preserves the sanctity of Columbia University in the City of New York. We're always above and apart from it. All of us who took part in the liberation of Hind's Hall were driven by the same necessity to escalate. We refuse to abandon our codefendants, or to tacitly endorse the state's definitions of legitimate and illegitimate protests, while the same state perpetrates genocide. We insist that property is not sacrosanct, but life is. We call on all people to stand in solidarity with those who take direct action to resist genocidal force."

<sup>1004</sup> Esha Karam, "Greenberg addresses University Senate concerns over campus access restrictions at plenary," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/29/greenberg-addresses-university-senate-concerns-over-campus-access-restrictions-at-plenary/>.

Stahl, "Columbia to open Morningside campus to the public for the first time since 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment'."

<sup>1005</sup> Massel, "Title VI lawsuit against Columbia, Barnard amended to add 32 more Jewish students."

<sup>1006</sup> House Committee on Education and the Workforce, "Chair Foxx Requests Text Messages Sent by Columbia University Administrators," news release, June 17, 2024, <https://edworkforce.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=411705>.

<sup>1007</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, "Manhattan DA's office dismisses cases against 30 Hamilton Hall protesters, 14 due to reappear in court."

- *Spectator* reported: The Manhattan district attorney’s office moved to dismiss the case against the former Columbia College student who faced felony hate crime charges for allegedly assaulting an Israeli School of General Studies student on October 11, 2023, in front of Butler Library.<sup>1008</sup>
  - After reviewing the case evidence, including witness accounts and footage, the district attorney’s office concluded that video footage of the incident does not support the allegation that the nonaffiliate intentionally struck the student with a stick.
  - The nonaffiliate did not plead guilty to any charges.
  - The initial felony hate crime charges were based on details of the alleged assault delivered to NYPD officer Yadadye Abramov by someone referred to as “Individual 1” in the criminal complaint filed on October 11, and described in later proceedings as “the victim.” According to the complaint, the nonaffiliate shoved Individual 1 and subsequently struck him with “a hard wooden object which appeared to be a broomstick,” causing a “laceration to his finger and a fracture to his finger.” Following an examination of the evidence, the district attorney’s office wrote in that video of the incident instead captures the General Studies student reaching and grabbing as he walked in the direction of the nonaffiliate and the nonaffiliate moving away while waving what appears to be a dowel. The district attorney’s office also noted that, while the student initially believed his finger was fractured, a further examination confirmed that his finger was sprained.
  - The nonaffiliate accepted an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal deal that would drop the charges of criminal possession of a weapon and aggravated harassment as well as the initial second and third-degree assault charges, which the district attorney’s office had initially charged as hate crimes, if they went six months without rearrest.
  - The nonaffiliate delivered a public apology during their court appearance and completed three sessions with Manhattan Justice Opportunities, a counseling program intended to reduce the practice of incarceration for low-level offenses.
  - The district attorney’s office removed all charges against the former student from its online database.
  - As part of the deal, the district attorney’s office also awarded a full order of protection, commonly referred to as a restraining order, to the General Studies student on May 13.
  - The alleged assault was among the first highly publicized incidents on Columbia’s campus following Hamas’ October 7 attack on Israel and the onset of Israel’s war in Gaza, sparking national discourse about antisemitism on college campuses. It placed Columbia at the center of public scrutiny and was cited in a number of lawsuits and congressional testimonies alleging that the University has improperly handled antisemitism on campus.
- Columbia College Dean Sorett informed his staff that three administrators were placed on leave as the University investigated an incident involving leaked text messages the deans sent during a panel on Jewish student life. Sorett, vice dean and chief administrative officer Susan Chang-Kim, dean of Undergraduate Student Life Cristen Kromm, and associate dean for student and family support Matthew Patashnick all participated in the exchange. Sorett participated in the exchange to a lesser extent than the other deans. One text described the panel as “difficult to listen to,” and another included vomit emojis while referring to a *Spectator* op-ed written by a campus rabbi.<sup>1009</sup>

#### June 24, 2024:

- A Barnard student had their suspension hearing postponed indefinitely. The college charged them with violating the Student Code of Conduct, disruptive behavior, and “illegal action.” The student was arrested on criminal trespassing charges while protesting outside of Hamilton on April 30, but the district attorney later dropped these charges.<sup>1010</sup>

#### June 25, 2024:

<sup>1008</sup> Amira Mckee, "DA to drop hate crime charges against former student accused of assaulting Israeli student with stick," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 20, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/20/da-to-drop-hate-crime-charges-against-former-student-accused-of-assaulting-israeli-student-with-stick/>.

Karam, "University senators clash with Task Force on Antisemitism co-chairs over second report at plenary."

<sup>1009</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Vance, "Three administrators ‘permanently removed’ as Shafik denounces leaked texts as playing into ‘ancient antisemitic tropes’."

<sup>1010</sup> Stahl, "Barnard indefinitely postpones disciplinary hearings against students."

- In a post on X, Members of Student Workers of Columbia-UAW announced that they voted to pass resolutions in support of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and the permanent removal of the NYPD from Columbia's campus.<sup>1011</sup>
  - In its resolutions, SWC-UAW endorsed BDS, a Palestinian-led movement calling for organizations to withdraw economic and political support from Israel and any companies with ties to Israel.
  - Demands in the resolution included Columbia's divestment from weapons manufacturers and other firms that violate BDS and the permanent removal of NYPD officers from campus.
  - SWC-UAW also called on its parent organization, the United Auto Workers, an organization representing over 65,000 academic workers and almost 400,000 total members across the United States, to divest from Israeli bonds.
  - The organization wrote in the resolutions that for its upcoming 2025 contract negotiations with the University, it would organize for BDS as a demand, as well as aim to secure a robust "Cops off Campus" contract article addressing campus access for NYPD officers and other governmental agency representatives.
  - The BDS Resolution: "Should circumstances justify, SWC commits to organizing and calling for a strike, through our democratic Strike Authorization Vote process, as our most powerful tactic to win these demands and to ensure that Columbia University complies with its moral and legal obligation to end its complicity in the genocide, ethnic cleansing, and colonization of the Palestinian people."
  - SWC-UAW's BDS resolution puts the union at odds with the University and also leadership within the UAW itself.
  - While voting for the BDS and "Cops off Campus" resolutions, SWC-UAW also held elections. The union's new executive board will lead negotiations with the University for their 2025 contract.
- A judge denied a Columbia alum's request for a temporary order of protection against Reuven Kahane, who was arrested for hitting the alum with his car at a CUAD picket outside a Barnard trustee's home on May 7, 2024. Kahane was charged with second-degree assault after allegedly driving his car into a crowd of pro-Palestinian protesters.<sup>1012</sup>

#### June 26, 2024:

- The University's Assistant Rules Administrator sent email notices to the students arrested inside Hamilton Hall, informing them that an investigation into their conduct had begun under the Rules of University Conduct process. The cases had previously been under the CSSI process. Following the University's transfer of the Hamilton Hall cases to the Rules process, 18 of the 22 students arrested were restored to good standing. Of the four students who were not restored to good standing, three remained on suspensions and one remained on disciplinary probation.<sup>1013</sup>
- At 12:30 AM the suspended student that emailed Associate Vice President Andrade on May, 27, 2024 sent another email to Andrade titled "Unacceptable Emotional Damage and Delays in Student Conduct Case": "I have been interim suspended for over 3 months now with no decision made regarding my case. Not only was my evidence file provided to me over a month after I requested it (in violation of CSSI's own stated timeline), but a hearing was not scheduled for over 50 days, during which I lost access to my housing, my on-campus federal work position, my access to physical and psychological health services, as well as my central purpose for being at Columbia – my classes. Due to the unending nature of this so-called 'interim suspension,' CSSI's mishandling of this case has forced me to receive incompletes for classes which I had already completed over half the coursework for. The extent of the emotional and psychological damage caused by this unending punishment process is truly cruel and unusual. During my hearing I was told that a decision regarding the outcome of my case would be made swiftly. That was a month ago. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, I received correspondence from CSSI stating that the timeline would again be delayed, and that I would receive an outcome letter by Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. It is past the close of business on June 25<sup>th</sup> and once again CSSI is delaying and denying even the sham of justice that is the current state of this university's discipline processes. I would demand an immediate overturning of my suspension, and I would demand this outcome be made official within 24 hours, but I have little faith that CSSI or Columbia ever intended to give me an outcome and merely has been attempting to wait me out in order for me to give up on my status as a student here. Well, I will not give up. I left my entire life in

<sup>1011</sup> Venkat, "SWC-UAW passes resolution supporting BDS, commits to strike 'should circumstances justify'."

<sup>1012</sup> Surina Venkat, "Judge denies restraining order against motorist arrested for striking CUAD protester outside trustee's home," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, June 27, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/06/27/judge-denies-restraining-order-against-motorist-arrested-for-striking-cuad-protester-outside-trustees-home/>.

<sup>1013</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."



Palestine in order to come study at this university after being recruited here on promises of a full scholarship. That is not a right I intend to give up no matter the extent of bullying and discrimination that this university will stoop to.”<sup>1014</sup>

- Dozens of protesters picketed outside of Barnard’s main gates to demand full amnesty for Barnard students facing expulsion. The picket was scheduled for the same day that several students were scheduled to undergo their disciplinary hearings for alleged participation in the Hamilton Hall occupation.<sup>1015</sup>
- A Barnard Amnesty Instagram post announced that Barnard indefinitely postponed disciplinary hearings for students who the college claimed engaged in on-campus activism. Barnard Amnesty, a campaign advocating for amnesty for all Barnard students that faced suspension and expulsion for their involvement in pro-Palestinian activism at Columbia, called on Barnard to drop all disciplinary charges, reverse suspensions, and stop the hearings against students.<sup>1016</sup>
- As of June 26, 2024 Barnard suspended two students through January 2025 and placed one student facing suspension on interim suspension. Three students faced expulsion for their alleged participation in the occupation of Hamilton or for protesting outside the building and the Morningside campus gates on April 30.<sup>1017</sup>
  - During a conduct hearing that one faculty advisor attended, one student was charged with “violation of law” as a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
  - The evidence presented was a printout from the NYPD stating that the student was arrested outside of Hamilton. The Manhattan District Attorney dropped the students charge prior to her conduct hearing. Barnard did not have that information on file during the hearing, according to the faculty advisor.

#### June 27, 2024:

- Around 6:00 AM Columbia Public Safety escorted NYPD to a Palestinian students’ apartment door to arrest the student. The University claimed, per lease agreement, that the University could come in without notice to arrest if it was deemed an emergency. This occurred 24 hours after the student’s interim suspension was lifted.<sup>1018</sup>
- Several state and local politicians and civil rights groups announced the formation of a coalition calling for a ban on masks at protests during a press conference in front of Columbia’s 116th Street and Broadway gates.<sup>1019</sup>
  - The coalition included the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the National Urban League, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, and other groups.
  - New York State Assembly member Jeffrey Dinowitz of Brooklyn District 81 and several other speakers at the press conference stated their support for resurrecting a New York state anti-mask law enacted in 1845, which Dinowitz incorrectly said was enacted to fight the Ku Klux Klan. Of masked pro-Palestinian protesters and the KKK Dinowitz said: “They’re the same, their motives are the same, and they’re just as evil as each other.” He later apologized for these remarks on X, clarifying that he took issue with “masked intimidation” and “absolutely did not equate the two [groups] in and of themselves.”
  - Multiple speakers at the conference, including Dinowitz, drew comparisons between pro-Palestinian protesters’ keffiyehs—traditional Palestinian scarves—and the distinctive white hoods worn by the KKK.
  - Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, said of the protestors’ use of masks: “These are KKK tactics.”
- In a joint statement posted to Instagram, CUAD and three other pro-Palestinian organizations described the proposed mask ban as a “tired tactic of fascists trying to divide movements.” “Masks keep us safe. . . They prevent the spread of viruses like COVID-19. They protect us from state surveillance.” CUAD’s release noted that masks keep pro-Palestinian protesters safe from doxxing.<sup>1020</sup>
- New York Governor Hochul affirmed her support of a mask ban in the city’s subway system in an interview with MSNBC. “I want to make sure no one can hide their identity.” Hochul tied the issue of a mask ban to one of safety,

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<sup>1014</sup> Redacted student, June 26, 2024.

<sup>1015</sup> Stahl, “Barnard indefinitely postpones disciplinary hearings against students.”

<sup>1016</sup> Stahl, “Barnard indefinitely postpones disciplinary hearings against students.”

<sup>1017</sup> Stahl, “Barnard indefinitely postpones disciplinary hearings against students.”

<sup>1018</sup> “Complaint Filed to University Senate.”

<sup>1019</sup> Surina Venkat, “New York state and local politicians call for mask ban at protests, launch coalition in front of Columbia gates,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 15, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/15/new-york-state-and-local-politicians-call-for-mask-bans-at-protests-launch-coalition-in-front-of-columbia-gates/>.

<sup>1020</sup> Venkat, “New York state and local politicians call for mask ban at protests, launch coalition in front of Columbia gates.”

adding that no one should be able to “hide under the cover of almost a full-face mask” to commit “atrocities against fellow New Yorkers.”<sup>1021</sup>

#### June 28, 2024:

- In his weekly newsletter, New York State Assembly member Dinowitz described a new bill he was introducing to the legislature to criminalize the use of masks at protests by classifying them as an offense against public order. “This bill seeks to reduce irresponsible and aggressive actions by ensuring that individuals cannot hide their identities, except those wearing personal protective equipment during a declared public health emergency or attire for religious observance. . . This legislation is intended to promote accountability and discourage despicable acts during civil unrest.”<sup>1022</sup>

#### July 2024 (specific date unknown):

- Law Professor Kellen Funk sent a letter to Rules Administrator Omar Torres, school administrators, and General Counsel alleging that the school was “using illegally obtained evidence” in its interviews with students. Funk, who was advising two students during their investigations, wrote that Torres had included screenshots of criminal charges and court docket entries from their criminal cases in their evidence files. Since, in June, the Manhattan district attorney dropped the charges against Columbia students who allegedly participated in the April 30 occupation of Hamilton Hall, those records are under seal and cannot be accessed by a private entity or used against students in an educational setting, Funk said, citing New York state law and case law.<sup>1023</sup>
- A member of the WhatsApp group “Columbia Alumni for Israel” alumnus Ilya Koffman told the group he had scheduled a meeting the following week with the university’s endowment arm on behalf of his private equity firm. “My initial instinct was to politely tell them we don’t want their money and explain why,” Koffman wrote, but he realized “it may be more effective to take the meeting and challenge them on what’s going on at Columbia and what, if anything, the investment arm of the endowment can and should do about it.” Koffman asked the group for any suggested questions or points.<sup>1024</sup>
  - On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors” about the chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia’s interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.
- Outten & Golden LLP terminated Law Professor Katherine Franke as a client without prior notice. Professor Franke hired the firm in February to represent her when the University launched an investigation into alleged discriminatory comments she made.<sup>1025</sup>

#### July 1, 2024:

- Gerald Rosberg retired from his post as Columbia’s Senior Executive Vice President (SEVP).<sup>1026</sup>
  - *Spectator* reported: “The final nine months of Rosberg’s tenure were marked by widespread criticism of the administration’s handling of campus protests, academic freedom, and student safety. Rosberg served as chair of the Special Committee on Campus Safety, a group consisting of eight administrators assembled after the onset of the war in Gaza that met frequently throughout fall 2023. The committee initially came under scrutiny for its opacity, as its membership was not made public until late December 2023. Then, the

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<sup>1021</sup> Venkat, "New York state and local politicians call for mask ban at protests, launch coalition in front of Columbia gates."

<sup>1022</sup> Venkat, "New York state and local politicians call for mask ban at protests, launch coalition in front of Columbia gates."

<sup>1023</sup> Jonah Valdez, "Columbia Cuts Due Process for Student Protesters After Congress Demands Harsher Punishment," *The Intercept*, August 29, 2024, <https://theintercept.com/2024/08/29/columbia-campus-protests-gaza-subpoena/>.

<sup>1024</sup> Lennard and Lacy, "The Columbia Network: Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protesters."

<sup>1025</sup> Pickering, "Law professor Katherine Franke, BC' 81, files ethics complaint against law firm after withdrawal of representation."

<sup>1026</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik's Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

committee was criticized for not including any faculty or students, making it insular to top administration. In spring 2024, Rosberg largely receded from the public eye as the University's first chief operating officer, Cas Holloway, stepped into his position on Feb. 5."

#### July 2, 2024:

- The House Committee on Education and the Workforce published the full text exchange of messages that four Columbia administrators sent at a May 31, 2024 panel discussing Jewish life on campus. The committee requested that the administrators voluntarily turn over the messages as part of its investigation into the University's handling of on-campus antisemitism.<sup>1027</sup>
  - At 1:16 PM Patashnick texted that "His use of the word Hamas is interesting" and "Students generally weren't protesting for Hamas."
  - Kromm responded one minute later, "He is strategic."
  - Less than 20 minutes later, Chang-Kim texted Kromm and Patashnick, "He is such a problem!!!" and "Painting our students as dangerous."
  - Patashnick responded, "20%?!" apparently regarding a comment Cohen made about "push[ing] aside extremists on both sides" of the student body."
  - At 1:43 PM, Patashnick texted Chang-Kim and Kromm, "Laying the case to expand physical space!" and "They will have their own dorm soon."
  - One message from Chang-Kim: "Comes from such a place of privilege... hard to hear the woe is me, we need to huddle at the Kraft center. Huh??" The Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life houses Columbia/Barnard Hillel."
  - Kromm later wrote: "Amazing what \$\$\$\$ can do" after referring to an October 2023 Spectator op-ed written by campus rabbi Yonah Hain."
  - Kromm wrote about Brian Cohen: "he also has access to senior leadership of the university when most school senior leaders do not."
- In the news release from the committee that included the full transcript of the text exchanges, Congresswoman Foxx called on the University to hold the involved administrators accountable. "Jewish students deserve better than to have harassment and threats against them dismissed as 'privilege,' and Jewish faculty members deserve better than to be mocked by their colleagues. . . These text messages once again confirm the need for serious accountability across Columbia's campus."<sup>1028</sup>
- An open letter "from the alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents, friends, and supporters of Columbia University" called for further "accountability" for administrators, including Sorett, that were involved in text message scandal at alumni weekend panel on Jewish Life. The petition garnered over 1,400 signatures.<sup>1029</sup>

#### July 3, 2024:

- The Columbia Jewish Alumni Association Board of Trustees issued a statement reacting to the House committee's July 2, 2024 newly published texts: "The revelations found in these text messages are deeply disturbing. The further this unfortunate saga unfolds, the more clear it is that Antisemitism runs deeper at Columbia than protests and encampments. . . When faculty talk, students listen. We know that administrators and professors are the primary culprits of Jewish students feeling threatened at Morningside Heights and that reality will not change until those responsible for this crisis are held accountable."<sup>1030</sup>

#### July 8, 2024:

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<sup>1027</sup> Noah Bernstein, "House committee releases new texts sent during panel on Jewish life amid investigation into Columbia administrators," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/02/house-committee-releases-new-texts-sent-during-panel-on-jewish-life-amid-investigation-into-columbia-administrators/>.

Bernstein and Vance, "Three Columbia deans resign after controversy surrounding leaked texts sent during panel on Jewish life."

<sup>1028</sup> Vance, "Three administrators 'permanently removed' as Shafik denounces leaked texts as playing into 'ancient antisemitic tropes'."

<sup>1029</sup> Vance, "Three administrators 'permanently removed' as Shafik denounces leaked texts as playing into 'ancient antisemitic tropes'."

<sup>1030</sup> Bernstein, "House committee releases new texts sent during panel on Jewish life amid investigation into Columbia administrators."

- University Provost Olinto announced in an email that three administrators involved in the May 31, 2024 panel text exchange were “permanently removed from their position.” Provost Olinto also wrote that her office was developing antisemitism and anti-discrimination training for faculty and staff this fall.<sup>1031</sup>
- President Shafik emailed the community about May 31, 2024 text exchange: “This incident revealed behavior and sentiments that were not only unprofessional, but also, disturbingly touched on ancient antisemitic tropes.”<sup>1032</sup>
- Columbia College Dean Sorett notified the Columbia College community of the removals, expressing regret about the content of the messages. He also wrote that he had individually contacted the individuals who served on the panel and apologized. “Any language that demeans members of our community, or divides us from one another, is simply unacceptable. . . I am deeply sorry that this happened in a community that I lead and that I was part of any of the exchanges, and I pledge to spearhead the change we need to ensure this never happens again.”<sup>1033</sup>
- Student Workers of Columbia-United Auto Workers (SWC-UAW) and the Columbia University Resident Advisors Collective (CURA) filed unfair labor practice charges to the National Labor Relations Board alleging Columbia “repressed and harassed their students and workers.” The unions cited instances of the University calling the NYPD to campus, using surveillance methods to identify and punish employees, and limiting campus access. CURA Collective filed an additional unfair labor practice charge against Columbia alleging that leadership refused to bargain and has engaged in “bad faith bargaining.” SWC-UAW President Julia Bannon said “these three charges. . . are all ways in which Columbia is infringing on our right to participate in protected concerted activity.”<sup>1034</sup>
  - CURA Collective also alleged Columbia violated section 8(a)(3), which prohibits an employer from discriminating “in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of employment[,] to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization.” An employer that violates 8(a)(3) also violates section 8(a)(1), according to the act.
- In “Columbia Alumni for Israel” WhatsApp group alumni Sam Marchiano shared a link to an open letter addressed to President Shafik and the board of trustees advocating for College Dean Sorett to be fired after text messages he sent during a panel on Jewish student life over alumni weekend were leaked.<sup>1035</sup>
  - Alumni Marchiano wrote: “we cannot have confidence anything will change at Columbia until Sorett is gone. That’s why we need to turn up the pressure. We are holding off ‘delivering’ the petition until the end of the week - but believe me, the administration/trustees are getting updates on our progress.”
  - Alumni Marchiano wrote that Sorett had lost support from alumni and “the ability to lead the school” and “so please sign and share this broadly. This work IS making a difference. Thank you.”
  - Alumni Marchiano posted later: “I just received more word from someone on the inside that ‘the powers that be will be watching the signature count as one of the indicators of whether this is acceptable. So please sign and share the Roar Lions petition. For anyone interested in more decisive action (getting rid of Sorett), this is a VERY important moment.”
  - On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors” about the chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia’s interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.

## July 9, 2024:

<sup>1031</sup> Bernstein and Vance, “Three Columbia deans resign after controversy surrounding leaked texts sent during panel on Jewish life.”

<sup>1032</sup> Huddleston and Vance, “Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis.”

<sup>1033</sup> Vance, “Three administrators ‘permanently removed’ as Shafik denounces leaked texts as playing into ‘ancient antisemitic tropes.’”

<sup>1034</sup> Maya Stahl, “SWC-UAW, CURA Collective file unfair labor practice charges alleging Columbia has ‘repressed and harassed’ student workers,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/29/swc-uaw-cura-collective-file-unfair-labor-practice-charges-alleging-columbia-has-repressed-and-harassed-student-workers/>.

<sup>1035</sup> Huddleston, “In leaked messages, members of ‘Columbia Alumni for Israel’ group chat work to identify, punish pro-Palestinian protesters.” Lennard and Lacy, “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protesters.”

- House Education Committee told Columbia their document productions were “unsatisfactory and limited” in nature. The Committee gave the University until July 19, 2024 to produce records.<sup>1036</sup>

#### July 10, 2024:

- COO Holloway announced a tiered, color-coded system of campus access with four level of restrictions, each increasing in severity. Green status meant that all campus access points were open to the public. Yellow status meant only certain entry points were open, but campus was open to the public. Orange status signified that only certain entry points were open, and campus was also restricted to CUID holders. Red status meant campus access was restricted to students who lived in on-campus residence halls, essential staff, and CUID holders with campus accommodations.<sup>1037</sup>

#### July 11, 2024:

- The University expanded access to the Morningside campus. Visitors, both CUID holders and non-CUID holders, could access campus between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM.<sup>1038</sup>

#### July 12, 2024:

- Congresswoman Virginia Foxx interviewed with *Spectator*: “Columbia is digging its own holes. . . We’ve opened up our investigation, and we keep uncovering bad things that are happening at Columbia.”<sup>1039</sup>

#### July 17, 2024:

- CSSI held another hearing for the student from January 11, 2024 CSSI livestreaming incident.<sup>1040</sup>
- An Israeli student reported to Professor Zussman that she went to Columbia’s health services, no one came in to see her, and she overheard a discussion between two healthcare professionals in another room in which one said they would not treat her because she was Israeli. She waited 10 minutes and then someone came in and addressed her health needs. This incident was documented in the Task Force on Antisemitism’s second report.<sup>1041</sup>

#### July 19, 2024:

- *Spectator* published op-ed written by Barnard/Columbia JVP: “Complicity will not protect you.”<sup>1042</sup>
- In response to JVP’s “Complicity will not protect you” op-ed, alumni Victor Muslin wrote in a message to “Columbia Alumni for Israel” WhatsApp chat: “Does anyone have a list of JVP members, especially group leaders or a way to get it?”<sup>1043</sup>
  - When another group chat member wrote back with the names of three possible members, Muslin thanked the individual but wrote that he needed more than three “random names of potentially low ranked members.”

<sup>1036</sup> Foxx.

<sup>1037</sup> Molly Bordoff and Spencer Davis, “Armstrong announces continuation and adjustment of restricted campus access system,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 25, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/25/armstrong-announces-continuation-and-adjustment-of-restricted-campus-access-system/>.

Karam, “Greenberg addresses University Senate concerns over campus access restrictions at plenary.”

<sup>1038</sup> William Diep, “Morningside campus opens to all visitors between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 31, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/31/morningside-campus-opens-to-all-visitors-between-7-am-and-10-pm/>.

<sup>1039</sup> Bernstein and Vance, “House committee threatens to subpoena Columbia, citing ‘continued failure’ to produce documents.”

<sup>1040</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, “Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’.”

<sup>1041</sup> Task Force on Antisemitism, *Report #2: Columbia University Student Experiences of Antisemitism and Recommendations for Promoting Shared Values and Inclusion*.

Rebecca Massel, “House committees pen letter to Columbia requesting information on antisemitism at medical campus,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 22, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/22/house-committees-pen-letter-to-columbia-requesting-information-on-antisemitism-at-medical-campus/>.

<sup>1042</sup> BC/CU Jewish Voice for Peace, “Complicity will not protect you,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/07/19/complicity-will-not-protect-you/>.

<sup>1043</sup> Huddleston, “In leaked messages, members of ‘Columbia Alumni for Israel’ group chat work to identify, punish pro-Palestinian protesters.” Lennard and Lacy, “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protesters.”

- Muslin wrote: “We need to hold leaders responsible for this antisemitic op-ed in the Spec. And we need to hold all members accountable for their membership in this despicable organization” and “are club membership lists secret? How does one obtain a list of members in the official Columbia student club?”
- On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors” about the chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia’s interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.
- Victor Muslin is the founder of CU-Monitor, an online web page run by “a group of Columbia University and Barnard College alumni, faculty, students and their parents who are fed up with the relentless Zionophobic propaganda and activity on campus,” according to the group’s website. In the group chat, Muslin shared X posts by Documenting Jew Hatred on Campus, a web page and X account that posts photos and videos of students it accuses of antisemitic actions. When one chat participant asked whether any members had connections to Canary Misson, another user replied, “Victor is an honorary bird.”
- Special University Senate Summer Plenary:<sup>1044</sup>
  - University Senate Executive Committee Chair D’Armiento announced that the majority of the disciplinary hearings for students allegedly involved in the occupation of Hamilton Hall had been transferred from the CSSI to the University Judicial Board. The move followed a resolution passed by the University Senate in early May calling for the cessation of the hearings until the University could provide information regarding the CSSI’s jurisdiction to oversee disciplinary hearings related to student protest. No explanation was given for why certain cases were still being held under the center’s process. D’Armiento said that “the Rules Committee is taking that very seriously and trying to develop guidelines that will make that very clear.” Chair D’Armiento also said: “our goal is to have us enter the semester with clarity for the students on processes and ensure that those processes are followed.”
  - Senators raised concerns to Executive Vice President for University Facilities and Operations Greenberg regarding restrictions on campus access.
  - Greenberg said that the University was “looking at moving back towards green, but there’s still information that there are protests and other things going on around the city that we’re being cautious about.”
  - When pressed further about the specific concerns informing ongoing campus restrictions, Greenberg said the University looked to information from the NYPD and social media for insight into potential concerns around the city.

## July 24, 2024:

- President Shafik emailed the Columbia community:<sup>1045</sup>
  - The Rules committee’s work was “ongoing” and that “we look forward to updating the community in the coming weeks.”
  - COO Holloway was working to “build our capacity to better understand the concerns and feelings of our workforce.”
  - “Executive Vice President for University Life Mitchell met with students over the summer to solicit feedback.”
  - Provost Olinto had been “working with each of our deans to set up faculty working groups focused on sustaining academic freedom and free speech in a community free of discrimination and bias.”

<sup>1044</sup> Sarah Huddleston, "Majority of Hamilton Hall disciplinary cases moved to University Judicial Board," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 29, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/29/majority-of-hamilton-hall-disciplinary-cases-moved-to-university-judicial-board/>.

Karam, "Greenberg addresses University Senate concerns over campus access restrictions at plenary."

Columbia University Senate, "August 23, 2024 Plenary."

Columbia University Senate, "July 19, 2024 Plenary."

<sup>1045</sup> Bernstein, "House committee publishes previously undisclosed details about student disciplinary proceedings."

William Diep, "Shafik announces ongoing community initiatives, new orientation resources for first-year students set to begin in the fall," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/24/shafik-announces-ongoing-community-initiatives-new-orientation-resources-for-first-year-students-set-to-begin-in-the-fall/>.

Forgash and Zuloaga, "As Shafik’s legacy looms, Armstrong faces a tumultuous road ahead."

- Shafik also wrote that the University asked two faculty from the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program at the School of Professional Studies to “to facilitate a process with affected students to hear their views and work toward mediated outcomes.” The process was meant to address issues “raised by the student protests this past year.” Shafik did not specify which students were “affected.” The two faculty members met with students, administrators, faculty, and other University stakeholders in order “to understand the many perspectives that are relevant to the conflicts dividing our campus.”
- President Shafik named five areas of improvement for the fall: “Faculty Engagement,” “Staff Engagement,” “Student Engagement,” “Rules,” and “Student Orientation and Dialogue Across Difference Programming.”
- Barnard Provost Walkowitz told *Spectator* that faculty at Barnard were forming a committee to develop an “understanding of institutional voice and freedom of expression [the faculty] want to have.”<sup>1046</sup>

#### July 25, 2024:

- A House Committee on Education and the Workforce committee spokesperson told *Spectator* that the University had produced roughly 30,000 pages of documents since the inquiry began on February 12, 2024. On April 15, 2024 two days before the hearing, the University had produced 4,000 documents.<sup>1047</sup>
- The Manhattan District Attorney’s office granted an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal to 13 defendants charged with criminal trespassing for their alleged participation in the occupation of Hamilton Hall on April 30, 2024. The DA’s office first made the offer to the 13 defendants on June 20, 2024 but all of them initially declined. The adjournment in contemplation of dismissal will result in the full dismissal of all charges following a six-month probationary period and completion of an in-person class on what constitutes “peaceful and legal protesting.” Prosecutors offered the adjournment in contemplation of dismissal to the remaining 13 defendants on the basis of age, as well as a lack of evidence and any previous criminal history. Because protesters covered security cameras during the occupation, prosecutors were unable to determine what happened inside of the building. The 13 defendants accepted the offer more than a month after the DA’s office dismissed charges of criminal trespassing against 30 protesters who were enrolled at Columbia.<sup>1048</sup>

#### July 26, 2024:

- A Barnard/SIPA student spoke at a roundtable hosted by the Senate Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism.<sup>1049</sup>

#### July 29, 2024:

- The Columbia chapter of the AAUP released a statement defending academic freedom and urging the University to do the same. The statement argued that calls for “punitive action” by politicians, journalists, professors, administrators, and students were based on comments faculty members made in the public sphere, classroom, and “in response to faculty efforts to de-escalate provocations during campus protests.” The statement also called upon the University to “develop a process by which claims of such retribution may be fairly adjudicated.”<sup>1050</sup>

#### July 30, 2024:

- A student testified as the primary witness against a nonaffiliate for allegedly attempting to burn the corner of the students’ Israeli flag during a protest on April 20, 2024.<sup>1051</sup>

#### July 31, 2024:

<sup>1046</sup> Diep, "Shafik announces ongoing community initiatives, new orientation resources for first-year students set to begin in the fall."

<sup>1047</sup> Bernstein and Vance, "House committee threatens to subpoena Columbia, citing 'continued failure' to produce documents."

<sup>1048</sup> Maya Stahl, "Thirteen Hamilton Hall protestors accept offer from Manhattan DA," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, July 25, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/07/25/thirteen-hamilton-hall-protesters-accept-offer-from-manhattan-da/>.

<sup>1049</sup> Massel, "House committee chairs pen letters to Columbia, Barnard requesting information about preparations for future protests."

<sup>1050</sup> Levine, "Columbia AAUP issues statement defending academic freedom amid calls for faculty sanctions and dismissals."

<sup>1051</sup> Massel, "Non-affiliate protestor indicted for allegedly burning Israeli flag during April protest."

- The April 14, 2024 lawsuit a student filed after they were charged for spraying at January 19, 2024 protest was dismissed after the two parties settled. The settlement was not originally public.<sup>1052</sup>
- The Morningside campus opened to all visitors, including non-CUID holders, between the hours of 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM. Entry remained limited to Columbia affiliates and pre-approved guests. “The status level will be adjusted up or down to reflect then-current circumstances, including information received from law enforcement and other sources regarding potential events that could affect Columbia.”<sup>1053</sup>

#### August 1, 2024:

- The Chairwoman of House Committee on Education and the Workforce Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) requested disciplinary information in a public letter to the University’s senior administration. Foxx wrote that the University repeatedly “failed to produce priority items” the committee has requested for its investigation into Columbia’s handling of “severe and pervasive antisemitism” on campus. Foxx threatened the committee would subpoena the documents if Columbia did not fully comply with the requests by noon on August 8, 2024. The letter marked an escalation in the committee’s probe.<sup>1054</sup>

#### August 5, 2024:

- *The Wall Street Journal* reported: “Columbia Looks to Give Campus Police Arresting Power After Protests.” The article alleged Columbia administration proposed expanding the school’s security force and giving Public Safety officers the authority to arrest protestors. While sources told the *Journal* the proposal was still in its early stages, they said the officers could be granted the authority to arrest students. According to the *Journal*, Columbia had around 290 security personnel.<sup>1055</sup>

#### August 7, 2024:

- The student who livestreamed his January 9, 2024 CSSI meeting was suspended for one academic year for their participation in a human chain during the encampment.<sup>1056</sup>

#### August 8, 2024:

- In the morning, four individuals vandalized the lobby of COO Holloway’s Brooklyn Heights apartment building. The individuals entered the vestibule of the building and threw red liquid and a box of insects on the ground. One of the individuals then struck and broke the glass of a window in the lobby with a hammer.<sup>1057</sup>
- Deadline for Columbia to submit priority documents for House Committee on Education and the Workforces’ investigation into on-campus antisemitism.<sup>1058</sup>
- Deans Chang-Kim, Kromm, and Patashnick resigned from the University following their involvement in a controversy surrounding texts the administrators sent during a panel on Jewish student life on May 31, 2024.<sup>1059</sup>

<sup>1052</sup> Esha Karam, "Public Safety provides update on investigation of spraying incident at Jan. 19 pro-Palestinian rally," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 31, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/31/public-safety-provides-update-on-investigation-of-spraying-incident-at-jan-19-pro-palestinian-rally/>.

<sup>1053</sup> Diep, "Morningside campus opens to all visitors between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m."

<sup>1054</sup> Bernstein and Vance, "House committee threatens to subpoena Columbia, citing ‘continued failure’ to produce documents."

Bernstein, "House committee publishes previously undisclosed details about student disciplinary proceedings."

<sup>1055</sup> Douglas Belkin, "Columbia Looks to Give Campus Police Arresting Power After Protests," *The Wall Street Journal*, August 5, 2024,

<https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/columbia-looks-to-give-campus-police-arresting-power-after-protests-11d2b3bc>.

<sup>1056</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, "Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’."

<sup>1057</sup> Rebecca Massel, "NYPD investigating vandalism at COO Cas Holloway’s apartment building," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 8, 2024,

<https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/08/nypd-investigating-vandalism-at-coo-cas-holloways-apartment-building/>.

<sup>1058</sup> Bernstein and Vance, "Three Columbia deans resign after controversy surrounding leaked texts sent during panel on Jewish life."

<sup>1059</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."



- In a news release from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) responded to the resignations of former Deans Chang-Kim, Kromm, and Patashnick: “About time. Actions have consequences, and Columbia should have fired all four of these deans months ago.”<sup>1060</sup>

#### August 10, 2024:

- At 3:50 PM [redacted student] emailed CSSI and Senior Vice President for Student Affairs Joseph Defraime Greenwell in an email titled “Dean’s Discipline Hearing for [redacted student] from Columbia University”: “I am bumping up my request for a written response from CSSI to my questions in the above email, prior to my attendance at any disciplinary hearing. After 5 months of interim suspension without evidence or just cause, it is the least CSSI can do to provide me written justification as to the grounds by which you have classified me as a ‘serious threat,’ and how you justify claiming 3 active interim suspensions against me given the facts laid out in my above email. I am requesting an expedited review of these unjust, targeted, and discriminatory actions taken against me, as I am intended to begin a new academic semester in 3 weeks, which includes a TAsip which I was offered and accepted prior to any of these decisions and a federal work study allocation on campus. CSSI has already caused me to lose credit for an entire academic semester due to delaying the hearing and sanction decision for the R101 case for over 4 months, and to do this to me for an additional semester would be both cruel and disproportionate punishment to the violations of which I am accused.”<sup>1061</sup>

#### August 11, 2024:

- The Columbia Jewish Alumni Association wrote in a post on X about the Instagram post featuring the student holding the magazine: “We can hardly believe it either,” “A new low for the useful idiots at Barnard,” and “Portraying the genocide of Jews is NOT OK - even if you do it with flowers.”<sup>1062</sup>
- Barnard removed an Instagram post featuring a student holding a cover of the Spring 2024 issue of ArabLit Quarterly. The cover included the title “Gaza! Gaza! Gaza!” and had an illustration of a flower in the shape of Israel with the Gaza Strip highlighted in yellow. The issue aimed “to publish words and art from Gaza.” ArabLit Quarterly, a magazine dedicated to works of Arabic literature in translation, hosted the student as one of its summer interns. Barnard’s Instagram page featured a photo of the student holding the cover as a part of its “Summer Internship Series.”<sup>1063</sup>

#### August 12, 2024:

- Campus access status changed to orange, restricting the Morningside campus to CUID holders and registered guests.<sup>1064</sup>
- At 9:56 AM Barnard College posted on X: “Yesterday, we removed a post highlighting a student’s summer internship that included an image that was offensive to some in our community. Out of respect for those views and for the safety of the student, the post has been removed from all Barnard social media.”<sup>1065</sup>
- At 3:25 PM The Columbia Jewish Alumni Association posted on X: “Update: @BarnardCollege has removed their social media post on Twitter, FB and Insta. This is a positive sign that they’ve recognized how deeply offensive it was. Therefore, we removed our post calling them out for it. We hope everyone involved in this fiasco now understands why maps that imply erasure of Israel are NOT OK.”<sup>1066</sup>

#### August 14, 2024:

<sup>1060</sup> Bernstein and Vance, “Three Columbia deans resign after controversy surrounding leaked texts sent during panel on Jewish life.”

<sup>1061</sup> Redacted student, August 10, 2024.

<sup>1062</sup> William Diep, “Barnard administrators remove Instagram post featuring ArabLit student intern,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/03/barnard-administrators-remove-instagram-post-featuring-arablit-student-intern/>.

<sup>1063</sup> Diep, “Barnard administrators remove Instagram post featuring ArabLit student intern.”

<sup>1064</sup> Ayaan Ali, “‘We must take care to bridge divides’: Armstrong issues statement to Columbia community,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 16, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/16/we-must-take-care-to-bridge-divides-armstrong-issues-statement-to-columbia-community/>.

<sup>1065</sup> @BarnardCollege, X, August 12, 2024, <https://x.com/BarnardCollege/status/1822995668555739420>.

<sup>1066</sup> @CU\_JewishAlumni, August 12, 2024, [https://x.com/CU\\_JewishAlumni/status/1823078325910409317](https://x.com/CU_JewishAlumni/status/1823078325910409317).

- President Shafik resigned in an email to the Columbia community: “Over the summer, I have been able to reflect and have decided that my moving on at this point would best enable Columbia to traverse the challenges ahead. . . I am making this announcement now so that new leadership can be in place before the new term begins.”<sup>1067</sup>
- Columbia’s AAUP chapter responded to Shafik’s resignation on X: “her failure to protect free speech & academic freedom by silencing peaceful protesters & having them hauled off to jail did a grave disservice to Columbia’s reputation & will be a permanent stain on her legacy.”<sup>1068</sup>
- U.S. House Speaker Johnson responded to Shafik’s resignation on X: “As a result of President Shafik’s refusal to protect Jewish students and maintain order on campus, Columbia University became the epicenter for virulent antisemitism that has plagued many American university campuses since Hamas’ barbaric attack on Israel last fall. I stood in President Shafik’s office in April and told her to resign, and while it is long overdue, we welcome today’s news.”<sup>1069</sup>
- Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) reacted to former President Shafik’s resignation, criticizing her handling of on-campus “antisemitic harassment, discrimination, and disorder.” “Columbia’s next leader must take bold action to address the pervasive antisemitism, support for terrorism, and contempt for the university’s rules that have been allowed to flourish on its campus.”<sup>1070</sup>
- Rep. Elise Stefanik posted on X: “THREE DOWN, so many to go. As I have said consistently since her catastrophic testimony at the Education and Workforce Committee hearing, Columbia University’s President Minouche Shafik’s failed presidency was untenable and that is was only a matter of time before her forced resignation. After failing to protect Jewish students and negotiating with pro Hamas terrorists, this forced resignation is long overdue. We will continue to demand moral clarity, condemnation of antisemitism, protection of Jewish students and faculty, and stronger leadership from American higher education institutions.”<sup>1071</sup>
- Katrina Armstrong, CEO of the medical center, was appointed interim president.<sup>1072</sup>
- Hours after the Board of Trustees named Armstrong the University’s interim president, she called the co-chairs of the Task Force on Antisemitism individually, thanking them and expressing her desire to work closely together.<sup>1073</sup>

#### August 15, 2024:

- CUAD wrote in an Instagram post: “SHAFIK’S RESIGNATION IS NOT THE END. IT IS NOT YET TIME TO CELEBRATE.” “YOU MAY RUN BACK TO LONDON, BUT YOUR LEGACY OF VIOLENCE, EVICTION, REPRESSION, AND GENOCIDAL SUPPORT WILL FOLLOW YOU ACROSS THE WATER. IT DOESN’T MATTER WHO YOU REPLACE SHAFIK WITH. EVERY BOOTLICKER WILL BE MET WITH DISSENT.” The coalition reiterated its demands for Armstrong and her administration, which include financial divestment from Israel, the removal of the New York Police Department from Columbia’s Morningside campus, an academic boycott, and amnesty for students, faculty, and staff.<sup>1074</sup>
- Conservative media group Accuracy in Media (AIM) and its president Adam Guillette returned to the Morningside campus with digital billboard trucks displaying an image of Minouche Shafik following her resignation as University president. AIM brought the billboards to campus to “celebrate the resignation” of Shafik.<sup>1075</sup>

<sup>1067</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Columbia President Minouche Shafik resigns amid campus turmoil over war in Gaza," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 14, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/14/shafik-resigns-from-presidency/>.

<sup>1068</sup> @AAUP, X, August 14, 2024.

<sup>1069</sup> @SpeakerJohnson.

<sup>1070</sup> Noah Bernstein, "Foxx criticizes Shafik’s tenure following resignation," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 14, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/14/foxx-criticizes-shafiks-tenure-following-resignation/>.

<sup>1071</sup> @EliseStefanik, X, August 14, 2024,

[https://x.com/EliseStefanik/status/1823871454531756183?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet](https://x.com/EliseStefanik/status/1823871454531756183?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Etweet).

<sup>1072</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Shafik’s Columbia: 13 months and 13 days of a campus spiraling into crisis."

<sup>1073</sup> Noah Bernstein, "Task Force on Antisemitism issues second report detailing student testimonies, recommendations for antidiscrimination training," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 6, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/06/task-force-on-antisemitism-issues-second-report-detailing-student-testimonies-recommendations-for-antidiscrimination-training/>.

<sup>1074</sup> Ayaan Ali and Joseph Zuloaga, "Columbia students hesitant to celebrate Shafik’s resignation as Armstrong steps in," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/17/columbia-students-hesitant-to-celebrate-shafiks-resignation-as-armstrong-steps-in/>.

<sup>1075</sup> Jesse Levine, "Accuracy in Media digital billboard trucks return to campus displaying image of Shafik," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 16, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/16/accuracy-in-media-digital-billboard-trucks-return-to-campus-displaying-image-of-shafik/>.

- Barnard President Rosenbury released a statement on President Shafik’s resignation in an email to the Barnard community.<sup>1076</sup>
  - Rosenbury wrote that she had “spent the summer with students, faculty, staff, parents, alumnae, and trustees,” whom she called “crucial members of the Barnard community,” and affirmed her commitment “to helping Barnard move forward and thrive.”
  - Rosenbury also noted that she hoped the Barnard community could continue to engage in “[o]pen and nuanced dialogue across our differences,” which she said has “long been a vital part of learning at Barnard.”
- At 4:44 PM @CampusJewHate posted on X: “@translationista, who is a professor at @Columbia, is curious as to how the @FreeBeacon editor-in-chief knew about President Shafik’s resignation before the news became official and is inquiring about the mole. @translationista, we don’t have insight here, but there are moles all around campus. Do you know who the moles were who assisted with the takeover of Hamilton Hall? We know you spent some time at the encampment as a faculty guard, so maybe plans were discussed there. Did any professors with offices inside Hamilton Hall assist the criminals (looking at Joseph Howley)? Any assistance would be appreciated by the new interim president of @Columbia.”<sup>1077</sup>

### August 16, 2024:

- At 5:07 AM Professor Davidai posted on X about Senator and Rules Committee Member Professor Susan Bernofsky: “This professor \*was part of the illegal encampment at @Columbia that had an area devoted to honoring suicide bombers as martyrs\* Could it be that she’s just disgruntled that everyone knows this “garbage right-wing online-only rag” but no one knows any of her work?”<sup>1078</sup>
- At 8:52 AM @CampusJewHate posted on X: “Hey, Professor Bernofsky! If “a garbage right-wing online-only rag” could get “3 @Columbia deans fired this summer”, imagine what it can do to one professor!”<sup>1079</sup>
- *The Washington Free Beacon* published “‘A Huge Conflict of Interest’: Two Professors on Columbia’s Top Disciplinary Body Participated in Encampment, Photos Suggest.”<sup>1080</sup>
  - “The composition of Columbia’s top disciplinary committee suggests that the bedlam may outlast Shafik. According to images and metadata reviewed by the *Washington Free Beacon*, two of the professors on the committee were involved in the unlawful encampment that upended campus life in April, raising questions about conflicts of interest and their incentives to lay down the law. The professors, Joseph Slaughter, and Susan Bernofsky, sit on the university senate’s rules committee, which helps set rules governing campus protests as well as the process for enforcing them. Both have publicly defended the students involved in the encampment and, in several previously unreported images, appear to be participating in it themselves.”
  - “Slaughter, a professor of English, was photographed conversing with protestors outside Butler Library, the site of the encampment, while holding one of the neon vests worn by protest marshals. Metadata from the photos, dated April 29, corroborate Slaughter’s location.”
  - “Photos also show Bernofsky, a professor of writing, standing guard along the perimeter of the encampment. She posted on X in April that Columbia was “criminalizing political dissent” and, when police broke up a similar encampment at the City University of New York, called for ‘amnesty’ for all involved.”
  - “Itsik Pe'er, a professor of computer science, said he was ‘concerned’ that Slaughter and Bernofsky would ‘bias’ the rules committee. And Elliot Glassman, an adjunct professor in the school of architecture, likened the two committee members to ‘wolves guarding the henhouse.’ ‘This predetermines the outcome,’ Glassman said. ‘I just want to focus on making great buildings without worrying about disturbances.’”
  - “In an email to *The Washington Free Beacon*, Slaughter said that he ‘did not participate in any of the student protests this past year’ and that ‘your questions are based on faulty information.’ He declined to provide an explanation for the images or metadata.”

<sup>1076</sup> Surina Venkat, "Rosenbury comments on Shafik’s ‘sudden’ resignation, welcomes Armstrong as interim president," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 15, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/15/rosenbury-comments-on-shafiks-sudden-resignation-welcomes-armstrong-as-interim-president/>.

<sup>1077</sup> @CampusJewHate, X, August 15, 2024.

<sup>1078</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, August 16, 2024.

<sup>1079</sup> @CampusJewHate, August 16, 2024.

<sup>1080</sup> Aaron Sibarium, "'A Huge Conflict of Interest': Two Professors on Columbia’s Top Disciplinary Body Participated in Encampment, Photos Suggest," *The Washington Free Beacon*, August 16, 2024, <https://freebeacon.com/campus/a-huge-conflict-of-interest-two-professors-on-columbias-top-disciplinary-body-participated-in-encampment-photos-suggest/>.

- At 12:21 PM Professor Davidai posted on X about Senator and Rules Committee Member Professor Susan Bernofsky: “Turns out that Prof. Susan Bernofsky (translationista) who had been physically taking part in the illegal, pro-Hamas protests @Columbia is part of the school’s body that is trying to change the rules regarding protesting on campus... She doesn’t like the rules, so she breaks them and then changes them. It’s like she treats @columbia as her own private property.”<sup>1081</sup>
- At 1:33 PM *Free Beacon* reporter Aaron Sibarum posted on X: “NEW: Two professors on Columbia's top disciplinary body were involved in the unlawful encampment that upended campus life in April and led to the resignation of Columbia president Minouche Shafik, raising questions about the school's ability to keep order in the coming term.”<sup>1082</sup>
- At 4:53 PM @CampusJewHate posted on X “@translationista and @jrslaugh serve as professors at @Columbia and on the university’s Senate’s Rules Committee, which helps establish rules and enforcement policies regarding school protests. Here is the catch. These two professors were active members at the pro-Hamas encampment of @Columbia. Ironically, Professor Slaughter has denied this claim to the @FreeBeacon, but photo evidence speaks otherwise. Professor Bernofsky has also mocked the @FreeBeacon in a social media post made yesterday, but little did she know she’d become a star in their latest article on Columbia. Link to full article by the @FreeBeacon”<sup>1083</sup>
- Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) wrote in a statement that last academic year “left students from many different backgrounds feeling unsafe and unprotected by the administration” and made Columbia “unrecognizable.” The council reaffirmed its previous concerns over “the lack of student input” in decision-making.<sup>1084</sup>
- Interim President Armstrong issued a “special greeting” to the Columbia community.<sup>1085</sup>
  - Armstrong centered her message on the importance of rebuilding the University community, writing that “we must recalibrate as a community, bearing in mind the challenges of the past year and those to come, but not allowing them to define us. . . We must take care to bridge divides, find common ground, define our rules and their consequences, and reach understanding based on our shared values.”
- *Spectator* op-ed “Letter from the Editor: Shafik is out. What’s next for Columbia?”<sup>1086</sup>
  - “As the arbiters of Columbia’s legacy, we say that our university cannot remain beholden to the interests of the plutocrats guiding our administration’s hand. We need leaders who, before Congress, defend academic freedom and affirm students’ right to peaceful protest. We need leaders who will not bow under political pressure exerted by a mayor and his WhatsApp group chat of billionaires. . . We cannot commit ourselves to Columbia unless the administration renews its commitment to its student body, in particular the Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, Jewish, Black and brown students left to fend for themselves. Are we not the same students you welcomed at Convocation?”

## August 17, 2024:

- *Spectator* reported: “Columbia students said they were hesitant to celebrate the news of Minouche Shafik’s resignation as University president despite criticizing her tenure, remaining apprehensive about the appointment of Interim President Armstrong.”<sup>1087</sup>
  - The Columbia College Student Council (CCSC) wrote: “As Columbia University handles another presidential transition, we ask Interim President Armstrong to commit to good-faith working relationship with students. . . We hope that Dr. Armstrong’s tenure will mark a fundamental shift in the way Columbia conducts executive decision-making.”
  - The outgoing president of the Muslim Students Association described President Shafik’s administration as “harmful” to Muslim students.
    - The student said “I hope President Armstrong takes the concerns of Muslim students seriously. I would hope for somewhat of, like, either Islamophobia task force or just more recognition for the challenges that Muslim students face on campus, and also more awareness for our needs.”

<sup>1081</sup> @ShaiDavidai, August 16, 2024.

<sup>1082</sup> @aaronSibarum, X, August 16, 2024.

<sup>1083</sup> @CampusJewHate, August 16, 2024.

<sup>1084</sup> Ali and Zuloaga, "Columbia students hesitant to celebrate Shafik’s resignation as Armstrong steps in."

<sup>1085</sup> Ali, "“We must take care to bridge divides”: Armstrong issues statement to Columbia community."

<sup>1086</sup> Colin Roedel and Milene Klein, "Letter from the Editor: Shafik is out. What’s next for Columbia?," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 16, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/08/16/letter-from-the-editor-shafik-is-out-whats-next-for-columbia/>.

<sup>1087</sup> Ali and Zuloaga, "Columbia students hesitant to celebrate Shafik’s resignation as Armstrong steps in."

- The student noted the lack of accessibility to campus buildings to hold jummah, a mandatory Friday prayer for Muslims, when Columbia closed the Morningside campus to students not living on campus in late April. Friday prayers during that time were alternatively held at Union Theological Seminary. According to the student, a few weeks later, many Barnard students still could not access prayer spaces on campus for jummah because CUID access was only restored to Columbia students.
- The student also detailed a conversation between Shafik and Muslim Students Association (MSA) members in which Shafik asked if they wanted an Islamophobia task force to be created: “MSA students said yes, and then that went nowhere. We want more than just listening, we want to actually be heard.”

#### August 18, 2024:

- First newsletter from alumni group, The Stand Columbia Society. The Stand Columbia Society lobbied against the University Senate and shared governance throughout Fall 2024, immediately after President Shafik’s resignation. The Society frequently called for discipline and harsher discipline of student protestors. In Fall 2024, this publication was referenced by administrators, trustees, and Congress.<sup>1088</sup>
  - In the first newsletter: “The past year at Columbia University has been the most divisive in over half a century. Escalating protests, police action, tension from within our community (faculty, students, and alumni) and without (social media commentary, hostile politicians), defined a challenging campus mood. The sudden resignation of President Minouche Shafik days before the start of the fall semester only exacerbated the instability. These issues won’t be resolved by fall. In response, a handful of Columbia alumni have created the Stand Columbia Society.”

#### August 19, 2024:

- The House Committee on Education and the Workforce published previously undisclosed details about disciplinary proceedings at Columbia<sup>1089</sup>
  - A document produced for the committee by Columbia covered eight separate “Demonstration-Related” incidents from the spring with aggregate disciplinary data.
  - According to the document, of the 22 students arrested inside Hamilton, 18 remained in good standing, three were serving interim suspensions, and one was on disciplinary probation.
  - For the first Gaza Solidarity Encampment: 38 were offered an “alternative resolution,” which 18 accepted while two did not receive the offer. 21 students remained in good standing pending a hearing, while 17 remained in good standing but faced conditional academic probation as an outcome of the alternative resolution. Two students were still on interim suspension.
- The House Committee on Education and the Workforce published a press release: “Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC) released information today showcasing Columbia University’s failure to discipline students who engaged in extreme conduct violations, including breaking into, and occupying, Hamilton Hall and participating in antisemitic encampments that made the University a hostile environment for Jewish students. Despite Columbia previously promising that the students who occupied Hamilton Hall would ‘face expulsion,’ the vast majority remain in good standing. To view the information the Committee received from Columbia, click here.”<sup>1090</sup>
  - Chairwoman Foxx said: “The failure of Columbia’s invertebrate administration to hold accountable students who violate university rules and break the law is disgraceful and unacceptable. More than three months after the criminal takeover of Hamilton Hall, the vast majority of the student perpetrators remain in good standing. By allowing its own disciplinary process to be thwarted by radical students and faculty, Columbia has waved the white flag in surrender while offering up a get-out-of-jail-free card to those who participated in these unlawful actions. Breaking into campus buildings or creating antisemitic hostile environments like the encampment should never be given a single degree of latitude—the university’s willingness to do just that is reprehensible.”

<sup>1088</sup> Stand Columbia Society et al., "Issue #000: Welcome to the Stand Columbia Society," (August 18, 2024).

Workforce, "Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed, Education and the Workforce Committee Releases Report."

<sup>1089</sup> Bernstein, "House committee publishes previously undisclosed details about student disciplinary proceedings."

<sup>1090</sup> House Committee on Education & the Workforce, "Foxx: Columbia’s Refusal to Enforce Rules Against Antisemites is Disgraceful: Committee Receives Documents Showcasing Shocking Discipline Failures at Columbia," news release, August 19, 2024, <https://edworkforce.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=411857>.

- At 3:21 PM @CampusJewHate posted about two Palestinian students: “[1<sup>st</sup> redacted student] . . . posted a tweet about her experience at the pro-Hamas protest taking place during the move-in day for select members of the @BarnardCollege community. [1<sup>st</sup> redacted student] is routinely at pro-Hamas events as a leader who escapes punishment. This student of @Columbia is well trained by people like Within Our Lifetime’s (WOL) leader Nerdeen Kiswani. Like [1<sup>st</sup> redacted student], Kiswani dresses in nice clothing, sports a Chanel purse and wears high heels. This is all a part of their guise to fool people. [2<sup>nd</sup> redacted student] of @BarnardCollege is also calling on people to ‘show up at Barnard gates in support.’ [2<sup>nd</sup> redacted student] is another key player of @ColumbiaSJP, but she is not as well trained as [1<sup>st</sup> redacted student]. [2<sup>nd</sup> redacted student has been arrested and disciplined academically. Both of these students and their roles in @ColumbiaBDS and @ColumbiaSJP need to be heavily investigated by authorities and the university. Once the investigation is complete, the university should expel both of them. Additionally, these two students are so self-centered that they think it is appropriate to interfere with move-in day for students, who are first-year students. They are hijacking a day that should be full of happy memories for the incoming students and their families and turning it on a stressful and worrisome day. Cc: @presrosenbury @katrinarmstrong @EdWorkforceCmte @RepStefanik @EliseStefanik @virginiafoxx @RitchieTorres @NYPDChiefPatrol.”<sup>1091</sup>
- Professor Davidai posted a *Free Beacon* article from August 16, 2024 on X and added “Three days ago, it was revealed that two professors (Joseph Slaughter, @[redacted], and Susan Bernofsky, @[redacted]) who took part in the illegal encampments on campus are \*in charge of rewriting @Columbia’s rules on protests\* Are you kidding me?”<sup>1092</sup>
- *The Free Beacon* published “At Columbia, Students Who Stormed University Buildings Poised to Return to Campus Next Week” and specifically mentioned Senate Rules Committee members Susan Bernofsky and Joseph Slaughter.<sup>1093</sup>
  - “When student protesters took over a building at Columbia University in April, the school said they would ‘face expulsion.’ Now, with one week to go until the start of the fall semester, Columbia will allow most of those students to return to classes in good standing.”
  - “Their role has raised concerns about conflicts of interest as the university braces for another round of protests this fall. Jacob Fish, a professor in Columbia’s school of engineering, predicted that there would be ‘plenty of disruption,’ adding that Slaughter and Bernofsky should not be giving ‘any kind of advice to the administration,’ while Elliot Glassman, an adjunct professor at Columbia’s school of architecture, compared them to ‘wolves guarding the henhouse.’”
  - “Columbia has declined to say whether Slaughter or Bernofsky will be removed from the committee. Neither has publicly addressed their participation in the encampment.”
  - “The university is now struggling to get a handle on its recalcitrant faculty, which has successfully delayed the disciplinary hearings of many students who occupied Hamilton Hall.”

#### August 20, 2024:

- At 3:48 PM Senior Deputy of Investigations Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Faculty and Staff Concerns Jazmin Taylor emailed [Redacted Palestinian student] “EOAA Response to No Contact Order”: “I am writing in response to your request for a no-contact order about which you previously corresponded with Sarah Walton-Kinney. Sarah was out of the office, so I am following up. If you have concerns for your safety, you should know Public Safety is available at any point (<https://publicsafety.columbia.edu/>). Please note that a report from EOAA on related matters is forthcoming shortly. EOAA does not have the jurisdiction to issue a no-contact directive on someone’s social media that is not direct contact towards someone, but we do take the behavior seriously and have made the school aware of your concern as well.”<sup>1094</sup>

#### August 21, 2024:

- University and Barnard spokespeople told *Spectator* that the University did not consent to the publication of the documents’ they submitted to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Dozens of published documents in the report appear to have been marked “confidential” by the University prior to their submission.<sup>1095</sup>

<sup>1091</sup> @CampusJewHate, X, August 19, 2024, <https://x.com/CampusJewHate/status/1825614095846092939>.

<sup>1092</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, August 19, 2024.

<sup>1093</sup> Aaron Sibarium, "At Columbia, Students Who Stormed University Building Poised to Return to Campus Next Week," *The Free Beacon*, August 19, 2024, <https://freebeacon.com/campus/at-columbia-students-who-stormed-university-building-poised-to-return-to-campus-next-week/>.

<sup>1094</sup> Jazmin Taylor, August 20, 2024.

<sup>1095</sup> Huddleston, "Columbia’s production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns."

- The House Committee on Education and Workforce subpoenaed the University, demanding hundreds of documents, including communications from senior leadership, records of trustee meetings, and information on student and faculty disciplinary proceedings related to the committee’s ongoing investigation into antisemitism.<sup>1096</sup>
  - The University was given until noon on September 4, 2024 to comply with the subpoena.
  - Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), the committee chairwoman, wrote to Armstrong: “The Committee today issues a subpoena due to Columbia’s repeated failure to fulfill priority requests by deadlines that elapsed prior to your accession to the University’s Presidency. . . While the Committee must move forward with compulsory process as previously indicated, we sincerely hope that Columbia’s new leadership will result in increased cooperation.”
  - The request specifically mentioned communications regarding the alleged spraying of a foul-smelling chemical on campus at a January 19, 2024 pro-Palestinian rally; the conduct of a former student who was banned from campus after a video resurfaced of them saying “Zionists don’t deserve to live”; and University appointments involving Joseph Massad.

#### August 22, 2024:

- The chairs of two-House committees, the House Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, sent letters to Columbia and Barnard leadership requesting information on policies developed “to prepare for unauthorized encampments.”<sup>1097</sup>
  - Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.), chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, issued identical letters to leaders of 10 institutions requesting information on their preparations for the coming year and disciplinary proceedings for violations of campus rules.
  - The letters asked questions regarding any new or updated policies University leadership had implemented prior to the start of the fall semester to prepare for encampments and protests.
  - They also requested information regarding disciplinary processes if students break campus policies or laws. Smith and Foxx emphasized that the universities’ disciplinary bodies must be willing to enforce policies and encourage local prosecutors to pursue charges against students arrested for protesting.
  - The named universities were required to submit responses to the committees by September 5, 2024.
- Barnard’s Task Force on Campus Climate and Expression released a report titled “Expression, Communication, and Governance: Findings from focus groups about life in student residence halls” expressing concern over the mandated removal of all decor affixed to room doors and suites. The dorm decor policy was one of nearly a dozen Barnard policies changed without consultation with students, faculty, and staff over the 2023-24 academic year.<sup>1098</sup>
  - “[Students] asserted that the policy was for optics, not student safety. . . These evaluations of administration stemmed not just from the dorm decoration policy but also from observations that students were being disciplined for other policy violations in a secretive and arbitrary manner.”
  - The task force recommended “the immediate revocation” of the policy prohibiting dorm decor on exterior suites and doors, the inclusion of affected constituencies in policy development and implementations, and the establishment of a permanent committee of students, staff, and faculty to address campus climate issues.
- *Campus Reform* published “‘WOLVES GUARDING THE HENHOUSE’: Two Columbia profs who helped set protest rules joined anti-Israel protests, report claims” and specifically mentioned Senate Rules Committee members Professor Bernofsky and Professor Slaughter.<sup>1099</sup>

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Noah Bernstein, "House committee subpoenas Columbia for documents in antisemitism investigation," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, August 21, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/08/21/house-committee-subpoenas-columbia-for-documents-in-antisemitism-investigation/>.

Sarah Huddleston, "Council on American-Islamic Relations sends letter to Armstrong warning against producing disciplinary records for Congress," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 5, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/05/council-on-american-islamic-relations-sends-letter-to-armstrong-warning-against-producing-disciplinary-records-for-congress/>.

<sup>1096</sup> Huddleston, "Columbia’s production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns."

Bernstein, "House committee subpoenas Columbia for documents in antisemitism investigation."

Huddleston, "Council on American-Islamic Relations sends letter to Armstrong warning against producing disciplinary records for Congress."

<sup>1097</sup> Massel, "House committee chairs pen letters to Columbia, Barnard requesting information about preparations for future protests."

<sup>1098</sup> Maya Stahl, "Barnard Task Force on Campus Climate and Expression releases first report," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 5, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/05/barnard-task-force-on-campus-climate-and-expression-releases-first-report/>.

<sup>1099</sup> Patrick McDonald, "'WOLVES GUARDING THE HENHOUSE': Two Columbia profs who helped set protest rules joined anti-Israel protests, report claims," *Campus Reform*, August 22, 2024, <https://www.campusreform.org/article/wolves-guarding-henhouse-two-columbia-profs-helped-set-protest-rules-joined-anti-israel-protests-report-claims/26159>.

- *Jewish Journal* published “Campus Watch August 22, 2024.”<sup>1100</sup>
  - “Report: Two Columbia Profs on Disciplinary Committee Involved With Anti-Israel Encampment”

#### August 23, 2024:

- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>1101</sup>
  - Interim President Katrina Armstrong, Provost Olinto, COO Holloway, and other top University leaders attended the plenary.
  - Interim President Katrina Armstrong delivered remarks outlining her priorities to listen to community stakeholders, combat discrimination, and balance Columbia’s academic mission with free speech values.
  - Interim President Armstrong committed to working with the Senate in decision-making, opening her remarks by acknowledging the “critical importance of this shared governance.”
  - It was announced that Provost Olinto would oversee the creation of the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE), led by Vice Provost Kirschstein. The office will handle complaints related to Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX, the University’s Gender-Based Misconduct Policy, and the Protection of Minors Policy.
    - Interim President Armstrong said that the University must commit to “identifying, processing, and managing” harassment.
  - “Sen. D’Armiento said there had also been incidents of faculty members targeting students on social media as recently as the previous week. These only serve to create distrust and bring abuse from outside onto our students. Such behavior is not within the realm of academic freedom, and it tears the Columbia community apart. Sen. D’Armiento said that throughout the previous year, there were many acts of hate and harassment that were amplified by outside groups. Were Columbia community members capable of treating each other with respect rather than feeding bits of themselves to outside forces intent on destroying the community? Sen. D’Armiento also wanted to reiterate the need for the community to work together during this difficult time, without being distracted by antagonistic outside forces. She called upon the Senate to help prevent misinformation from inflaming the campus. This issue was particularly important at this point, because the Rules Committee would be reporting a little later in the meeting on the work they had done over the summer. She was disturbed to have seen a recent article in the press disparaging members of the Rules Committee with false information and allegations. The article purported to show pictures of faculty members of the Rules Committee participating in protests. Sen. D’Armiento offered some context. During the encampments, as a method of de-escalation, a group of faculty, including some senators, stood at the entrance to the encampment both to ensure that it was open to all Columbia members, but also to ask whether individuals in the area were affiliates, in an effort to keep non-affiliates away from the encampment. These faculty wore orange jackets to distinguish themselves from participating protesters. The purpose of the activities was to reduce tension at the site. Chief Operating Officer Cas Holloway and VP for Public Safety Gerald Lewis, as well as Sen. D’Armiento herself, were aware of these activities. The same article also claimed falsely that the Senate voted no confidence in President Shafiq back in May, before she resigned. In fact, there was no such Senate vote, and the Senate worked closely with President Shafiq, and continually communicated with her. Sen. D’Armiento said this inaccurate journalism could have been a minor problem. However, the misinformation in the article was then amplified by a Columbia faculty member, and some days later reamplified in more tweets. Sen. D’Armiento said she could not help but wonder why faculty colleagues cannot reach out to one another and discuss any concerns they have. She said Columbia is one community of scholars. Can’t they behave that way? Can they have a dialogue instead of inflaming the situation in the outside world? What is gained by activating outside individuals against the institution that we are supposed to uphold? Sen. D’Armiento said that quite apart from this particular article, efforts to disparage colleagues over differences of opinion only diminish the academic environment. Consistent efforts to engage, to communicate, to show respect for one another will be the only way for Columbia faculty to emerge from the present crisis. She said

<sup>1100</sup> Aaron Bandler, “Campus Watch August 22, 2024,” *Jewish Journal*, August 22, 2024, <https://jewishjournal.com/community/374175/campus-watch-august-22-2024/>.

<sup>1101</sup> Columbia University Senate, “September 20, 2024 Plenary.”  
Columbia University Senate, “August 23, 2024 Plenary.”

Esha Karam, “Armstrong outlines presidential priorities at first University Senate meeting,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/03/armstrong-outlines-presidential-priorities-at-first-university-senate-meeting/>.

Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, “University Senate revises guidelines supplementing Rules of University Conduct,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 5, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/05/university-senate-revises-guidelines-supplementing-rules-of-university-conduct/>.



the Senate reflects diverse opinions, and values respectful disagreement that can be worked out through deliberative methods. Tearing each other apart in the press can only be seen as an effort to thwart those who want to come together collectively. In the coming semester, in support of one another and the institution, Sen. D'Armiento urged Senators to resist efforts to divide the community. She encouraged them to reach out to one another, discuss their differences, and try to move the community forward. She said Columbia faculty all have email addresses. They can contact each other.”

- The University Senate passed revised guidelines for the Rules of University Conduct that affirmed the Rules’ defense of free expression and addressed policies regarding protest activity and disciplinary processes with 60 in favor, three opposed, and one abstention. The document would be passed on to the Board of Trustees, Office of the President, University Life office, Office of General Counsel, and Office of the Provost. The guidelines, drafted and presented by the Rules of University Conduct committee as part of its ongoing statutory Rules review, were meant to serve as an accompaniment to the Rules of University Conduct.
- The Interim Demonstration Policy that the University implemented in the spring expired and the new rules guidelines specified time place and manner restrictions according to the Rules of University Conduct.
  - The revised Rules guidelines asked groups to notify Public Safety and University Life before making any public announcement of a protest. This established a “notification system rather than a registration system.”
  - The revised Rules guidelines added a new section allowing the Rules Administrator to “impose new sanctions, other than holds, at any time during the investigation process if there is an imminent need to protect the physical safety and security of the Columbia community and/or to prevent further substantial and persistent disruption of academic activities.” The revised guidelines asserted that interim sanctions “may not impact a respondent’s access to their housing, dining, or healthcare services unless their alleged conduct involved serious actual or threatened harm to or in such facilities.”
  - Under the guidelines, the Rules Administrator retained the power to issue a “hold” that prevents respondents from receiving diplomas.
  - New language in the updated guidelines stated that “any University regulations of demonstrations or other policies regulating or restricting freedom of expression must be consistent with the Rules.”
  - The committee added a requirement for the University Judicial Board (UJB) to deliver a quarterly report to the Rules committee “aggregating year-to-date information regarding charges, sanctions, and material facts to the Committee, which may use this information to further develop and update the Guidelines and propose changes to the Rules.”
  - The guidelines had a section on facial coverings: “Where a Delegate reasonably believes that an individual is committing or has committed a violation of the Rules, the individual’s face is covered, and the individual refuses to show photo identification, the Delegate may request that they briefly remove their face covering to show the Delegate their face and provide their name; refusal may constitute an additional violation under §443.a(16). The Delegate may choose to photograph the individual and/or their identification; photographs shall remain private, consistent with §446 and §451, to ensure that identities and photographs are only made available to those who need to know the information in order to carry out their duties and responsibilities under the Rules, with limited exceptions outlined in §451. If the individual refuses to provide photo identification and refuses to temporarily remove any object that obscures their face, the Delegate should give the person a pamphlet that indicates which violation(s) of the Rules according to §443.a is (are) being alleged and contains the following text: ‘You are suspected to be in violation of the Rules of University Conduct and are being asked to cease such actions. As a Delegate I may choose to report a failure to identify yourself to the Rules Administrator and inform Public Safety that you are refusing to identify yourself while suspected to be violating the Rules of University Conduct. You may be required to leave campus.’”
- The Rules Committee is only involved in the review and revision of the Rules; it does not adjudicate or enforce them, according to the University Statutes. Instead, the University Judicial Board (UJB), which is separate from the Rules Committee, holds the responsibility of executing the disciplinary process outlined in the Rules of University Conduct.
- The FAQ page stated that encampments were prohibited under the Facilities and Operations outdoor space policy and that protesters were allowed to wear masks, though they may need to remove them if a University delegate asks to them to do for identification.

- Stand Columbia published “Issue #002: Guiding You Through Today’s Changes to Columbia’s Rules of University Conduct.”<sup>1102</sup>
  - The newsletter opened with discussion of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce: “The House Committee’s report gained so much attention as many are asking the same question: how is it possible that after the events of last year, a large number of students (and potentially faculty and staff) have not been effectively disciplined?” The newsletter explained that accused students: “are currently undergoing a disciplinary process outlined in the Rules of University Conduct. Until the process has concluded, they are in good standing, as only the University Judicial Board has the power to prescribe sanctions and change their standing. But many constituents cannot understand why this disciplinary process has taken months.”
  - The newsletter gave a brief explanation of the new guidelines to the Rules of University Conduct, and then added: “while a good first step, they are incomplete and not nearly as descriptive, clear, or comprehensive as those issued by peer institutions. The Rules Committee could improve these guidelines by following the best practices employed by other universities grappling with the same desire to encourage free speech without disruptions to university life.”
  - The newsletter then gave suggestions for improvements to the guidelines and Rules of University Conduct: “giving examples,” “closing loopholes,” “fixing the notice period,” “publicizing aggregated information,” “clarifying operationalization,” and “perhaps more importantly, peer institutions have taken the time to write clear easily understandable rules in plain language – including simple examples.”
  - The newsletter concluded with: “A closing thought: we can come up with the best Rules and the clearest guidelines imaginable. However, the events of last year did not occur because the Rules didn’t exist. It was that the Rules were not enforced. If the revisions of the guidance and the Rules come with a recognition of their legitimacy by all stakeholders and a credible commitment to enforcement by the administration, then that is a positive step forward.”

#### August 25, 2024:

- First day of Columbia’s New Student Orientation.<sup>1103</sup>
- Interim President Armstrong delivered her first address as president at the annual Convocation ceremony. Around two dozen pro-Palestinian protesters picketed throughout the event, chanting “Free, free Palestine” and passing out flyers ahead of the ceremony.<sup>1104</sup>
- The University restricted campus access to status level orange in anticipation of increased protest activity throughout New Student Orientation. All family members and other guests had to be registered at least 24 hours prior to arrival, and foot traffic was cut off between the upper and lower levels of campus and across College Walk.<sup>1105</sup>
- At 2:25 PM @CUJewsIsraelis posted on X: “BREAKING: President of Columbia University's Senate admits to Title VI violation? Watch the video below. Back in April, during Columbia's encampment, faculty blocked Jewish and Israeli students from entering the lawn -- blatant discrimination and a clear violation of Title VI. Last week, the president of Columbia's Senate, Prof. Jeanine D'Armiento, stated that these faculty who participated in Columbia's encampment were instructed to be there by the administration. @Columbia, are you admitting to Title VI violations on camera, or is D'Armiento lying to protect her corrupt and discriminatory colleagues?”<sup>1106</sup>
- At 2:25 PM @CUJewsIsraelis posted on X “D’Armiento’s comments came in response to a report from @FreeBeacon that faculty members of the Senate’s Rules Committee (which is currently rewriting the university’s rules on protests), Joseph Slaughter and Susan Bernofsky, participated in the encampment. D’Armiento referred to this report as ‘misinformation’ and defended the actions of the faculty, saying that they were “coordinated” with the administration and that she was ‘aware’ of them.”<sup>1107</sup>
- At 3:08 PM @CUJewsIsraelis shared the *Free Beacon* article about Rules Committee members Professor of Writing Bernofsky and English and Comparative Literature Professor Slaughter and added “@EdWorkforceCmte @virginiafoxx @RitchieTorres @EliseStefanik we think you may find this interesting...”<sup>1108</sup>

<sup>1102</sup> Stand Columbia Society, "Issue #002: Guiding You Through Today’s Changes to Columbia’s Rules of University Conduct," (August 23, 2024).

<sup>1103</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Armstrong delivers first address as interim University president at Convocation ceremony," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/01/armstrong-delivers-first-address-as-interim-university-president-at-convocation-ceremony/>.

<sup>1104</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Armstrong delivers first address as interim University president at Convocation ceremony."

<sup>1105</sup> Huddleston and Vance, "Armstrong delivers first address as interim University president at Convocation ceremony."

<sup>1106</sup> @CUJewsIsraelis, August 25, 2024.

<sup>1107</sup> @CUJewsIsraelis, X, August 25, 2024.

<sup>1108</sup> @CuJewsIsraelis, X, August 25, 2024.

- At 4:37 PM @ShaiDavidai posted on X: “The president of the faculty senate at @Columbia stating that the professors who helped block Jewish and Israeli students from a public space on campus were working under direct orders of Cas Holloway, the university COO. This is the same Cas Holloway who personally blocked me from entering campus on April 22. Don't you think it's time for him be unemployed?”<sup>1109</sup>

#### August 26, 2024:

- Attorney Jonathan Wallace filed a complaint against the University and President Shafik on behalf of his client Dr. Mohamad Abdou. Abdou, who served as the Arcapita visiting assistant professor in modern Arab studies in Spring 2024 was one of the faculty members President Shafik spoke about directly in her April Congressional testimony. President Shafik stated that Dr. Abdou “will never work at Columbia again.” The complaint Wallace filed alleged that Abdou had been subject to “threats and harassment as a direct result” of the hearing.<sup>1110</sup>
- Columbia SJP posted on X: “As the school year is just about to begin, Columbia SJP has been permanently banned from Instagram. Our account was permanently deleted at 124k followers at the same time as our backup account, and when we made a new page it was deleted within 2 days.”<sup>1111</sup>

#### August 27, 2024:

- The “Policy for Development and Revision Process for Barnard College Administrative Policies”—colloquially referred to as the “policy on policies” by faculty—was updated, defining new policymaking roles for faculty, staff, and students under the authority of senior staff. The revisions handed the sole authority to write new policies to “senior staff”—nine of whom are vice presidents and one of whom is the provost. While the new policies also codified previously nonexistent consultations with stakeholders in drafting new policies, faculty members remained concerned that senior staff had too much authority.<sup>1112</sup>
- According to the new “Policy for Development and Revision Process for Barnard College Administrative Policies” senior staff must provide the Faculty, Governance, and Procedures Committee, the Barnard Staff Advisory Council, and the SGA executive board “an opportunity to review any Policy and related procedure” related to their governing body. Since the “Expectations for Community Conduct” is not a policy, it is not subjected to review.<sup>1113</sup>

#### August 28, 2024:

- At 7:54 PM @CUJewsIsraelis posted on X: “Columbia's University Senate has published its Guidelines to the Rules of University Conduct, written by the conflict-of-interest ridden Rules Committee, which includes Profs. Joseph Slaughter and Susan Bernofsky who participated in the encampment in April. These guidelines significantly weaken restrictions on the time and place of authorized protests, instead using vague and open-to-interpretation language. @Columbia has yet to comment on this conflict of interest – meanwhile, the Senate remains corrupt.”<sup>1114</sup>
- At 8:21 PM @CUJewsIsraelis posted on X: “Either @Columbia wants to be liable for the Title VI violations that its senators and faculty have admitted to, or it needs to cut loose its corrupt senators that are lying to the public or participated in the encampment (Jeanine D'Armiento, Joseph Slaughter, Susan Howley, and Joseph Howley).”<sup>1115</sup>
- The Stand Columbia Society published an “explainer” on the University Senate.<sup>1116</sup>
  - “On paper, the University Senate has broad policymaking authority over university-wide concerns, including academic offerings, physical development, student welfare, and others, with decisions becoming final unless Trustee concurrence is required.”

<sup>1109</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, August 25, 2024.

<sup>1110</sup> Noah Bernstein, "As Columbia rebuilds, congressional scrutiny persists," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 10, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/10/as-columbia-rebuilds-congressional-scrutiny-persists/>.

<sup>1111</sup> @ColumbiaSJP, X, August 26, 2024.

<sup>1112</sup> Saul Quintanar, "Barnard revises policy to allow for greater administrative control on policy implementation," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/23/barnard-revises-policy-to-allow-for-greater-administrative-control-on-policy-implementation/>.

<sup>1113</sup> Maya Stahl, "Barnard AAUP chapter condemns new 'Expectations for Community Conduct'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/19/barnard-aaup-chapter-condemns-new-expectations-for-community-conduct/>.

<sup>1114</sup> @CUJewsIsraelis, X, August 28, 2024.

<sup>1115</sup> @CUJewsIsraelis, X, August 28, 2024.

<sup>1116</sup> Stand Columbia Society, "University Senate," (August 28, 2024).

- “However, in reality this is often not the case. Recent presidents have reduced engagement, weakening the University Senate’s role and shifting it from a *part of* the university leadership to sometimes acting as a ‘counterweight’ or even as ‘opposition’ to university leadership.”
- “Unless and until it is reformed, the University Senate cannot be ignored or wished away. It is a crucial part of Columbia’s leadership structure.

#### August 29, 2024:

- Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.) sent a letter to Interim President Armstrong urging Columbia to modify its nondiscrimination policies and expand its definition of antisemitism and to include discrimination against Zionists in its anti-harassment policies.<sup>1117</sup>
- Interim President Armstrong sent an email to the Columbia community outlining her plans for the Campus Climate Collaborative, which is similar to the cross-school committee recommended by the second report of the Antisemitism Task Force. She described the new group as having a singular goal of “embracing inclusive pluralism while rejecting discrimination and harassment as antithetical to our values and our identity.”<sup>1118</sup>
- *The Intercept* reported: “Columbia Cuts Due Process for Student Protestors After Congress Demands Harsher Punishment.”<sup>1119</sup>
  - “In early August, Columbia University told Congress that most of the students arrested in the past year for protesting against Israel’s war on Gaza would be allowed to return to campus for the fall. Then a congressional inquiry applied pressure.”
  - “Now dozens of student protesters have received notices that their cases are being fast-tracked to university disciplinary hearings, short-circuiting Columbia’s own investigation process. Scheduled interviews with students have been canceled, and cases are moving directly to the University Judicial Board, which can expel or otherwise punish students, according to an email reviewed by *The Intercept*.”
  - Professor Franke, who had spent the summer advising students facing discipline for protests, told *The Intercept* that moving a case to a hearing without interviewing students for their version of events is an unprecedented move, and likely a sign that the university is caving to external pressure from Congress. “The sense we have is that much of this was motivated by the congressional subpoena and the pressure from Representative Foxx on the university.”
  - Professor Franke also stated: “We’ve never seen anything like this, where the students have suffered sanctions before a finding of their responsibility for violations of the rules. . . And the sanctions that they received before any finding of guilt are far more stringent than anything we’ve seen with much more disruptive protests.”
  - “Further complicating matters, the school hired an outside investigator, Omar Estrada Torres, rather than rely on its own staff. Torres also handled investigations into students involved in pro-Palestine protests at the University of Michigan, in which he referred the cases to the state attorney general to file charges against students.”
  - “Torres’s investigation at Columbia has been riddled with ‘incompetent’ missteps and alleged violations of state and federal law, according to a series of letters sent by faculty members who have been advising students, which have been obtained by *The Intercept*.”
  - “Columbia Law School professor Kellen Funk sent a letter to Torres, school administrators, and the school’s general counsel in July alleging that the school was ‘using illegally obtained evidence’ in its interviews with students. Funk, who was advising two students during their investigations, wrote that Torres had included screenshots of criminal charges and court docket entries from their criminal cases in their evidence files. Since, in June, the Manhattan district attorney dropped the charges against Columbia students who allegedly participated in the April 30 occupation of Hamilton Hall, those records are under seal and cannot be accessed by a private entity or used against students in an educational setting, Funk said, citing New York state law and case law.
  - “The following month, a larger group of faculty — including professors Jack Halberstam, Manan Ahmed, Nadia Abu El-Haj, Karl Jacoby, and Franke — sent another letter to the University Senate, decrying long

<sup>1117</sup> Rebecca Massel, “Rep. Ritchie Torres encourages Columbia to add discrimination against Zionists to its anti-harassment policies,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/03/rep-ritchie-torres-encourages-columbia-to-add-zionist-to-its-anti-harassment-policies/>.

<sup>1118</sup> Bernstein, “Task Force on Antisemitism issues second report detailing student testimonies, recommendations for antidiscrimination training.”

<sup>1119</sup> Valdez, “Columbia Cuts Due Process for Student Protestors After Congress Demands Harsher Punishment.”

wait times for students who have to be interviewed for their cases, ‘in some cases more than 100 days after they were formally notified of the Rules violation complaints.’ They asked the school to dismiss students’ cases or to bring the investigations to a hearing. The letter referenced the alleged illegal use of evidence and further issues with the investigation, such as failing to redact students’ personal information from investigatory files — like full names, addresses, university ID numbers, and birthdates — which is in violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, faculty members wrote. The letter said the charges brought against the students are ‘vague’ and lacking evidence, and alleged that the school is attempting to force students to incriminate themselves and would be punished for not doing so.

- “After urging from the University Senate, Torres responded by blaming the delays and redaction missteps on a lack of infrastructure ‘to handle very important administrative needs,’ according to an email reviewed by *The Intercept*, sent by Torres to the University Judicial Board. ‘We hope [the University Judicial Board] can understand the unprecedented times we find ourselves in,’ Torres wrote. He went on to blame further delays on the complaints raised by students and their ‘very active advisors,’ including complaints around including sealed documents from students’ criminal cases. Torres said that while he and the school disagree with faculty on the concern, arguing they can use the sealed records, he went ahead and removed them from student files anyway to ‘respect students’ concerns.’”
- “Over the summer, one student that Franke had advised was accused by another student of letting a non-student into a campus building, a violation of recent campus security measures amid protests. While awaiting their hearing, their academic record was frozen. The student, an international student from Lebanon, insisted that they were not on campus during the day of the alleged incident but was instead visiting family in Lebanon amid bombardments from the Israeli military, Franke said. ‘And they put her through this ... all the way through threatening expulsion when she’s also dealing with family members in bunkers in southern Lebanon,’ Franke said. ‘That’s the level of insensitivity that we’re seeing. ... Some of the more pro-Israeli students are weaponizing the disciplinary process to harass their classmates, and the university at the same time is allowing the system to be used that way, to really intimidate students who were known to be pro-Palestinian.’”

#### August 30, 2024

- Stand Columbia published “Issue #003: Why Can’t Columbia Make Tough Decisions” criticizing shared governance.
  - “Columbia University, renowned for its academic excellence, is facing a major governance crisis that’s crippling its ability to make and implement important decisions.”
  - “At the core of Columbia’s paralysis is a fundamental disagreement about what behavior should be tolerated and who has the right to decide that.”
  - “... At Columbia, legitimacy means that the community accepts the administration’s authority without the need for coercion. This usually implies some sort of say in the running of the University, an amorphous concept known as ‘shared governance.’ But here’s the catch: there’s no consensus on what ‘shared governance’ actually means – which is only exacerbated by a crisis. The result? Columbia’s decision-making process is frozen, bogged down by the absence of a shared understanding.”<sup>1120</sup>
  - “The administration argued the Statutes confer upon them the general power to run the University, including power to discipline and emergency power to protect people and property – seemingly justified when windows were smashed, custodial staff were assaulted, and a student expressed a desire to commit murder. Meanwhile, the Senate pointed to the same Statutes – arguing that they reserve disciplinary authority for the University Judicial Board.”
  - The newsletter provided its interpretation of the Statutes and suggested that a new governance structure was necessary to obtain order.
- Public Safety provided an update on the investigation into a January 19, 2024 incident during which pro-Palestinian protesters were sprayed with a chemical, writing that the substance was identified as a “non-toxic, legal, novelty item.” Nearly two dozen students reported a foul smell, physical symptoms, or property damage, and several students reported seeking medical attention following the January 19, 2024 incident. The update stated that the substance “was not any bio-chemical weapon, illicit substance or personal protective spray” and “can be purchased online and in stores throughout the country.” Public Safety’s statement acknowledged that “some members of our community were

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<sup>1120</sup> Stand Columbia Society, “Issue #003: Why Can’t Columbia Make Tough Decisions,” (August 30, 2024).

impacted by this incident” and provided community resources. “We hope that this is a step forward in the long healing process for our community.”<sup>1121</sup>

- At 6:05 PM [redacted Palestinian student] reached out to NYPD officer Ann Cardenas in an email titled “Jan 19<sup>th</sup> Chemical Attack Analysis Results”: “I was one of the students attacked with hazardous chemicals on January 19<sup>th</sup> at Columbia University. I submitted my items for a chemical analysis and was told that ‘law enforcement grade chemicals were used’. Can you please provide me with this documentation?”<sup>1122</sup>
- Columbia’s Task Force on Antisemitism issued its second report: “Columbia University Student Experiences of Antisemitism and Recommendations for Promoting Shared Values and Inclusion.”<sup>1123</sup>
  - The 91-page report, included dozens of student testimonies, recommended several updates to the University’s antidiscrimination training and bias reporting systems, and suggested a working definition of antisemitism.
  - The first half of the report detailed testimonials taken from more than 20 listening sessions attended by over 500 Jewish and Israeli students.
  - The report argued the stories reveal “serious and pervasive” problems.
  - The report continued by detailing issues students faced when trying to report instances of antisemitic harassment and discrimination to the University.
  - The task force also devoted a section of its report to Israeli students’ experience on campus.
  - In summing up the report’s section on student testimonials, the task force argued that clarifying precisely what constitutes discrimination and how to report instances of it would positively affect all Columbia affiliates.
  - The Task Force on Antisemitism wrote in that difficulty identifying protesters, particularly those wearing masks, has impeded the University’s investigations. The task force raised concerns over the ability to identify individuals “committing acts of aggression or track recidivism rates” and quoted a student who said they found some individuals’ anonymity “very intimidating.”
  - The Task Force published a working definition of antisemitism for the first time. The report stated the definition is meant “to educate, not to ban” and “should not be used to impose discipline.” “Antisemitism is prejudice, discrimination, hate, or violence directed at Jews, including Jewish Israelis. Antisemitism can manifest in a range of ways, including as ethnic slurs, epithets, and caricatures; stereotypes; antisemitic tropes and symbols; Holocaust denial; targeting Jews or Israelis for violence or celebrating violence against them; exclusion or discrimination based on Jewish identity or ancestry or real or perceived ties to Israel; and certain double standards applied to Israel.” Chair of the Task Force Fuchs emphasized that the definition remains a work in progress. “Anti-Zionism is a term carrying manifold and blurred dimensions; yet to advocate for the active dissolution of the world’s only Jewish state is quite different from even the bitterest critique of its policies. Given the absence of such a position in relation to virtually any other political state in the world, anti-Zionism, as it has been expressed in campus demonstrations during the past academic year, hews far more closely to antisemitism than to a simple critique of Israel.”
  - The second half of the report outlined recommendations to the University’s senior leadership regarding antidiscrimination trainings for Columbia affiliates, a working definition of antisemitism for revamped training programs, improvements to the University’s reporting system, and updates to rules governing student groups.
  - The report tackled recommendations for student groups and clubs that are funded, in part, through student life fees, which students pay annually as a part of their tuition. The report suggested that student groups should ensure greater consensus from their members before issuing statements on divisive political issues.
  - “This report reflects the research, analysis and drafting of members of the Task Force’s policy working group: Ester Fuchs (Co-Chair, SIPA and Political Science), Clémence Boulouque (Department of Religion), Jeremy A. Dauber (Department of Germanic Languages), Rebecca Kobrin (Department of History), and Deborah Valenze (Affiliate Co-Chair, Barnard College). Extensive analysis and input also was provided by the other members of the Task Force.”
  - “In addition, the testimonies of hundreds of Jewish and Israeli students have made clear that the University community has not treated them with the standards of civility, respect, and fairness it promises to all its students.”

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<sup>1121</sup> Karam, "Public Safety provides update on investigation of spraying incident at Jan. 19 pro-Palestinian rally."

<sup>1122</sup> [redacted student], August 30, 2024.

<sup>1123</sup> Task Force on Antisemitism, *Report #2: Columbia University Student Experiences of Antisemitism and Recommendations for Promoting Shared Values and Inclusion*.

Bernstein, "Task Force on Antisemitism issues second report detailing student testimonies, recommendations for antidiscrimination training."

Huddleston and Stahl, "Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protesters."

- “After October 7, many Jewish and Israeli students began to report multiple instances of harassment, verbal abuse and ostracism, and in some cases physical violence. Given the volume of these reports, the Task Force invited all students—not just Jewish and Israeli students—to tell us their stories. Over the course of the spring, nearly five hundred students offered testimonials, at over 20 listening sessions, which provided invaluable insights into the campus climate during these troubled times. These student stories are heartbreaking, and make clear that the University has an obligation to act.”
- “This report recounts student experiences in a wide variety of venues—day-to-day encounters, including dorm life and social media; clubs; and the classroom. Unfortunately, some members of the Columbia community have been unwilling to acknowledge the antisemitism many students have experienced—the way repeated violations of University policy and norms have affected them, and the compliance issues this climate has created with respect to federal, state, and local anti-discrimination law.”
- “We heard about troubling incidents from a diverse group of Jewish students from across the political spectrum; and, even more pronouncedly, from Israeli students, whose national origin both make them members of a specifically protected class under federal law and frequently has caused them to be singled out for particularly terrible treatment.”
- “Students also reported that their efforts to seek redress from the University for the hostility and bigotry they were encountering were often unsuccessful. Many students did not understand how to report these incidents. Although some faculty and staff responded with compassion and determination, others minimized the concerns of these students, reacting sluggishly and ineffectively even to the most clear-cut violations. Even students who had successfully reported an incident spoke of a recurring lack of enforcement of existing University rules and policies.”
- “A wide range of responses is needed—indeed, a broader range than we discuss in this report (which focuses on training, defining antisemitism, reporting, and rules for student groups) and in our last report (which focused on the rules governing protests).”
- “In this report we draw on the many accounts shared with us over the past several months to produce a working definition of antisemitism. Instead of relying on an existing definition, we crafted a working definition that is rooted in recent experiences at Columbia: Antisemitism is prejudice, discrimination, hate, or violence directed at Jews, including Jewish Israelis. Antisemitism can manifest in a range of ways, including as ethnic slurs, epithets, and caricatures; stereotypes; antisemitic tropes and symbols; Holocaust denial; targeting Jews or Israelis for violence or celebrating violence against them; exclusion or discrimination based on Jewish identity or ancestry or real or perceived ties to Israel; and certain double standards applied to Israel.”
- “This working definition draws on experiences of many Jewish and Israeli students, who were on the receiving end of ethnic slurs, stereotypes about supposedly dangerous Israeli veterans, antisemitic tropes about Jewish wealth and hidden power, threats and physical assaults, exclusion of Zionists from student groups, and inconsistent standards. We propose this definition for use in training and education, not for discipline or as a means for limiting free speech or academic freedom.”
- “This report also identifies significant problems in university policy and practice and makes recommendations for fixing flawed administrative systems, improving campus climate, and building consensus for a more inclusive and pluralistic university. Specifically, we recommend anti-bias and inclusion trainings for students, resident advisers, resident assistants, teaching assistants, student-facing staff, and faculty.”
- “As part of this effort, we recommend that the Interim President and Provost establish a CrossSchool Committee that includes all schools at Columbia, along with Barnard College and Teachers College, to share information and establish a baseline standard for trainings, workshops, and website information for all schools. The Committee should aim to overcome the problem of decentralization within Columbia, which is a barrier to maintaining common objectives across the many spaces shared by undergraduate and graduate students.”
- “Customized trainings aimed at specific constituencies are particularly important, including first year orientation and new student orientation for graduate programs—a recent area of focus for University Life—and new faculty orientation at all Columbia schools, including affiliate schools, Barnard College, and Teachers College. We recognize that University Life has been working to update and improve its training for student orientation.”
- “In place of the confusing multiplicity of reporting structures that currently exist, we suggest ways of revamping procedures so that students are not discouraged from speaking with advisors and administrators about prejudicial treatment. Transparency and consistency in how we handle student reports of bias and

exclusion are of the utmost importance if we want students to share their experiences. Our aim is for students to engage with faculty or staff who can resolve conflicts before situations rise to the level of legal violations. Antisemitism complaints deserve careful attention from deans and administrators, alongside all forms of bigotry and discrimination.”

- “We also recommend ways to ensure that student groups contribute to the University’s pluralist mission and comply with anti-discrimination law. Unfortunately, we have heard from many Jewish and Israeli students who have been excluded from student groups because of their Zionist beliefs. This is not acceptable. Student groups must be inclusive, with membership limited only for reasons connected to their mission. Student groups generally should not issue statements unrelated to their missions, so they can welcome students with diverse views and backgrounds. Groups also should have a robust consultation process before issuing statements or joining coalitions. To be clear, there should not be any limits on the free speech rights of a group’s members. They must be free to speak about any issue as long as they are speaking for themselves, not for the group.”
- “We found that administrative structures intended to ensure that all members of our community respect each other, engage in civil discourse, and receive fair treatment in a dispute resolution process are not working effectively for Jewish students (or do not exist at all).”
- “Listening sessions, reports to the Task Force, and messages to individual Task Force members provided us with important information about where students are experiencing discrimination, intimidation, harassment, exclusion, targeting, isolation, and fear of violent rhetoric. Equally important, we learned that students may not know how to report these problems—and often they want a less formal channel where they can receive advice about where and how to express concerns that may not rise to the level of a legal complaint. In some cases, they may be interested in an unbiased mediation process.”
- “In principle, the offices of the Deans of Students, the Ombuds, or the DEI offices should be the right places to go. But students reported uneven experiences when they went to these offices. Some administrators were uncertain about how to assign responsibility. Students were unsure of where to turn, and some felt that their concerns were not taken seriously. Indeed, we have heard that students have been referred to counseling and psychological services—which they correctly understood as implying that they just need to learn to accept and cope with antisemitic experiences.”
- “We have been encouraged by the fact that the administration is already making some changes in university policy and procedures to achieve the same goals as the Task Force.”
- “After October 7, Jewish students began to report instances of harassment and verbal abuse, as well as incidents of physical violence. Given the volume of such reports, the Task Force thought it important to create opportunities for students to tell their stories, and for faculty members and administrators to hear what those students had to say.”
- “Some members of the Columbia community have expressed skepticism that students are experiencing discrimination. To the degree that they are, the skeptics say, such experiences are rare or not serious. Many wish to challenge the identification of these incidents as antisemitic. Our intention is to report these incidents as they were reported to us and to share evidence, provided here by our students, of Jews being singled out in ways that would be considered intolerable in any other context.”
- “Many of the incidents are contrary to University policy, and sufficiently so that we think it imperative to recommend University policy changes informed by these documented experiences. We hope this evidence will assist the University’s central administration and every school, undergraduate and graduate, in crafting helpful changes in policy governing academic and social life so that all students feel safe and welcome. Some, though not all, suggest violations of federal and state law. In such cases, Columbia should provide follow-up, investigation, and rigor in dealing with inappropriate behavior toward targeted groups, as we have already recommended in Antisemitism Taskforce (ASTF) Report #1. The frequent failures to do so, documented here, point to the troubling use of inconsistent standards which reinforce the need for significant change.”
- “The material included here is intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive; much of it, however, was corroborated by multiple sources. We are not adjudicating individual complaints—this is not our role—but we listened and found patterns in student testimony. Because students at the sessions were promised anonymity, we could not investigate the details of the incidents reported to us or seek the perspective of others involved, although in many cases we were given (or were able to find) confirmation.”



- *Spectator* reported that the Task Force on Antisemitism had faced criticism “for not being representative of the entire Jewish and Israeli community on campus” and “for what some perceive to be special treatment of Jewish and Israeli students while the University ignores issues of Islamophobia on campus.”<sup>1124</sup>
- Interim President Katrina Armstrong published a statement “Armstrong on the Second Report of the Task Force on Antisemitism.”<sup>1125</sup>
  - “I am grateful to the Task Force on Antisemitism, its co-chairs, and its members for their work on this report, particularly their focus on listening to and elevating the voices and experiences of our students. Let me be very clear. The painful and distressing incidents of antisemitism recounted in this report are completely unacceptable. They are antithetical to our values and go against the principles of open inquiry, tolerance, and inclusivity that define us.”
  - “This is an opportunity to acknowledge the harm that has been done and to pledge to make the changes necessary to do better and to rededicate ourselves, as University leaders, as individuals, and as a community, to our core mission of teaching and research.”
  - “Work has already been underway on initiatives that align with a number of the recommendations outlined in this report. They include an expansion of education and training offerings and the creation of a new Office of Institutional Equity, which will help centralize, strengthen, and streamline our work to address harassment complaints, including those relating to antisemitism.”
  - “To the members of the Task Force, I appreciate the depth and breadth of this analysis and how closely you have examined academic and extracurricular environments across the institution, with an eye toward practical recommendations and how to best implement them. The Task Force was created to work independently, to render its thorough, honest, and critical assessments without interference. The goal has always been to understand more holistically more the effects of antisemitism on our community in order to deliver concrete, actionable solutions.”
  - “As the report makes clear, improving the climate at Columbia requires ambitious, concerted, and long-term efforts across the University. The recommendations the Task Force proposes to enhance the sense of safety, wellbeing, and belonging for Jewish students will make our entire community stronger. I welcome them. I thank the co-chairs and members of the Task Force for their hard work and for their determination to make sure that Columbia lives up to our mission and our commitment to be a place where diversity of background and thought is embraced, where disagreements are rooted in civil discourse, and where all members feel like they belong.”

### September 3, 2024:

- Both Columbia and Barnard were restricted to “Orange” and “Level B” on the first day of classes, meaning only CUID holders and pre-registered guests could access the campuses.<sup>1126</sup>
- 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM Dozens of pro-Palestinian protestors participated in a “Shut It Down” picket outside 116<sup>th</sup> and Broadway gates on first day of classes for the 2024-2025 academic year, encouraging students, staff, and faculty to not cross the picket line or attend classes.<sup>1127</sup>
  - CUAD, Dar Jafra, Barnard-Columbia Abolition Collective, Student-Worker Solidarity, and Columbia’s chapter of JVP advertised the protest on social media.
  - Protesters handed out flyers explaining the motivations behind the demonstration and reiterating protesters’ demands for full divestment from companies with ties to Israel. The flyer read, “As we prepare to begin a new semester, Gazan students have no universities left to which they can return.”
  - Around 12:00 PM, pro-Palestinian protesters began picketing outside Barnard campus’ gates, located on 117th Street and Broadway. In response, Barnard closed down the main gates and rerouted students to exit the campus through its side and back entrances.
  - At 1:00 PM the NYPD arrested two students outside of the Barnard main gates. A 21-year-old male was arrested on charges of attempted obstruction of government administration in the second degree and

<sup>1124</sup> Bernstein, “Task Force on Antisemitism issues second report detailing student testimonies, recommendations for antidiscrimination training.”

<sup>1125</sup> Katrina Armstrong, “Statement From Interim President Armstrong on the Second Report of the Task Force on Antisemitism,” (August 30, 2024). <https://president.columbia.edu/news/statement-interim-president-armstrong-second-report-task-force-antisemitism>.

<sup>1126</sup> Rebecca Massel, “Armstrong announces restricted campus access, increased Public Safety presence ahead of Oct. 7 protests,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 7, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/07/armstrong-announces-restricted-campus-access-increased-public-safety-presence-ahead-of-oct-7-protests/>.

<sup>1127</sup> Rebecca Massel, “Dozens of pro-Palestinian protestors picket on first day of classes,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/04/dozens-of-pro-palestinian-protesters-picket-on-first-day-of-classes/>.

- attempted disorderly conduct, and a 21-year-old female was arrested on charges of obstruction of government administration in the second degree and disorderly conduct.
- At around 1:00 PM, two pro-Israel counterprotesters stood outside of the gates of Columbia with a sign that read “Get Support for Terrorism Off Our Campuses,” Israeli and American flags, and a picture of Hersh Polin-Goldberg, an American-Israeli citizen who was held hostage in Gaza and killed by Hamas.
  - Around midday, red paint was poured on Alma Mater. Columbia cleaned the monument by early afternoon. The national chapter of SJP shared a message from the anonymous “actionists” in a post on X.
  - A member of the WhatsApp group, “Columbia Alumni for Israel,” wrote that they “publicly called for harsh discipline multiple times and led an open letter to that effect. But protesters feed on attention. They crave disruption. Will you give them what they want? Or will you deny them what they want?”<sup>1128</sup>
    - Alumni Victor Muslin wrote in the chat in response: “The answer to this question is irrelevant. Because it is a wrong question. We should not care what they want or don’t want. We should consider first what results we want and how to achieve them. That being said, we need the powers that be to squash them like roaches. Ignoring roaches in one’s house is possible but who wants to live that way?”
    - Muslin continued to write that members of the group chat need to continue to call for enforcement “from the right quarters that can actually do it, which wouldn’t be anyone inside Columbia.” He wrote that they should wait for the protesters to “overplay their hand” so they cannot avoid discipline and “I, for one, wish they beheaded the Alma Mater instead of just splashing paint.”
    - On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors” about the chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia’s interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.
    - Victor Muslin is the founder of CU-Monitor, an online web page run by “a group of Columbia University and Barnard College alumni, faculty, students and their parents who are fed up with the relentless Zionophobic propaganda and activity on campus,” according to the group’s website. In the group chat, Muslin shared X posts by Documenting Jew Hatred on Campus, a web page and X account that posts photos and videos of students it accuses of antisemitic actions. When one chat participant asked whether any members had connections to Canary Misson, another user replied, “Victor is an honorary bird.”
  - Several House Republicans and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairwoman condemned Columbia’s handling of the protests and reiterated concerns over on-campus antisemitism. The Committee posted on X: “One day in and it’s already clear that Columbia isn’t prepared to prevent a repeat of the spring semester. Jewish students deserve better.”<sup>1129</sup>
  - Conservative media group Accuracy in Media (AIM) sent a digital billboard truck to circle around Columbia’s Morningside campus, displaying the names and faces of Columbia affiliates under a banner reading “Columbia’s Leading Antisemites.” The truck had made several appearances around campus since October 2023.<sup>1130</sup>
  - CUAD, Columbia SIPA Palestine Working Group, and Columbia Social Workers for Palestine posted on Instagram: “JOIN US in a sit in as we speak out against the war criminal Hillary Clinton @hillaryclinton at the 4th floor SIPA lobby TOMORROW, 9/4 at 1 PM. Tell Columbia & SIPA, we will not stand for genocide, propaganda and the militarization of our campus! We call on all students to walk out of Hillary’s sham class! #copsoffcampus”<sup>1131</sup>

#### September 4, 2024:

- At 1:00 PM student protestors from CUAD hosted a sit-in on the fourth floor of the International Affairs Building in protest of SIPA professor and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Around a dozen pro-Palestinian protestors participated. They displayed a banner that read “Welcome to the IGP: Israel’s Global Propagandists.” The protestors

<sup>1128</sup> Huddleston, “In leaked messages, members of ‘Columbia Alumni for Israel’ group chat work to identify, punish pro-Palestinian protesters.”

Lennard and Lacy, “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protesters.”

<sup>1129</sup> @EdWorkforceCmte, X, September 3, 2024.

<sup>1130</sup> Luisa Sukkar and Sophia Cordoba, “Pro-Palestinian picket on first day of class, sit-in against Hillary Clinton,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 6, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/podcasts/2024/09/06/pro-palestinian-picket-on-first-day-of-class-sit-in-against-hillary-clinton/>.

<sup>1131</sup> @pwgatsipa, Instagram, September 3, 2024, [https://www.instagram.com/p/C\\_epR5a1414/?igsh=MXU3aHY0M3R5ZGFvcw%3D%3D](https://www.instagram.com/p/C_epR5a1414/?igsh=MXU3aHY0M3R5ZGFvcw%3D%3D).

urged students of Professor Clinton to walk out of her class and chanted: “From New York to Palestine, Globalize the Intifada.”<sup>1132</sup>

- At 7:30 PM Columbia’s General Counsel emailed staff that the University’s position was that the sit-in protest held at SIPA that day did not violate the Rules of University Conduct.<sup>1133</sup>

## September 5, 2024:

- Dozens of Columbia faculty signed an open letter criticizing the Task Force on Antisemitism’s second report, which detailed dozens of Jewish and Israeli students’ testimonies, for “contribut[ing] to a hostile narrative about Columbia, which is used to justify interference in the institution’s governance and operations.” The authors of the letter wrote that they are concerned about the report’s “neglect of context and climate”; “conflating [of] feelings and facts”; “slippery” definitions of antisemitism, anti-Zionism, and Zionism; “misrepresentation[s]” of discriminatory incidents; and policy recommendations.<sup>1134</sup>
- The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) sent a letter to Interim President Armstrong warning of legal action if Columbia complied with the House Committee on Education and the Workforce’s subpoena of disciplinary records of student protesters.<sup>1135</sup>
  - CAIR attorney Gadeir Abbas said in a news release: “The House Committee’s subpoena is a violation of the First Amendment, and Columbia University will become an accomplice to the violation to the extent it complies. . . We will hold Columbia University accountable if it does not fulfill its duty to resist the House Committee’s transparent effort to compel the disclosure of the names of pro-Palestinian students at the school.”
  - The letter, signed by Abbas and CAIR Executive Director Afaf Nasher, stated that if the records were turned over, they “will be weaponized against students to imperil their future prospects.”
  - Abbas is a member of the CAIR Legal Defense Fund, which represented “a group of students from Columbia University who were issued letters informing them of an investigation on June 28, 2024, citing alleged violations of the Rules of University Conduct for alleged involvement with an unauthorized protest at Southfield West Lawn.”
  - The news release included a statement from CUAD condemning the committee’s subpoena and “Congress’ demand for further information on internal proceedings, particularly information protected by our rights under FERPA.” CUAD wrote that the Committee “explicitly seeks to conflate our protests for Palestinian self-determination and the end of Israeli apartheid with antisemitic conduct.”
- The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression gave Columbia a score of zero in its 2025 College Free Speech Rankings, assessing the University as “abysmal” for conditions of free speech and freedom of expression. Columbia tied with Harvard University for last place out of 251 evaluated colleges and universities. Barnard ranked last out of the 251 evaluated institutions in the foundation’s evaluation of “administrative support” for free speech.<sup>1136</sup>
- Interim President Armstrong provided updates about the University’s approach to demonstrations and protests in an email to the community.<sup>1137</sup>
  - Interim President Armstrong announced Gregory Wawro, professor of political science, as the new Rules Administrator.
  - Interim President Armstrong pointed to the recently revised guidelines on the Rules of University Conduct, which detail restrictions on demonstrations and policies regarding face coverings at protests, as well as other updates to the University’s disciplinary processes.

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<sup>1132</sup> Massel, “Dozens of pro-Palestinian protestors picket on first day of classes.”

Sukkar and Cordoba, “Pro-Palestinian picket on first day of class, sit-in against Hillary Clinton.” @edenyadegar, X, September 4, 2024, <https://x.com/edenyadegar/status/1831394117538238941?s=46>.

<sup>1133</sup> “Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”

<sup>1134</sup> Noah Bernstein, “Dozens of Columbia faculty pen letter criticizing the Task Force on Antisemitism’s latest report,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 13, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/09/15/the-columbia-task-force-on-antisemitisms-report-generates-more-heat-than-light/>.

<sup>1135</sup> Huddleston, “Council on American-Islamic Relations sends letter to Armstrong warning against producing disciplinary records for Congress.”

<sup>1136</sup> Shea Vance, “Columbia ranked last in annual college free speech rankings by Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 5, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/05/columbia-ranked-last-in-annual-college-free-speech-rankings-by-foundation-for-individual-rights-and-expression/>.

<sup>1137</sup> Emily Forgash, “Armstrong announces new Rules Administrator, updates to demonstration procedures,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 5, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/05/armstrong-announces-new-rules-administrator-updates-to-demonstration-procedures/>.

- It was also announced that Melanie Bernitz, Interim Executive Vice President for University Life, was expanding and training the delegate pool that “plays such an important role in implementing the Rules at the time of protests or other events.”
- Armstrong wrote that she asked Public Safety leadership to advance efforts to create a “multi-disciplinary team of professionals,” which will “enable us to expand the capabilities of our public safety team as suggested by many members of our community.”

### September 6, 2024:

- At 4:48 PM Professor Shai Davidai posted on X photos of JVP students tabling at Columbia’s club fair and added: “it seems that being suspended by @Columbia doesn't mean a damn thing. Rich kids, no consequences.”<sup>1138</sup>
  - A Jewish student pictured tabling subsequently reported Professor Davidai to the Office of Institutional Equity for doxxing them: “I reported that this tweet used antisemitic stereotypes associating Jews with money. I received no response or further communication about my report.”
- According to Barnard Amnesty, an amnesty campaign for Barnard student protesters facing suspension, three Barnard students had their disciplinary cases moved under the University Judicial Board (UJB) for alleged participation in the occupation of Hamilton Hall. An Instagram post stated that each student faced 11 charges.<sup>1139</sup>
- Teachers College President Bailey announced 11 revised policies on communications, infrastructure and facilities, and community standards. The updated policies included new guidelines on campus access, student conduct, social media use, and event guest speakers. The revised policies also covered academic integrity, the appropriate use of the college’s brand, and procedures for handling protests and public demonstrations. The policy revisions were part of a broader initiative called Advancing Community Together, which was announced in August in preparation for the 2024-25 academic year. The ACT initiative is focused on creating a more cohesive community by reviewing and strengthening policies to ensure their effectiveness and clarity. Working groups—composed of faculty, students, and administrators—collaborated to review, revise, and develop college policies.<sup>1140</sup>

### September 8, 2024:

- *Spectator* published an op-ed “Listening Tables”: “I am writing to explain an idea for an initiative meant to begin addressing this question, mounted by the Trust Collaboratory, a research center at Columbia’s Incite Institute. This idea was born when a group of faculty, deans, and alumni leaders of very different points of view sat down at a table together over a meal and talked about the hard problems of the moment. We now aim to recreate that kind of space in the public areas of campus, as a form of public conversation distinct from protest. There, hosts—mainly faculty volunteers at first—will invite any member of the Columbia community to sit down in a space dedicated to open-minded discussion, as that initial group of us did, to consider how to move forward together in a way that honors the University’s missions to research and teach.”<sup>1141</sup>
- @CampusJewHate posted on X about Professor and Senate Rules Committee Member Susan Bernofsky: “Know her name! Another As-a-Jew from @Columbia.”<sup>1142</sup>

### September 9, 2024:

- Barnard faculty meeting held.<sup>1143</sup>
  - Barnard’s faculty governance and procedures committee presented two statements to members of the college’s administration.

<sup>1138</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, September 6, 2024, <https://x.com/ShaiDavidai/status/1832158875241607458>.

[redacted student].

<sup>1139</sup> Maya Stahl, “Barnard faculty issues statements condemning interim sanctions, revised policies,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 26, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/26/barnard-faculty-issues-statements-condemning-interim-sanctions-revised-policies/>.

<sup>1140</sup> Grace Hamilton, “Teachers College releases 11 revised policies regulating official communications, student conduct,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/17/teachers-college-releases-11-revised-policies-regulating-official-communications-student-conduct/>.

<sup>1141</sup> Gil Eyal, “Listening Tables,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 8, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/09/08/listening-tables/>.

<sup>1142</sup> @CampusJewHate, X, September 8, 2024.

<sup>1143</sup> Stahl, “Barnard faculty issues statements condemning interim sanctions, revised policies.”

Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protesters.”

- The first statement: “We, the Faculty of Barnard College, urge the Barnard administration to restore all privileges to students who are not currently able to register for classes, attend classes, access campus, or access housing and meal service, while their cases are being adjudicated.”
- The second statement focused on the college’s recently released and revised policies, including the Student Code of Conduct, the Campus Events and Approval Policy, and the Policy for Safe Campus Demonstrations. The faculty “condemn the administration’s lack of transparency regarding those policies and their enforcement.”
- Of the 235 eligible faculty members, 167 voted on the statements presented. 142 faculty members voted in favor of the first statement, with 18 opposed and seven abstentions. 133 faculty members vote in support of the second statement, with 30 opposed and four abstentions. Statements passed by the faculty governance and procedures committee hold no legislative power.
- Barnard administrators relayed the number of students who had faced and were currently facing disciplinary action by the college for allegedly participating in unauthorized protests. Under the Barnard Student Code of Conduct, students are not allowed to bring legal representation. In contrast, the Rules of University Conduct allow for students to have an attorney present.
- According to slides from the faculty meeting, Barnard had resolved nearly all of its disciplinary proceedings with 86 students allegedly involved in unauthorized protests since October 7, 2023.
- The Manhattan District Attorney’s office indicted James Carlson, a 40-year-old male and New York City lawyer, for allegedly burning an Israeli flag belonging to a student, during a protest on April 20, 2024. Carlson, who has no affiliation with the University, was charged by the DA’s office with one count of criminal mischief in the third degree, two counts of criminal mischief in the fourth degree, and one count of arson in the fifth degree. He was arrested for participating in the occupation of Hamilton Hall on April 30, 2024 and was arraigned on charges of trespassing in the third degree. District Attorney Alvin Bragg said in a news release: “This defendant’s alleged activity went beyond legal and peaceful protest. Committing arson in a crowded protest endangers the safety of others, and this type of behavior will not be tolerated. . . We will continue to work closely with the NYPD and local colleges and universities to ensure the safety of students, staff and community members during any protest or demonstration.”<sup>1144</sup>

## September 10, 2024:

- Professor Katherine Franke filed an ethics complaint with an attorney grievance committee of the New York State court system against Outten & Golden LLP after they terminated her as a client in July without prior notice. Franke had hired the firm in February to represent her when the University launched an investigation into alleged discriminatory comments she made. Kathleen Peratis, the attorney set to represent Franke, resigned from Outten & Golden when the firm terminated their relationship with Franke, writing that the firm’s actions were “unethical” in her resignation letter. Peratis had been a partner at the firm for nearly 24 years. Peratis continued to independently represent Franke.<sup>1145</sup>
- *The Free Beacon* published “‘Our Students Don’t Want to Bring Danger to Our Campus’: Prof on Columbia’s Top Disciplinary Body Defends Anti-Semitic Agitators Who Occupied Campus Building.”<sup>1146</sup>
  - “A member of Columbia University’s top disciplinary body defended the anti-Semitic student agitators who took over a campus building in the spring, arguing their behavior was “reactive” and came after university officials “pushed aside” their demands, including divestment from Israel.”
  - “Those remarks came during the course of an Aug. 23 meeting of the Columbia University Senate. Susan Bernofsky, a professor of writing . . . bemoaned “having to put so much time, energy, and thought into disciplining students for their actions.” Former Columbia president Minouche Shafik’s resignation, she said, provided ‘an opportunity for a reset,’ one that Bernofsky argued should be used to collaborate with student activists rather than to discipline them. ‘I’m a rules committee member, but speaking for myself at this point,’ Bernofsky said, according to an audio recording of the meeting obtained by the Free Beacon. ‘The encampment was one of a series of escalations that happened over the course of many months,’ she argued, after university officials declined to discuss ‘the endowment and all these things and divestment

<sup>1144</sup> Massel, “Non-affiliate protestor indicted for allegedly burning Israeli flag during April protest.”

<sup>1145</sup> Pickering, “Law professor Katherine Franke, BC’ 81, files ethics complaint against law firm after withdrawal of representation.”

<sup>1146</sup> Jessica Costescu, “‘Our Students Don’t Want to Bring Danger to Our Campus’: Prof on Columbia’s Top Disciplinary Body Defends Anti-Semitic Agitators Who Occupied Campus Buildings,” *The Free Beacon*, September 10, 2024, <https://freebeacon.com/campus/our-students-dont-want-to-bring-danger-to-our-campus-prof-on-columbias-top-disciplinary-body-defends-anti-semitic-agitators-who-occupied-campus-building/>.

possibilities.’ ‘This conversation was pushed aside and turned into a series of escalations that ended up with an encampment and an occupation of the hall, which is something none of us want.’ Bernofsky's defense of violent student agitators comes as the rules committee she sits on conducts a ‘comprehensive review’ of Columbia's protest policies. ‘I very much hope the new administration coming in will cut this off at the pass, will really open the lines of communication in advance to avoid creating the situation where we had the students being so reactive and then us having to figure out how to punish them for their reactivity,’ Bernofsky said at the Aug. 23 meeting. ‘We have an opportunity for a reset.’”

- Professor Davidai posted on X “Who does Susan Bernofsky (@[redacted]) blame for terrorizing Israeli students at @Columbia and Jews who refuse to denounce their identity? Everyone but those who did the actual terrorizing. BTW, Susan – “they only escalated because you didn’t agree to their demands” is the literally an intellectual way of supporting terrorism.”<sup>1147</sup>

## September 11, 2024:

- In an email to the college community, Barnard President Rosenbury announced a new webpage detailing new expectations for community conduct. The new guidelines cited examples of permissible and impermissible conduct, behavior, and speech at Barnard relating to discrimination, speech, respect of property, campus security, and inclusivity.<sup>1148</sup>
  - According to the new webpage, Barnard would refrain from issuing statements or taking stances on “matters of public concern except to offer sentiments of support for those who are directly affected or grieving.” The official move toward institutional neutrality—the practice of avoiding political statements in the interest of protecting academic freedom and free expression at universities according to the Chicago Principles—follows a trend of university administrations refraining from taking political stances altogether amid campus turmoil over the war in Gaza. The college had previously been operating under an “interim” adherence to institutional neutrality, Barnard Provost Walkowitz *told Spectator* in July. The new community expectations made the policy official. The new expectations cited examples of permissible and impermissible conduct, behavior, and speech at Barnard, largely related to discrimination, debate, respect of property, campus security, and inclusivity.
  - The webpage clarified that Barnard “expressly prohibits violence, or calls for violence, against any member of our community. . . Words with multiple meanings will be reviewed holistically, taking into account both intent and result.” “The harassment and intimidation expectations also apply to personal social media accounts.”
  - The webpage stated “the harassment and intimidation expectations also apply to personal social media accounts.
  - The webpage included a section on the demonstration policy, encouraging adherence to the policy’s time, place, and manner restrictions. The section also listed the interruption of approved events, the setting up of “unauthorized tents, structures, walls, barriers, barricades,” and the use of “College supplies, equipment, or property to generate flyers, posters, or other materials for demonstrations or other forms of public expression” as violating the new standards.
  - The college noted, as examples of violating the expectations related to violence, hazing, and intimidation, “Spraying individuals with foul-smelling substances,” “Releasing insects or any pests in College buildings or at the residences of College community members,” “Engaging in doxxing,” “Requiring participation in demonstrations, protests, or activist activity as a condition for membership in a student club,” and vandalizing college property.
  - The new expectations reaffirmed the college’s ban on dorm door decor, which Barnard implemented in the spring citing an “unintended effect of isolating those who have different views.” The expectations prohibited “holding or posting signs or banners as a form of demonstration or protest on a residence hall floor or in other external spaces within residence halls, including bulletin boards, stairwells, bathroom stalls, and walls.”<sup>1149</sup>

<sup>1147</sup> @ShaiDavidai, X, September 10, 2024.

<sup>1148</sup> Stahl, "Barnard AAUP chapter condemns new 'Expectations for Community Conduct'."

Daniela Ospino Pallares, "Office of Institutional Equity announces new antidiscrimination and harassment policy," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 25, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/25/office-of-institutional-equity-announces-new-antidiscrimination-and-harassment-policy/>.

Shea Vance, "Barnard adopts institutional neutrality policy," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 11, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/11/barnard-adopts-institutional-neutrality-policy/>.

<sup>1149</sup> Vance, "Barnard adopts institutional neutrality policy."

- The expectations expanded upon a set of previously existing policies, including the college’s policy against discrimination and harassment, hazing policy, Student Code of Conduct, campus events and approval policy, posting policy, rules for the maintenance of public order, and policy for safe campus demonstrations. In the section relating to “hate, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.”
- The expectations identified the word “Zionist” as a potential “code word” that may constitute prohibited discrimination or harassment against Jewish and Israeli students. Several colleges and universities, including Columbia, have faced pressure to adopt such a policy after NYU included a similar clause in its updated student code of conduct.
- Barnard revised its safe demonstration policy, expanding the hours during which protests could occur on Barnard’s campus but maintaining limitations on the areas where protests can be held.<sup>1150</sup>
  - Revisions were announced in an email to the campus community.
  - The changes affect a temporary policy originally implemented on February 20 that restricted when and where demonstrations could take place.
  - Demonstrations on Barnard’s campus remained limited to the grassy area of Futter Field between noon and 6:00 PM on Monday through Friday when classes are in session—similar to Columbia’s now-expired interim demonstration policy.
  - Students, faculty, staff, and recognized student groups must provide 36 hours’ notice before a desired demonstration time—a reduction from the policy’s previous requirement of 48 hours’ notice.
  - Silent demonstrations were now exempt from the registration process.
  - The college would use “content-neutral criteria to confirm registration” of a demonstration within one business day, according to the policy.
  - Events Management would confirm all requests to demonstrate, as long as the area is available at the requested time; the college is able to staff the demonstrations; the demonstration has not previously been advertised; and the group making the request “has not engaged in a pattern of making repeated requests that functionally prohibit other individuals or groups from making such requests under this policy.”
  - Those seeking to counter-demonstrate must file an intent to demonstrate no later than eight hours before it is scheduled to begin.
  - Events Management would approve counterdemonstration requests as long as both the demonstration and counterdemonstration were estimated to have fewer than 100 people attend. If confirmed, each demonstration would take place in separate parts of the designated demonstration area “with a physical distinction” between them.

### September 12, 2024:

- *Spectator* published: “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors.”<sup>1151</sup>
  - “Some legal scholars warned of a chilling effect—the quelling of expression in fear of legal or disciplinary retaliation—settling over campus due to the University’s surveillance and discipline of students involved with on-campus activism. Bringing the NYPD onto campus can further curtail or chill speech. . . and maybe even criminalizes the free speech of students when it leads to arrests.”
  - Students involved in pro-Palestinian protests told *Spectator* that the University’s employment of surveillance measures made them feel watched even outside of demonstrations. One Palestinian student protester said that surveillance “creates a climate of fear and anxiety on campus.”
    - “I don’t like going on campus. It kind of feels like you’re in a panopticon, like every time you go on campus, somebody is always watching you to see what you’re doing or see what you’re saying. I’ve had administrators take photos of me while I’ve been on campus. I’ve had faculty members take photos of me while I’m on campus.”
    - “All the surveillance, it makes you feel like a zoo animal.”
  - Another Palestinian student organizer said that she felt watched in her day-to-day life. “Even though I’m not doing anything wrong, I just feel constantly recognized by people, glared at by people, followed by people. People are taking pictures of me simply speaking with my friends.” Prior to October 7, the student said that she would frequently hang out with her friends on campus, studying in libraries and “perched up on Low

<sup>1150</sup> Hamilton, “Teachers College releases 11 revised policies regulating official communications, student conduct.”

Maya Stahl, “Barnard revises temporary policy on safe campus demonstrations,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 12, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/12/barnard-revises-temporary-policy-on-safe-campus-demonstrations/>.

<sup>1151</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Inside Columbia’s surveillance and disciplinary operation for student protestors.”

Steps.” Now, she said that she felt campus was no longer welcoming to her due to the feeling of being monitored. “Everywhere I go, I see hostile architecture and all of these barricades reminding me that I don’t belong here. And on top of that, there are people—Public Safety, administrators, fellow students—who make me feel like I’m being watched, as if I would be a threat. It just makes me feel completely unwelcome.”

#### September 14, 2024:

- *The New York Times* reported: “Should a Diverse’ Campus Mean More Conservatives?: Republicans are demanding colleges embrace ‘viewpoint diversity.’ They aren’t the only ones who are concerned.”<sup>1152</sup>
  - “At last December’s Congressional hearing on campus antisemitism, three university presidents drew widespread condemnation for their legalistic answers to questions about whether their speech policies allowed ‘calling for the genocide of Jews.’ But amid questions about whether phrases like ‘From the river to the sea’ were permitted was another line of questioning: How many conservatives do you have on your faculty?”

#### September 15, 2024:

- *Spectator* published op-ed “The Task Force on Antisemitism report generates more heat than light.”<sup>1153</sup>

#### September 16, 2024:

- Following a closed-door meeting with Jewish students, Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.) and Rep. Mike Lawler (R-N.Y.) held a press conference at the Kraft Center for Jewish Student Life where they discussed the Antisemitism Awareness Act and congressional scrutiny of Columbia. Rep. Richie Torres (D-N.Y.) and various leaders of Jewish non-profit organizations also participated in the meeting. The bill, which passed in the House of Representatives with a 320 to 91 margin in May and awaited committee assignment in the Senate, would force the Department of Education to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in its enforcement of antidiscrimination law.<sup>1154</sup>

#### September 17, 2024:

- Interim President Armstrong interviewed with *Spectator* for the first time.<sup>1155</sup>
  - Interim President Armstrong apologized to those who were “hurt” by the NYPD’s April sweeps of the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” and occupied Hamilton Hall, during which police made over 200 arrests.
  - Interim President Armstrong discussed Public Safety.
    - Through her discussions with stakeholders, Armstrong said there is “a strong desire to move away from so many contract people, so trying to really redouble our force.”
    - “There’s a strong sense that we need to really make sure that we’re training our Public Safety officers better, that they have the professional development, that they’re getting the support that they need.”
- Interim President Armstrong announced that Columbia would convene an advisory committee to consider the adoption of an institutional neutrality policy.<sup>1156</sup>

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<sup>1152</sup> Jennifer Schuessler, "Should a 'Diverse' Campus Mean More Conservatives?," *The New York Times*, September 14, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/09/14/arts/viewpoint-diversity-universities-conservatives.html>.

<sup>1153</sup> Michael Thaddeus, "The Columbia Task Force on Antisemitism’s report generates more heat than light," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 15, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/09/15/the-columbia-task-force-on-antisemitisms-report-generates-more-heat-than-light/>.

<sup>1154</sup> Noah Bernstein, "Representatives hold press conference on Antisemitism Awareness Act at Kraft Center," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/19/representatives-hold-press-conference-on-antisemitism-awareness-act-at-kraft-center/>.

<sup>1155</sup> Esha Karam, Shea Vance, and Sarah Huddleston, "‘I’m really sorry’: Armstrong apologizes to those ‘hurt’ by NYPD sweeps," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/19/im-really-sorry-armstrong-apologizes-to-those-hurt-by-nypd-sweeps/>. Sarah Huddleston, Esha Karam, and Shea Vance, "Armstrong discusses campus access, Public Safety, and community engagement in first interview," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/19/armstrong-discusses-campus-access-public-safety-and-community-engagement-in-first-interview/>.

<sup>1156</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, "Columbia to consider institutional neutrality," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/17/columbia-to-consider-institutional-neutrality/>.



- The president’s advisory committee on institutional voice—co-chaired by Daniel Abebe, dean of the Law School, and Mark Mazower, a professor of history and Stavros Niarchos Foundation director of the Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination—would issue a set of recommendations on “the proper role of institutional voice in advancing Columbia’s academic mission and its commitment to open inquiry and free expression.” President Armstrong told *Spectator* that the policy Columbia is considering would still allow for statements that are “fundamental” to the central mission of the University.
- The Barnard chapter of the AAUP released a statement condemning the college’s new “Expectations for Community Conduct.”<sup>1157</sup>
  - “Designed without community input, issued without warning, and as vast as they are vague—these ‘expectations’ create a pretext for a dangerous infringement on freedom of expression and academic freedom. . . We reject the legitimacy of these policies and condemn any use of them to discipline community members.”
- *Spectator* reported: “Letter to the Editor: Task Force on Antisemitism co-chairs misrepresented Jewish colleagues’ concerns about latest report.”<sup>1158</sup>
  - “We appreciated the *Spectator*’s coverage of a letter from Jewish faculty warning of the limitations of the Columbia Task Force on Antisemitism’s recent report. But we are dismayed to see the letter misrepresented by two of the task force’s co-chairs—and to see the *Spectator* engage in false balance by printing their inaccurate statements at length.”

## September 18, 2024

- The chairs of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and House Committee on Energy and Commerce wrote a letter to Interim President Armstrong alleging a need to investigate “antisemitic harassment and intimidation” at Columbia and its associated medical centers.<sup>1159</sup>
  - Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), along with members of their subcommittees, requested seven points of information regarding Columbia’s compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to be submitted by October 2, 2024.
  - The requests for information included how the University’s medical programs and centers have held “responsible parties accountable for antisemitism arising on its campuses,” built a “safe environment” for its community, and complied with civil rights protections under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as well as how many complaints of antisemitic discrimination the medical programs have received this past year.
  - The chairs listed several alleged antisemitic incidents related to Columbia’s medical campus and health care services.
- *Spectator* published an op-ed from co-chairs of the Antisemitism Task Force: “Missing the point of our listening sessions.”<sup>1160</sup>

## September 19, 2024:

- Columbia University Jews for Ceasefire, the Columbia-Barnard chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America, and Mesarvot, an Israeli support network for conscientious objectors, co-hosted an “Israeli Refuseniks & Challenging the Draft” teach-in at the Intercultural Resource Center.<sup>1161</sup>
  - “Refuseniks” refers to “conscientious objectors,” or anyone who refuses to serve in the Israeli military in compliance with mandatory service for all citizens over the age of 18 with exemptions for certain minority groups.

<sup>1157</sup> Stahl, “Barnard AAUP chapter condemns new ‘Expectations for Community Conduct’.”

<sup>1158</sup> Arnold Aronson et al., “Letter to the Editor: Task Force on Antisemitism co-chairs misrepresented Jewish colleagues’ concerns about latest report,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 17, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/09/17/letter-to-the-editor-task-force-on-antisemitism-co-chairs-misrepresented-jewish-colleagues-concerns-about-latest-report/>.

<sup>1159</sup> Massel, “House committees pen letter to Columbia requesting information on antisemitism at medical campus.”

U.S. House of Representatives: Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Education and the Workforce, “Letter to Interim Columbia University President Katrina Armstrong,” (September 18, 2024).

<sup>1160</sup> Ester Fuchs, Nicholas Lemann, and David Schizer, “Missing the point of our listening sessions,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 18, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/09/18/missing-the-point-of-our-listening-sessions/>.

<sup>1161</sup> Daksha Pillai, “CU Jews for Ceasefire co-hosts Israeli ‘Refuseniks’ teach-in,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 22, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/22/cu-jews-for-ceasefire-co-hosts-israeli-refuseniks-teach-in/>.

- The teach-in featured a panel with two “refuseniks.”

## September 20, 2024:

- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>1162</sup>
  - The Task Force on Antisemitism opened the Senate’s discussion by answering six questions on the second report.
  - Task Force co-chairs Ester Fuchs, professor of international and public affairs and political science, David Schizer, dean emeritus of the Law School, and Nicholas Lemann, dean emeritus of the Journalism School, offered defenses of their work. Fuchs said that the criticisms misrepresented the Task Force and characterized them as “reprehensible.”
  - *Spectator* reported “University senators and the co-chairs of the Task Force on Antisemitism clashed in a heated debate over the task force’s second report at the University Senate plenary meeting on Friday in Schermerhorn Hall. Multiple senators raised concerns about whether the task force’s membership reflected a diverse range of views, the methodology employed in compiling the second report, and the lack of institutional resources devoted to examining discrimination faced by other protected classes at the University.”
  - Interim University President Katrina Armstrong delivered an update, discussing her vision for campus access and the presence of Public Safety on campus. As the University worked to “reevaluate” the presence of Public Safety on campus, administrators were aware of potential “consequences” the presence has on “the feeling of openness, dialogue, the feeling of not being watched.”
- Stand Columbia Society Newsletter “Issue #006: The NYPD Shouldn’t Be On Campus. We Can Change That.”<sup>1163</sup>
  - “The University Statutes say: Academic freedom implies that all officers of instruction are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subjects; that they are entitled to freedom in research and in the publication of its results; and that they may not be penalized by the University for expressions of opinion or associations in their private or civic capacity; but they should bear in mind the special obligations arising from their position in the academic community. Academic freedom is about the search for truth. However, a small minority of the community forgets the ‘special obligations; part of their position. We lost the self-awareness to recognize the difference between the ‘unbounded search for knowledge’ and the ‘erratic behavior and poor judgment that brings police to campus.’”

## September 21, 2024:

- At 10:24 AM Interim Dean of Undergraduate Student Life Roger Lehecka emailed Director Cohen “An answer to your question”: “I’m very sorry for the delay in responding to your question. I mistakenly thought that the answer was simple, but it turned out not to be. I now have some clarification about policies and practices to pass on. The guidance you noted for recognized student groups didn’t specify the separate policies the University has in place for vigils, protests, and demonstrations, and spoke to best practices as policies without making that distinction. For example, the Student Group Event Policy says ‘for a special event, space and service application must be completed and submitted no later than 10 business days (preferably 15 business days).’ Often advisers will encourage student groups to submit applications as early as possible. This additional time, based on best practice and past experience helps the USL adviser and campus event partners to more effectively support student groups in planning events safely and successfully. As a matter of policy, here are the links to categories of activities relevant for student groups: Student Group Events . . . – 10 business days’ notice prior to the event is required, including submitting all requests for venue and services (note, if the deadline specified for the venue is more than 10 business days in advance then that deadline must apply.) For a Special Event, space and service application must be completed and submitted no later than 10 business days (preferably 15 business days) before the requested date of the event, and the Final Event Review must be completed must be completed and approved before the date of the event. The adviser will send a notification to University Event

<sup>1162</sup> Columbia University Senate, “October 25, 2024 Plenary.”

Karam, “University senators clash with Task Force on Antisemitism co-chairs over second report at plenary.”

Sarah Huddleston and Shea Vance, “Armstrong details vision for Public Safety expanded campus access at senate plenary,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 24, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/24/armstrong-details-vision-for-public-safety-expanded-campus-access-at-senate-plenary/>.

Columbia University Senate, “September 20, 2024 Plenary.”

<sup>1163</sup> Stand Columbia Society, “Issue #006: The NYPD Shouldn’t Be On Campus. We Can Change That.” (September 20, 2024).

Management at the time that the group or organization applies for space to hold a Special Event. The event level will be determined following the Event Review . . . Please also note the policy does contain an exception that allows the University to consider events not submitted within 10 days on a case by case basis. Vigils . . . Vigils are limited to one hour in duration. Only one vigil may occur per day on any given campus. Vigils must be held within the hours of 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. unless special approval is granted. Student organizations must provide full outline of the vigil with their advisor one business day prior to partner with you and provide advise. Rules of University Conduct Guidelines - . . . Organizers or sponsors of demonstrations, protests, and other similar events should provide notice no later than at the time of their public announcement (including email or social media) to Public Safety and University Life, by emailing eventnotifications@columbia.edu or filling a webform at <https://eventnotifications.columbia.edu>, so that any preparations deemed necessary for ensuring the safety of the community may be made by the relevant campus office(s). We will work with our USL advisers to clarify the timelines by these various categories for our recognized student groups.”<sup>1164</sup>

### September 22, 2024:

- At 2:12 PM Director Cohen responded to Interim Dean Lehecka and added Dean of Religious Life Ian Rottenberg, Interim Executive Vice President for University Life and Senior Vice President for Columbia Health Melanie Bernitz, and Chair D’Armiento “Re: An answer to your question”: “Roger – I’m adding Ian (vigils) and Melanie (University policy) because the policies don’t make any sense to me. Adding Jeanine too since the protest rules apparently fall under the Senate. This seems to me to be a bigger and broader issue than the College. 1) 10-15 days advance notice is required of students groups, although exceptions can be made 2) Vigils are governed by strict time, place manner restrictions. Specifically – they must be requested at least 24 hours in advance, they can only happen between 5 and 7 PM, they can only last one hour and only one can take place per day. Candles must be battery operated or dripless so as to not get wax on the concrete. 3) Student protests can take place anywhere and any time as long as they don’t ‘substantially disrupt the University’s academic activities.’ Organizers only need to notify public safety and University life at the time the protest is publicized. Quiet recruiting apparently can take place without the University knowing about it and there is no clear definition of what ‘substantially disrupt the University’s academic activities’ means. Candles that drip normally are apparently not prohibited. Authorized student groups are placed under the most strict policies. I know the benefit of being a registered student org is that you can reserve space on campus and get a bit of funding benefit of being a registered student group is irrelevant. The policy governing vigils makes the most sense – quick turnaround, reasonable time, place, manner restrictions, etc. – but only if the rules governing student protest were different than what they are. To further clarify – if Students Supporting Israel, a group not affiliated with the Kraft Center but a registered student org, wanted to have controversial speaker on campus, they would need to work within a 10 or 15 day lead time. If students connected to SJP/CUAD etc want to organize a student protest and have someone speak defending the counter-offensive of Oct 7 ’23, they could do so from the Low Steps, with a bullhorn, at a time of their choosing, and they just need to notify the University of this at the time the protest is publicized (it can be publicized at 11:59 AM and start at noon). Am I missing something here? Is there any attempt to bring these policies/rules which seem to be at odds with another into great alignment?”<sup>1165</sup>

### September 23, 2024:

- In an interview for this report President Shafik stated: “it is also worth noting that I tried on numerous occasions to meet with student leaders but was told by my advisers that they were not interested. Fortunately, some of them came to listening sessions where we had good discussions.”<sup>1166</sup>
- Vice Provost for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Kirschstein announced a new policy and new procedures on antidiscrimination and discriminatory harassment for students in an email to the Columbia community.<sup>1167</sup>
  - The policy outlined students’ rights, reporting procedures, and the steps the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) will take after a report is made.

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<sup>1164</sup> Roger Lehecka, September 21, 2024.

<sup>1165</sup> Brian Cohen, September 22, 2024.

<sup>1166</sup> Shafik, interview.

<sup>1167</sup> Pallares, "Office of Institutional Equity announces new antidiscrimination and harassment policy."

Pickering, "Office of Institutional Equity issues new antidiscrimination and harassment policy training for students."

- The new policy provided a comprehensive framework to address and prevent discrimination and harassment, aligning with other key University policies such as gender-based misconduct & interim Title IX policy and the equal opportunity and affirmative action policies for faculty and staff.
- The resolution process to violations includes educational interventions, formal investigations, potential sanctions, and appeal options.
- The policy incorporated the New York State Students' Bill of Rights, a glossary of key terms, and practical examples to clarify its application.
- Expanding on its application, the policy featured mock scenarios that illustrate instances of discriminatory harassment and the University's responses to such behavior. Examples of scenarios that would violate the new policy include an Arab student group being surrounded and labeled "terrorists" and "jihad supporters," as well as a group of students surrounding a Jewish student wearing a yarmulke and saying, "No Zionists are welcome here. You support genocide."
- The policy stated that labeling speech as political or opinion-based does not shield students from sanctions since harassment motivated by political or religious beliefs, even in public settings, does not prevent "a finding of discriminatory harassment."
- OIE antidiscrimination and harassment policy published. The policy, defined in the training, provided a framework for addressing discrimination and discriminatory harassment made against an individual because of their "actual or perceived" membership in a protected class, which includes national origin, race, religion, and other characteristics. The OIE also investigates gender-based misconduct, such as Title IX violations.
- Dozens of Barnard and Columbia faculty members held a "community in crisis" teach-in outside of Barnard Hall to address Barnard's new "Expectations for Community Conduct" released on September 11, 2024.<sup>1168</sup>
  - In a press release announcing the event faculty stated: "these 'expectations' constitute a new policy restricting speech, expression, what we can hang on our doors, how we can gather, and what, ultimately, we can teach and discuss on campus."
  - The event attracted a large crowd of community members just inside Barnard's campus gates. In their speeches, several faculty members and alumni condemned Barnard's publication of over a dozen policies in the past year that they said limited speech and protest on campus.
  - Speakers included actress Cynthia Nixon, BC '88, who spoke about her disappointment in the Barnard administration over the past year.
- *Spectator* reported: "'I already felt unwelcome': Jewish students decline admission offers to Columbia over antisemitism concerns."<sup>1169</sup>
  - "Some Jewish students who applied to Columbia and Barnard wrote emails to the University turning down their spots after following the news of the last academic year, speaking to friends at Columbia, and discussing with their families."
  - *Spectator* spoke to six Jewish students who were accepted to Columbia or Barnard and declined their admissions offers, citing incidents of antisemitism and on-campus protests over the war in Gaza. Each of them said that they felt that Columbia would be unwelcoming for Jewish students.

#### September 24, 2024:

- In an email to the University community, Interim President Armstrong announced a new campus access system, simplified to three categories: O, I, and R. Under "O," all campus access points were open to the public. "I" signified that all campus access points are restricted to CUID holders. Under "R," only certain entry points were open and were also restricted to CUID holders. Campus remained restricted under "I" status. This system was set to replace a tiered, color-coded system that COO Holloway announced on July 10, 2024.<sup>1170</sup>

#### September 25, 2024:

<sup>1168</sup> Ria Vasishtha and Maya Stahl, "Dozens of Barnard faculty members hold teach-in, protest new 'Expectations for Community Conduct'," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 25, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/25/dozens-of-barnard-faculty-members-hold-teach-in-protest-new-expectations-for-community-conduct/>.

<sup>1169</sup> Rebecca Massel, "'I already felt unwelcome': Jewish students decline admission offers to Columbia over antisemitism concerns," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/23/i-already-felt-unwelcome-jewish-students-decline-admission-offers-to-columbia-over-antisemitism-concerns/>.

<sup>1170</sup> Bordoff and Davis, "Armstrong announces continuation and adjustment of restricted campus access system."

- Barnard released a new Expectations for Community Conduct document and a revised temporary Policy on Safe Campus Demonstrations. According to Barnard’s revised Policy for the Development and Revision Process for Barnard College Administrative Policies, “the Senior Staff may vote on a Policy without fully following the Policy Development Procedure outlined above,” when enacting “temporary policies.”<sup>1171</sup>

#### September 26, 2024:

- Over 300 community members, unions, and organizations signed onto a “Stop Staff Repression Now” petition condemning at least four “retaliatory firings” of Columbia and Barnard staff members for their participation in pro-Palestinian activism on campus.<sup>1172</sup>
  - The petition highlighted a former administrative assistant in a Columbia language department and union member of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 2110, who was allegedly terminated for “visiting” the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” on April 18.
  - “As outraged staff, we write this letter to condemn, in the strongest terms, the targeted firings of Columbia University and Barnard College workers for their participation in the movement for a free Palestine and divestment from Israel. These firings are an escalation in the coordinated campaign to suppress anti-Zionist speech and organizing at Columbia and Barnard, including organizing protected by federal law.”
  - The petition demanded the University reinstate the assistant and all fired workers, compensate former employees for “emotional and material harms,” and reach “An end to baseless HR investigations into anti-Zionist workers.”
  - It called upon unions in higher education to “treat the coordinated university suppression of protest of genocide as an emergency for the rights of all workers. Just as university policies governing student conduct were constantly revised to justify discipline for what had been previously normalized political activity, so too were new policies devised to prohibit staff from expressing solidarity with Palestine without risking termination. University HR investigations kicked into gear to quell staff involvement, leading to the first known staff firing in retaliation for visiting the Gaza Solidarity Encampment.”
  - The assistant was one of two fired staff members mentioned in the petition who belong to UAW Local 2110. The other unionized fired staff member worked at Barnard and was fired on the basis of “just cause” following “months of harassment carried out by supervisors and directed by executive-level university administration,” according to the petition.
- Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) held a “Palestine 101” event during which organizers discussed Palestinian history and culture, as well as ways for students to get involved in pro-Palestinian organizing on campus. Two Palestinian students spoke to attendees during the event, which took place online instead of in its originally planned location in Sakura Park due to bad weather. The speakers did not state their full names at the event.<sup>1173</sup>

#### September 27, 2024:

- At around 3:45 PM, dozens of pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathered at the Sundial for an “All out for Lebanon” protest, calling for Columbia’s divestment from Israel shortly after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke before the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations’ Manhattan headquarters.<sup>1174</sup>
  - The Morningside campus remained restricted to CUID-holders and several Public Safety officers stood around the demonstration area. NYPD officers were stationed outside campus.
  - Students protested Israel’s attacks in Lebanon, where a military escalation against Hezbollah had killed over 720 people.
  - Public Safety officers roped off a walkway between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel protesters about an hour and 15 minutes into the demonstration.

<sup>1171</sup> Stahl, “Barnard faculty issues statements condemning interim sanctions, revised policies.”

<sup>1172</sup> Maya Stahl, “Hundreds sign petition condemning firing of pro-Palestinian staff members,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/02/hundreds-sign-petition-condemning-firing-of-pro-palestinian-staff-members/>.

<sup>1173</sup> Surina Venkat, “CUAD organizers give overview of Palestinian history and culture in ‘Palestine 101’ event,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 1, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/01/cuad-organizers-give-overview-of-palestinian-history-and-culture-in-palestine-101-event/>.

<sup>1174</sup> Apurva Chakravarthy and Shea Vance, “Pro-Palestinian protesters hold ‘All out for Lebanon’ demonstration after Netanyahu UNGA address,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 27, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/27/pro-palestinian-protesters-hold-all-out-for-lebanon-demonstration-after-netanyahu-unga-address/>.

- Pro-Israel protesters chanted “Bring them home” as a representative from the Palestinian Youth Movement spoke to the crowd.
- A student suspended last year during the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment,” filed a lawsuit against the University for discrimination and allegedly breaching their “Tedeschi Rights.”<sup>1175</sup>
  - The students’ lawsuit centered on a series of disciplinary actions they faced after a controversial Instagram livestream in January—where they said “Zionists don’t deserve to live” while in a disciplinary meeting with the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI)—and their participation in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” in April 2024.
  - The suit alleged that Columbia violated the students’ rights by disciplining them twice for the same incident, potentially disclosing confidential information to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and discriminating against them for their race and pro-Palestinian views.
  - The lawsuit stated that “students in CSSI proceedings have many fewer rights than those in Columbia’s more traditional student conduct process, the University Judicial Board (‘UJB’),” specifically citing how students in CSSI proceedings must choose an advisor from a predetermined list of administrators and can be tried by a hearing officer outside the University. Students in UJB hearings, however, can select an attorney or advisor of their choice.
- *Spectator* reported: “Students face logistic hurdles and disappointment amid heightened campus security.”<sup>1176</sup>
  - At the time, there were nine entry points to Columbia’s Morningside campus that remained open at various times of day. There were only three official entry points open to Barnard’s campus, sometimes leading to a long line at the main gate on West 117th Street and Broadway.

#### September 28, 2024:

- At 10:00 PM [redacted Palestinian student] sent Public Safety an email “REPORT: Student making a threat towards Arab and Muslim students”: “A student on Columbia’s campus, [redacted] made a threat towards university affiliates, Arab and Muslim Columbia students. He stated to not come to campus on October 7<sup>th</sup> or else. I have attached a video link to [redacted student] threatening students below. I have also attached a video file of this incident occurring. This is a direct threat from [redacted student]. He has repeatedly engaged in discriminatory behavior towards Arab, Muslim, and Palestinian students. I fear for my personal safety as well as the safety of other Palestinian students. National origin and discrimination are protected classes. Protected classes are subject to federal and state discrimination law. As this issue is within public safety’s jurisdiction, I would appreciate public safety opening up a case and documenting this student’s behavior under harassment.”<sup>1177</sup>

#### October 2024 (specific date unknown):

- A member of the WhatsApp group, “Columbia Alumni for Israel,” Aliya Capital CEO Ari Shrage asked the group for help to “identify students who were protesting” and leaders of groups affiliated with CUAD and also wrote “we have a list and need people to do some research.” Shrage was an administrator for the group and a co-founder of the Columbia Jewish Alumni Association<sup>1178</sup>
  - On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors” about the chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia’s interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.

<sup>1175</sup> Davis, Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, and Cherukuri, “Kymani James files suit against Columbia alleging discrimination, breach of ‘Tedeschi Rights’.”

<sup>1176</sup> Avian Muñoz, “Students face logistic hurdles and disappointment amid heightened campus security” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, September 27, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/09/27/students-face-logistic-hurdles-and-disappointment-amid-heightened-campus-security/>.

<sup>1177</sup> [redacted student], September 28, 2024.

<sup>1178</sup> Huddleston, “In leaked messages, members of ‘Columbia Alumni for Israel’ group chat work to identify, punish pro-Palestinian protesters.” Lennard and Lacy, “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protesters.”

### October 1, 2024:

- @CampusJewHate posted on X “Joseph Slaughter and Susan Bernofsky are two well known faculty members that are proudly part of @fjsp\_cbt. They also happen to sit on @Columbia’s Senate Rules Committee. It doesn’t take an Ivy League degree to see the blatant conflict of interest here. The bigger question is @katrinarmstrong, what are you going to do about it?”<sup>1179</sup>
- Columbia held its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Giving Day, raising a total of \$21,362,592 after a one-year hiatus, a 28.8 percent decline in funds compared to 2022’s record-breaking year.<sup>1180</sup>
  - As the University grappled with a donor crisis – born out of concerns regarding campus protests – this year saw a 27.9 percent drop in the number of gifts, falling from 19,229 in 2022 to 13,870, the lowest since 2015.
  - This year was the first that the total monetary amount of donations declined from the previous Giving Day since the event’s inception in 2012.

### October 2, 2024:

- Subpoena deadline from House Committee on Education and the Workforce for requested seven points of information related to “antisemitic harassment and intimidation” at Columbia and its associated medical centers.<sup>1181</sup>
- Arbitration held for former administrative assistant and union member of UAW Local 2110 in a Columbia language department who was arrested after participation in the “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” and subsequently fired.<sup>1182</sup>
  - During the arbitration, the University presented at least three national news articles about Jewish student safety as grounds for the termination.
  - The employee said that the University first offered \$40,000 during her arbitration, but their lawyer countered with \$50,000 and the agreement that their termination “will be converted to a resignation,” according to the memorandum of the agreement. The University accepted this counteroffer. The employee said her \$50,000 settlement represented one year’s worth of pay.
  - The settlement was reached “amicably” under the condition that the employee was “ineligible for rehire” at Columbia. This employee was one of at least four “retaliatory firings” of Columbia and Barnard staff members for participating in pro-Palestinian protests on campus.

### October 3, 2024:

- The Barnard-Columbia Discipline Defense Corps, “a collective of students and faculty advisors and attorneys who have been advising them throughout Barnard and Columbia discipline proceedings relating to pro-Palestine student activism,” sent a letter to Interim President Armstrong and University administration and leadership: “We write to you to call for your leadership in this troubling time for our University. For the past several months, dating to the tenure of former president Minouche Shafik, the rules and procedures of this University have been misused and violated, inflicting undue violence upon Columbia and Barnard students, staff, faculty, as well as the Morningside Heights and Harlem communities. The extensive due process violations constitute a complete denial of justice, threaten the legitimacy of the University, and strip students of their dignity. These acts of violence have disproportionately affected Palestinian students and students of color. We write to you with a single ask: Amnesty.”<sup>1183</sup>
  - “Over the past year, we have seen the Barnard Code of Conduct Process (Office of Community Standards) and Columbia’s freshly-minted ‘Center for Student Success and Intervention’ evict students from their homes, leaving students without access to food and medication. The University called the New York Police Department (NYPD) onto campus on multiple occasions to brutalize and arrest hundreds of students engaging in peaceful protest and serving as legal observers. On one these occasions, the NYPD fired a gun in a school building in the direction of students. Students set to graduate in Spring 2024 had their diplomas revoked, rendering them unable to pursue research opportunities, fellowships, and jobs they had spent their Columbia and Barnard educations working towards. Plagued with delays, discipline cases remain in the ‘investigative’

<sup>1179</sup> @CampusJewHate, X, October 1, 2024.

<sup>1180</sup> Daniela Ospino Pallares and Joseph Zuloaga, “Columbia Giving Day donations down significantly amid donor crisis,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 3, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/03/columbia-giving-day-donations-down-significantly-amid-donor-crisis/>.

<sup>1181</sup> Massel, “House committees pen letter to Columbia requesting information on antisemitism at medical campus.”

<sup>1182</sup> Stahl, “Staff member reaches \$50,000 settlement with Columbia following termination.”

<sup>1183</sup> Barnard-Columbia Discipline Defense Corps, “Letter,” (October 3, 2024).

stage for months after the protests in question, leaving students in states of bureaucratic limbo, causing undue stress for notable portions of our University's population."

- "Interim sanctions have routinely been used as a method of collective punishment for any alleged participation in pro-Palestine political action. Students regularly experience months of punishment without any finding of responsibility for alleged Rules violations. For example, the University imposed interim suspension measures on over fifty (50) students who were allegedly present at an on-campus encampment on April 29; some of the students who received notice *were not even in New York that day*. Eventually, following the involvement of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, the University dropped all interim-suspensions measures pertaining to the April 29 encampment. Students targeted were mostly Palestinian, Arab, and students of color."
- "The message of these interim sanctions is clear: if students are 'suspected' of participating in any pro-Palestine activism, they will be punished."
- "Further, disciplinary officers have routinely flouted the University Rights of Respondents (§446) by refusing to substantively engage with student grievances, even those protected by the Rules of Conduct. When a conflict of interest claim was brought by over 40 students against Assistant Rules Administrator Torres, the University failed to provide a written rationale for maintaining Torres' position as Rules Administrator for their hearings, proceeding as if the claim had never been filed."
- Students and their attorneys were not provided with the official written complaints that supposedly precipitated the opening of investigations against them, and the arrival of evidentiary packets was sluggish. When evidentiary packets were produced, they consisted of little or no individualized content; each packet was dominated by vague testimony from Public Safety officers."
- "In some of the aforementioned cases, the University's negligence has septupled the recommended time frame for student discipline, unduly placing students in purgatory during an interminable process, unable to plan for their financial, personal, or academic futures, based solely on allegations that they participated in unsanctioned protest."
- "Accordingly, we ask that the University: 1 Immediately dismiss all ongoing disciplinary cases pertaining to student protests at Columbia University and Barnard College, with findings of non-responsibility for all students, and strike this discipline from student records. Conduct a comprehensive inquiry with stakeholders to develop a new Demonstration Policy, wherein all allegations of protest-related violations cases will proceed under the direct and unchallenged purview of the University Judicial Board 3) Update the University Rules to protect students' rights and cure the pitfalls that have corrupted the existing disciplinary cases. 4) Transfer and adjudicate all Barnard and Columbia protest cases to the University Judicial Board."
- CUAD published "RESISTANCE REACHES THE CORE OF THE ZIONIST REGIME | REPRESSION WON'T DIVIDE US | MOBILIZE THE MASSES TO ACHIEVE VICTORY" on Substack. In a series of posts on Substack, CUAD narrated its evolution since Spring 2024 from an organization that saw itself in April as a "continuation of the Vietnam antiwar movement" focused on pushing Columbia to divest from Israel to one that now openly backed armed resistance by Hamas and other groups.<sup>1184</sup>
  - Citing Vladimir Lenin and Frantz Fanon, the posts explained how solidarity was essential with members of the so-called Axis of Resistance — which includes Iran, Hezbollah, the Houthis and Hamas — because they oppose imperialism.

#### October 4, 2024:

- Stand Columbia Society published "Issue #009: Lessons from Stanford's New President." In this newsletter, the Society claimed "that when Columbia's Task Force on Antisemitism presented its second report to the Columbia University Senate on September 20, they originally asked students to partake in the presentation. A main part of their stated goal is to give a platform to Jewish and Israeli students" A student was "asked to speak" by the Task Force, "however, senate leadership 'outright' rejected the idea of students speaking as part of the presentation."<sup>1185</sup>

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<sup>1184</sup> CUAD, "RESISTANCE REACHES THE CORE OF THE ZIONIST REGIME | REPRESSION WON'T DIVIDE US | MOBILIZE THE MASSES TO ACHIEVE VICTORY," October 3, 2024, <https://cuapartheiddinvest.substack.com/p/resistance-reaches-the-core-of-the>.

Otterman, "Pro-Palestinian Group at Columbia Now Backs 'Armed Resistance' by Hamas."

<sup>1185</sup> Stand Columbia Society, "Issue #009: Lessons from Stanford's New President," (October 4, 2024).



- Senate procedure is such that only members of a committee or of a Task Force are allowed to speak on the floor of the plenary. The request for students to speak also came 30 minutes before plenary was set to begin. Senate staff, not “Senate leadership,” subsequently informed them of the procedure.

#### October 6, 2024:

- Interim President Armstrong emailed the Columbia community announcing heightened campus and building restrictions and increased Public Safety presence as the University prepared for a walkout on the anniversary of the October 7 attacks on Israel.<sup>1186</sup>
  - Armstrong wrote that the walkout was “not sanctioned,” which she later removed. Armstrong wrote that the walkout was “not notified through the process established by the Guidelines to the Rules of University Conduct.”
  - Armstrong wrote that the University would be evaluating building access and anticipated reduced building access at particular times in order to curtail the “risk of violence to any member of our community.” Armstrong did not detail which buildings would be restricted at what times.
  - The University also planned to increase Public Safety presence on campus.
  - Students could expect “more dividers and barricades than are commonly seen on campus.”
- Public Safety announced that all buildings on the Morningside campus—except for residential halls, Butler Library, and Lerner Hall—would be locked from 7:00 PM October 7 until 7:00 AM October 8.<sup>1187</sup>
- Barnard President Rosenbury emailed the Barnard community addressing campus access at Barnard October 7, 2024. Unlike at Columbia, guests who had already been approved to enter Barnard’s campus would maintain their approval status and pending approvals would continue to be reviewed. However, consideration of new guest requests was temporarily suspended. New guest requests submitted by faculty and staff would be reviewed for approval in partnership with the Provost’s office or other appropriate leadership.<sup>1188</sup>

#### October 7, 2024:

- At 12:23 AM, President Armstrong’s message from October 6, 2024 was revised to remove a description of a planned October 7 walkout as “not sanctioned.”<sup>1189</sup>
- At 1:28 AM members of the Student Affairs Committee of the University Senate sent a student-wide email regarding the recent changes to campus access, stating that the University does not sanction nor approve any demonstrations on campus, and provided information regarding the Rules of University Conduct.<sup>1190</sup>
- “Memory Lane” gallery installed on the west Side of South Lawn to mark the anniversary of the October 7 attack on Israel. The gallery featured oversized milk cartons with photos of Israeli hostages, paintings from both students and professional artists, portraits of hostages, and messages.<sup>1191</sup>
- From 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM the Trust Collaboratory hosted a listening table on South Lawn, where students, faculty, and staff discussed antisemitism on Columbia’s campus and the war in Gaza.<sup>1192</sup>
- Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters staged a walkout on Low Plaza organized by CUAD as part of Within Our Lifetime’s call to demonstrate throughout New York City on October 7.<sup>1193</sup>
  - Before the walkout, pro-Palestinian demonstrators continued their daily vigil, reading the names of over 50,000 Palestinians killed in the war in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

<sup>1186</sup> Massel, "Armstrong announces restricted campus access, increased Public Safety presence ahead of Oct. 7 protests."

<sup>1187</sup> Massel, "Armstrong announces restricted campus access, increased Public Safety presence ahead of Oct. 7 protests."

<sup>1188</sup> Massel, "Armstrong announces restricted campus access, increased Public Safety presence ahead of Oct. 7 protests."

<sup>1189</sup> Massel, "Armstrong announces restricted campus access, increased Public Safety presence ahead of Oct. 7 protests."

<sup>1190</sup> Massel, "Armstrong announces restricted campus access, increased Public Safety presence ahead of Oct. 7 protests."

<sup>1191</sup> Sarah Shapiro, "'Memory Lane' art exhibition honors Oct. 7 victims," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/arts-and-culture/2024/10/09/memory-lane-art-exhibition-honors-oct-7-victims/>.

<sup>1192</sup> Emily Pickering, "Trust Collaboratory hosts Oct. 7 listening table discussing the war in Gaza, on-campus antisemitism," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 9, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/08/trust-collaboratory-hosts-oct-7-listening-table-discussing-the-war-in-gaza-on-campus-antisemitism/>.

<sup>1193</sup> @Eliana\_Goldin, X, October 7, 2024.

Noah Bernstein and Eden Stranahan, "Columbia Faculty and Staff Supporting Israel hold 'Columbia United Against Terrorism demonstration on Low Plaza,'" *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 7, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/07/columbia-faculty-and-staff-supporting-israel-hold-columbia-united-against-terrorism-demonstration-on-low-plaza/>.

"One Year Since Al-Aqsa Flood Revolution Until Victory!," *The New York War Crimes*, October 7, 2024.

- Protesters held banners reading “We will honor all our martyrs,” “Free Gaza free speech,” and “Break the chains and let them fall” and Palestinian flags.
- Protesters chanted, “Free, free Palestine,” and “There is only one solution, intifada revolution.”
- Some individuals from CUAD distributed a newspaper “One Year Since Al-Aqsa Flood, Revolution Until Victory.” The cover featured a picture of Hamas fighters breaching the security fence to Israel. At the protest on-campus, someone also held a sign that said “Long Live the Al-Aqsa Flood Glory to the Resistance.” “Al-Aqsa Flood” is how Hamas referred to the October 7 attacks.
- Beside the protestors on the west side of Low Plaza, dozens of pro-Israel protesters gathered for a “Columbia United Against Terror” protest and stood holding Israeli and American flags and pictures of hostages taken on October 7, 2023.<sup>1194</sup>
  - Columbia Faculty and Staff Supporting Israel organized the demonstration.
  - Protestors chanted “We are Jewish, we are proud, we are going to be loud.”
  - Demonstrators also laid two large posters behind them on Low Plaza, one of which read “Free them now,” referencing the roughly 250 people who were kidnapped and have been held hostage by Hamas.
  - Professor Davidai briefly appeared.
- The University erected barricades along College Walk and up onto Low Plaza, dividing the area into two sides for the protest groups.<sup>1195</sup>
- Around 1:00 PM pro-Palestinian protestors left Low Plaza and began circling around the north end of campus. As they marched, protesters chanted “Globalize the intifada,” “Up, up with liberation, down, down with occupation,” and “Palestine is our demand, no peace on stolen land” as they passed the east side of Low Library. At this point, the “Columbia United Against Terror” protest had largely dispersed.<sup>1196</sup>
- As the protesters walked down the west side of Low Library to return to Low Plaza—chanting “One, we are the people, two, we won’t stop fighting, three, we want divestment now, now, now”—Professor Davidai stood in the middle of the crowd, yelling at a Public Safety official standing behind him that the protesters were “blocking my movement.” Davidai recorded the protesters on his phone and continued to remain inside the crowd. After all the protesters passed the area, an individual who was standing next to Davidai during the altercation said “You know that these are fucking terrorists on campus, honestly, terrorists. They’re straight-up fucking jihadi terrorists.”<sup>1197</sup>
  - According to examples outlined in Columbia’s antidiscrimination policy implemented on September 23, 2024 calling students “terrorists” and “jihad supporters” may constitute a violation of the policy if tied to students’ shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics.
- During the CUAD walkout, Professor Davidai confronted Assistant Director of Public Safety, Bobby Lau: “You are such a useless administrator. But you know what, there were so many useless administrators in Nazi Germany, and you know what? After the war, they said they did everything they could.” A video of the confrontation circulated on X.<sup>1198</sup>
- During the CUAD walkout, Professor Davidai confronted COO Holloway: “you are indifferent and you know what? Hatred happens when people like you are indifferent. You are the chief operating officer of Columbia. Do you realize that?” A video of the confrontation circulated on X.<sup>1199</sup>
- Once back on Low Plaza, pro-Palestinian protesters continued to chant before a speaker announced that the group would begin to move to the Within Our Lifetime (WOL) protest off-campus. The speaker read out community safety guidelines, including moving in pairs or small groups.<sup>1200</sup>

<sup>1194</sup> Massel, “Armstrong announces restricted campus access, increased Public Safety presence ahead of Oct. 7 protests.”

Bernstein and Stranahan, “Columbia Faculty and Staff Supporting Israel hold ‘Columbia United Against Terrorism demonstration on Low Plaza.” @Eliana\_Goldin.

<sup>1195</sup> Sarah Huddleston and Maya Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protestors stage walkout on Low Steps on Oct. 7,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/07/pro-palestinian-protestors-stage-walkout-on-low-steps-on-oct-7/>.

<sup>1196</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protestors stage walkout on Low Steps on Oct. 7.”

<sup>1197</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protestors stage walkout on Low Steps on Oct. 7.”

<sup>1198</sup> Aleka Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, “Hundreds of Columbia affiliates sign letter condemning suspension of Shai Davidai, calling for reversal,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 2, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/02/hundreds-of-columbia-affiliates-sign-letter-condemning-suspension-of-shai-davidai-calling-for-reversal/>.

@falchedominicci, X, October 7, 2024, <https://x.com/falchedominicci/status/1843344267709952007>.

<sup>1199</sup> @ShaiDavidai.

<sup>1200</sup> Huddleston and Stahl, “Pro-Palestinian protestors stage walkout on Low Steps on Oct. 7.”

- Dozens of pro-Israel protesters gathered outside the 116th Street and Broadway gates to commemorate those killed and taken hostage by Hamas on October 7, 2023.<sup>1201</sup>
  - The rally featured speeches from Professor Davidai, Barnard and Columbia alumni, Columbia professors, and a representative from End Jew Hatred.
  - Speakers reflected on their personal experiences hearing about the attacks a year ago and paid tribute to friends and family in Israel.
  - The event was publicized by Davidai, Fight Jew Hate, Jews of NY, and Jewish Hate Database in an Instagram post: “Flood the gates of Columbia University (Broadway & 116th Street) on Monday October 7th to rally for our victims and heroes and act against extremist groups attempting to hijack and seize control of our moment to remember. . . They are aiming to rewrite history, push their twisted agenda and flip the narrative to prevent Jews from honoring the memories of those lost in the October 7th massacre.”
- Columbia’s chapter of SJP shared a statement titled “Commemorating One Year of the Strategic and Anti-Imperialist al-Aqsa Flood,” an edited version of an op-ed titled “October 7th was Not ‘Barbaric’ or ‘Unfortunate’—It was Strategic and Anti-imperialist” originally published by *The Worker* on January 22, 2024.<sup>1202</sup>
  - The statement was sent as a PDF titled “Oct7Rationale” to SJP’s telegram channel, which has over 3,900 subscribers.
  - It described the “objectives” of Hamas’s October 7 attack on Israel as outlined in an October 9, 2023 statement by then-head of Hamas’s political bureau Ismail Haniyeh.
  - The SJP statement added some language to the original op-ed, including a description of Israeli police attacks on Palestinians as having “increased in brutality over the past few years” and referenced previous Israeli force used against Palestinian worshippers at the al-Aqsa mosque.
  - SJP added: “The Palestinian resistance is moving their struggle to a new phase of escalation and it is our duty to meet them there. It is our duty to fight for our freedom!”

#### October 8, 2024:

- CUAD apologized for the “irrevocable harm” done to a student who had posted a January Instagram live video of a CSSI meeting, during which the student said, “Zionists don’t deserve to live” and “Be grateful that I’m not just going out and murdering Zionists.” This video resurfaced in April.<sup>1203</sup>
  - Organizers wrote that an April apology the student read was written by “several CUAD organizers,” not the student and “does not represent” the student or “CUAD’s values or political lines.”
  - CUAD wrote that the organization does “support liberation by any means necessary, including armed resistance” and that “in the face of violence from the oppressor equipped with the most lethal military force on the planet, where you’ve exhausted all peaceful means of resolution, violence is the only path forward. We are proud to be a part of the fight for the liberation of all oppressed peoples.”
  - CUAD further apologized to “all those fighting for Palestinian liberation that we alienated” by “compromising our values and tailoring our actions and narrative to the mainstream media.”
  - “The anti-blackness and queerphobia” that the student “experienced, and continues to experience, from neo-liberals, neo-liberal media, and fascists is disgusting.”
  - The student reposted CUAD’s apology on X and thanked the organizers for their “beautiful, powerful letter.” “I never wrote the neo-liberal apology posted in late April, and I’m glad we’ve set the record straight once and for all. . . Anything I said, I meant it.”
  - CUAD wrote that it “will continue working towards holding ourselves accountable by keeping true to our political lines, learning in public, refusing to treat one another as disposable, and not bending to neo-liberal media.”

<sup>1201</sup> Isha Banerjee, “Fight Jew Hate and Business School professor Shai Davidai hold protest outside 116th Street and Broadway gates,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 7, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/07/fight-jew-hate-and-business-school-professor-shai-davidai-hold-protest-outside-116th-street-and-broadway-gates/>.

<sup>1202</sup> Esha Karam and Shea Vance, “Columbia SJP shares statement ‘Commemorating One Year of the Strategic and Anti-Imperialist al-Aqsa Flood’ on anniversary of Oct. 7 attack,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 8, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/08/columbia-sjp-shares-statement-commemorating-one-year-of-the-strategic-and-anti-imperialist-al-aqsa-flood-on-anniversary-of-oct-7-attack/>.  
Otterman, “Pro-Palestinian Group at Columbia Now Backs ‘Armed Resistance’ by Hamas.”

<sup>1203</sup> Emily Forgash, “Stefanik, Ernst pen letter urging FBI to investigate CUAD for making ‘violent threats,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 14, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/14/stefanik-ernst-pen-letter-urging-fbi-to-investigate-cuad-for-making-violent-threats/>.  
Cherukuri, “CUAD issues apology to Khymani James, CC ‘25.”

- Vice Provost Kirschstein emailed all Columbia employees to announce that Columbia modified its Title VI training for employees as part of “ongoing efforts to cultivate a campus environment free from discrimination and harassment.” The new training was called “Fairness and Equal Opportunity at Columbia: Columbia’s Institutional Commitment to Protecting Individual Rights.”<sup>1204</sup>
  - “We have developed this training to not only ensure clarity and compliance with Title VI, but to assist you in navigating difficult situations and in understanding your obligations as an employee of the University.”
  - Kirschstein wrote that training materials were developed over the summer in partnership with administration, faculty, and staff.
  - The 45-minute training consisted of materials that broadly explain the scope and protections of Title VI and related Columbia policies, reinforcing the University’s various commitments regarding antidiscrimination and anti-harassment within the community. The training explained what conduct might violate Title VI, what constituted a hostile environment under the statute, and the reporting process for alleged prohibited conduct, which was to be overseen by the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE).
  - The training used various hypothetical case studies to illustrate the guidance on discrimination and harassment and demonstrate what prohibited conduct might look like. There were specific hypothetical examples of potential violations of Title VI related to campus protests and issues of academic freedom.
  - The training concluded that “academic freedom is not unlimited.”
  - The training slides provided guidance on how employees should report instances of prohibited conduct to OIE. This office would handle student discrimination complaints, whereas these reports were previously directed to the Office of Educational Opportunity and Affirmative Action.

#### October 9, 2024:

- The University released new Title VI training for all employees. The training outlined the limitations of academic freedom, using fictional examples of discriminatory conduct that strays from “expressing differences of opinion.”<sup>1205</sup>
- Interim President Armstrong, Provost Olinto, and the University Senate Executive Committee released a statement titled “Calls for Violence Have No Place at Columbia.” The statement came one day after CUAD published a statement apologizing to a student who said “Zionists don’t deserve to live” in a January livestream. The statement stated: “this has seemed so fundamental that it did not require saying; to hear such things in our community is an aberration, whether or not protected by the First Amendment. . . We must be clear: calls for violence have no place at this or any university.” The statement also added that the University’s campus “cannot be open” while safety is uncertain.<sup>1206</sup>
- *Spectator* reported “‘It’s hard to stay silent’: Pro-Palestinian athletes on the risks of speaking out at Columbia detailing the experiences of several student athletes over the past year.”<sup>1207</sup>

#### October 10, 2024:

- Barnard Vice President and General Counsel Serena Longley, BC ’06, provided notice of a proposed new “Partisan Political Campaign and Lobbying Policy” in an email to the Barnard community.<sup>1208</sup>
  - The policy was set to replace the existing “Political Activity Policy” in preparation for the upcoming presidential election.
  - While Longley suggested that community members read the policy in full, she highlighted three key takeaways, including the narrowing of the policy to discuss “only partisan and campaign political activity,” the removal of the definition of a “political statement,” and clarified guidance on lobbying.

<sup>1204</sup> Cameron Spurr, “University issues new Title VI discrimination and harassment training to all Columbia employees,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 23, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/23/university-issues-new-title-vi-discrimination-and-harassment-training-to-all-columbia-employees/>.

<sup>1205</sup> Pickering, “Office of Institutional Equity issues new antidiscrimination and harassment policy training for students.”

<sup>1206</sup> Molly Bordoff, “University condemns ‘calls for violence’ on campus following CUAD, SJP statements,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 11, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/11/university-condemns-calls-for-violence-on-campus-following-cuad-sjp-statements/>.

<sup>1207</sup> Heather Chen and Takashi Williams, “‘It’s hard to stay silent’: Pro-Palestinian athletes on the risks of speaking out at Columbia,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 9, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/sports/2024/10/09/its-hard-to-stay-silent-pro-palestinian-athletes-on-the-risks-of-speaking-out-at-columbia/>.

<sup>1208</sup> Molly Bordoff, “Barnard proposes new ‘Partisan Political Campaign and Lobbying Policy’ to replace ‘Political Activity Policy,’” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 13, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/13/barnard-proposes-new-partisan-political-campaign-and-lobbying-policy-to-replace-existing-political-activity-policy/>.

- *Spectator* reported “Years of protests, policy changes reignites debate on shared governance at Columbia: The decades-old discussion is taking on a new relevance as the University grapples with rebuilding trust among its constituents.”<sup>1209</sup>
  - “But despite its conception in the wake of protest and police violence on campus, that system of shared governance has cracked under the pressure of campus upheaval over the war in Gaza, exposing fractures that had been forming beneath the surface for decades. Those in favor of shared governance at Columbia—including the University’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors—have for years expressed concern about the state of the University’s governmental structure. Now, protests, unilateral policy changes, and centralized administrative decision-making during former University President Minouche Shafik’s tenure have sparked a new conversation about the role of the faculty, staff, and students in the governance of the 269-year-old institution.”
  - “Over the years, however, the University has seen a consolidation of administrative power, a phenomenon some faculty have diagnosed as the corporatization of the modern university.”
  - “Some faculty see corporatization at Columbia—which mirrors trends of increased corporate governance across institutions of higher education—as decentering the University’s academic mission and treating its operation as a business.”
  - “Shafik’s tenure at Columbia was heavily defined by the upper administrators around her, including executive vice presidents, the provost, and the COO, all positions that saw turnover during her tenure and played varying roles in the University’s response to campus protests.”
  - “For all the criticism Shafik faced for her handling of protests in the spring—calling in the New York Police Department once to sweep the ‘Gaza Solidarity Encampment’ and again for occupied Hamilton Hall—the president is only one of several senior administrators making decisions at the University, and the structure of governance for which Shafik drew criticism during her tenure was not solely of her own creation.”
- Dr. Andrew Marks and David J. Greenwald Professor of Law Joshua Mitts invited Chair D’Armiento to a meeting in the Law School to discuss questions about the Rules of University Conduct. Chair D’Armiento additionally brought Senator David Pozen, a professor at the Law School.<sup>1210</sup>
  - During the November 22, 2024, University Senate Plenary, while discussing a petition regarding Chair D’Armiento’s conduct as chair, Chair D’Armiento described the meeting: “Sen. D’Armiento stated that in advance of the petition in front of us that she had been asked by Senator Marks to meet with Professor Mitts in order to address many of the issues stated in the petition. She met with Professor Mitts, Sen. Marks and was accompanied by Professor David Pozen, a member of the Rules Committee. She was then surprised to see the petition subsequently submitted after she had already met with Professor Mitts to address his concerns. Sen. D’Armiento expressed she had never experienced a situation like this in dealing with her professional colleagues.”

#### October 11, 2024:

- At 2:04 PM Chair D’Armiento followed up with Professor Mitts via email: “Thank you for meeting with David, Andy and I yesterday. I know the Rules committee is addressing the issues you had brought to us. Today new information has been posted with regard to notifications and designation of space for protests and this will be communicated to the student body. Please feel free to reach out again if you want to discuss any other Senate issues. I appreciate your engagement. There will be several town halls organized by the Rules committee during the Rules change process and it will help if many in the community engage with the committee during this time to provide feedback.”<sup>1211</sup>
- At 2:36 PM Professor Mitts responded to Chair D’Armiento: “Many thanks for this kind note. It was wonderful meeting you, and I really appreciate you taking the time to come by the law school. I look forward to more conversations in the future.”<sup>1212</sup>

<sup>1209</sup> Karam and Vance, “Year of protests, policy changes reignites debate on shared governance at Columbia.”

<sup>1210</sup> Columbia University Senate, “December 13, 2024 Plenary.”

Joshua Mitts, October 9, 2024.

Joshua Mitts, October 11, 2024.

Jeanine D’Armiento, October 9, 2024.

D’Armiento.

<sup>1211</sup> D’Armiento.

<sup>1212</sup> Mitts.

- Law Firm Covington & Burling LLP wrote a letter to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on behalf of Columbia related to the Committee’s subpoena request.<sup>1213</sup>
  - “On behalf of our client Columbia University, this letter and the accompanying materials are a supplemental response to the Committee’s August 21, 2024, subpoena addressed to Columbia Interim President Dr. Katrina Armstrong. This letter and the accompanying materials are also a supplemental response to the Committee’s August 21, 2024, subpoena addressed to Ms. Claire Shipman, which we are transmitting as a courtesy to the Committee on her behalf. These materials may also be responsive to the Committee’s February 12, 2024, letter and various supplemental requests. Columbia continues to collect and review materials in response to the Committee’s requests, and we anticipate making supplemental productions.”
  - Columbia provided House Committee on Education and the Workforce a spreadsheet dividing disciplinary cases into demonstration and non-demonstration-related categories. Under the “Demonstration-Related Cases” subheading, Columbia listed eight separate events spanning from the first “Gaza Solidarity Encampment” to the “Revolt for Rafah” encampment. The spreadsheet excluded the suspensions and evictions that resulted from the March 24, 2024 “Resistance 101” event. Barnard also submitted a spreadsheet that listed each case student-by-student with names redacted. A total of 76 Barnard students had undergone disciplinary proceedings since October 7, 2023, beginning with 13 students identified as allegedly participating in a December 11, 2023 protest on the college’s campus. Columbia produced its demonstration and non-demonstration related incident reports starting from April 18, 2023.
  - Numerous incident reports filed to the University were later published in the October 31, 2024 Republican Staff Report. While names of students were redacted, many incidents had clearly identifiable information. Furthermore, these published incident reports had been, in some cases, dismissed or found to not have any evidence to substantiate them. In at least one instance, the report published a complaint that contained clearly identifiable information of a student, yet the alleged incident never happened. The student had not seen the complaint against them until published in the report. In another case, information such as school of enrollment and national origin were given by Columbia and published in the report. No students were notified by the Administration in advance or after the report’s publication that any incident reports involving them were sent to Congress.
  - “As you know, we have had several conversations with the Committee staff regarding the Committee’s request for a list of all disciplinary cases since October 7, 2023, and the difficulty of providing such information because it is not maintained in the ordinary course in a manner that facilitates the efficient generation of such a list. Additionally, disciplinary information is subject to frequent change, such as the transfer of many of the cases related to the events on campus in April 2024 to the University Judicial Board pursuant to the Rules of University Conduct, as we have discussed with your staff. Nonetheless, in an effort to respond to the Committee’s request for information regarding discipline, and further to our conversation with the Committee staff, we are today providing, in the attached document, updated information regarding discipline cases identified in Appendix A of our August 8, 2024 letter (as revised on August 14, 2024) that relate to Columbia-affiliated student respondents. Columbia has made best efforts to collect and provide this information as accurately and completely as possible. Given the limitations of the University’s systems discussed above and with your staff, this information may be incomplete or inaccurate, and we reserve the right to revise or update this information as necessary. We anticipate providing additional information on sanctions imposed in certain discipline cases early next week.”
  - “As with prior responses, today’s production includes limited redactions to protect personally identifiable information and to comply with Columbia’s obligations under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.”
  - Columbia requested that the materials submitted “be treated as confidential and not disclosed outside the Committee and its staff. . . By producing materials to the Committee, Columbia does not intend to, and does not, waive any applicable privilege or other legal basis under which information may not be subject to production. . . We appreciate the Committee’s commitment, conveyed by your staff, to protect student identities that may be referenced in or derived from these materials.”

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<sup>1213</sup> Huddleston, “Columbia’s production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns.”

Shea Vance, “Columbia ‘did not consent’ to publication of confidential documents in congressional report, spokesperson says,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/03/columbia-did-not-consent-to-publication-of-confidential-documents-in-congressional-report-spokesperson-says/>.

Brian Smith, ed. Covington & Burling LLP (October 11, 2024), Letter.

- Stand Columbia Society published “Issue #010: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly: A Sober Assessment of October 7, 2024 on Columbia’s Campus.”<sup>1214</sup>
  - The newsletter stated that on October 7, 2024 “Title VI and other reports were filed, suggesting that people are relying on the system to work.”
  - The newsletter criticized the Rules of University Conduct and the discipline process for violations: “Rules were disregarded, without consequences (yet). The art installation went through proper University procedures on time, place, and manner, reserving the space weeks ago. The protests did not. Moreover, protestors at one point breached a barrier, spilled out of their assigned zone and overwhelmed the Public Safety cordon meant to keep the crowds separated. No repercussions so far.”
  - The newsletter criticized the role of the University Senate: “A power struggle has spilled into public view. On October 6 at 3:13 PM, President Armstrong sent a campus-wide email. On October 7 at 1:28 AM, members of the University Senate sent around a contradictory campus-wide email. Mixed public facing messages in a crisis is not a good look. As we’ve explained, the Senate is supposed to be part of University leadership with the President as its presiding officer – not a counterweight or ‘opposition party’. This could be a great moment for the Senate to step up and demonstrate responsible leadership that justifies its considerable delegation of power.”
  - The newsletters recommendations for the University:
    - “Swift and transparent consequences for rule breakers. Now that new disciplinary processes are in place, rule-breakers must face immediate and explicit penalties whose aggregate outcomes are publicly communicated. With protest dynamics shifting from peaceful dissent to calls for violence – as recently reported by the New York Times – serious action is essential. Without visible consequences, nobody will take these prohibitions seriously. Unfortunately, Columbia has deeply-ingrained habits (compounded in the past by naively indulgent signals from the top) of not enforcing its rules.”
    - The newsletter argued that there are “extremists” on campus and “this presents a national security risk well beyond the scope of free speech that may be of interest to the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Asset Control and the Department of Justice’s National Security Division (FARA Unit). Left unchecked, we fear it is only a matter of time before some unhinged individual decides to stop ‘playing make-believe’ and turns to actual violence.”
    - “Close the ‘masking loophole.’ No more masking to dodge accountability. Columbia needs to find a way to enforce this effectively, and it can’t be put off any longer. One potential idea: under Columbia’s current policies, any Columbia student or employee visiting CUIMC/NYP is required to wear a visible ID on the outside of their clothing for easy identification at all times. Other Columbia buildings require it for access after hours. The administration might consider extending that policy to all affiliates on campus, indoors and outdoors, under condition ‘R’ (restricted). Anyone not wearing their ID should be presumed a non-affiliate and either be required to produce ID or be escorted off-campus.”
  - At the end of the newsletter in a breakdown of news highlights: “October 10, 2024: The *Spectator* gave a detailed account of the recent ferment facing Columbia’s shared governance structures, a topic we have written about at length. They discuss a perceived ‘centralization’ or ‘corporatization’ of decision-making formerly exercised by the faculties. The *Spectator* article is mostly accurate, but with one glaring exception: they describe Columbia as ‘operat[ing] under three branches of government: the administration, the board of trustees, and the University Senate.’ That is not correct. The Trustees hold complete authority with respect to the University, and all subdivisions of University government are ultimately accountable to them. The powers delegated to the President and to the University Senate are a voluntary delegation of authority that can be modified at any time, although the current fragile balance of power discourages any unilateral shifts.”
- *Spectator* published op-ed “Without Amnesty, Columbia and Barnard threaten their own legitimacy.”<sup>1215</sup>
  - “We, the Barnard-Columbia Discipline Defense Corps, a collective of students, faculty advisers, and attorneys, have advised those under investigation throughout Barnard and Columbia’s disciplinary proceedings relating to pro-Palestinian student activism. The administration’s extensive due process

<sup>1214</sup> Stand Columbia Society, "Issue #010: The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly: A Sober Assessment of October 7, 2024 on Columbia’s Campus," (October 11, 2024).

<sup>1215</sup> Barnard-Columbia Discipline Defense Corps, "Without amnesty, Columbia and Barnard threaten their own legitimacy," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 11, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/10/11/without-amnesty-columbia-and-barnard-threaten-their-own-legitimacy/>.

- violations constitute a complete denial of justice, threaten the University's legitimacy, and strip students of their dignity. *We have a principal ask: Grant them amnesty.*"
- "The ongoing disciplinary cases related to pro-Palestinian activism must be dropped due to the University's repeated failure to uphold students' due process rights in the disciplinary process. Before holding hearings, Columbia imposed 'interim measures' that evicted students from their homes, precluded them from attending classes and completing their spring 2024 coursework, and placed them on disciplinary probation. The interim measures imposed on students for alleged participation in the 'Gaza Solidarity Encampment,' the occupation of Hind's Hall, and the 'Revolt for Rafah' encampment were imposed prior to any official finding of responsibility."
  - "Founded ostensibly to take a rehabilitative, holistic approach to student conduct, CSSI has conducted disciplinary meetings for pro-Palestinian students equipped with a power that even the University Judicial Board does not wield: levying interim measures. Where CSSI was founded to help address students' need for food, shelter, and other necessities, CSSI has instead evicted students, removed them from campus, and deprived them of food and housing for which students rely on the University. Although the University maintains the CSSI process is 'educational' and not 'adversarial,' CSSI communicated to students involved with the protest in Hind's Hall that they would be subject to expedited hearings with the expectation of future expulsion. It is difficult to believe that a process with potentially life-altering consequences without a prior hearing is merely educational."
  - "The University must not share information from disciplinary proceedings with state or federal police agencies, pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. This includes the refusal to disclose the outcome of any student disciplinary proceeding."

#### October 14, 2024:

- Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) and Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) sent a letter to James Dennehy, Assistant Director in charge of the New York Field Office of the FBI, claiming that CUAD's October 8, 2024 Instagram post contained "violent threats" that "demand immediate attention and a thorough investigation to prevent any acts of terrorism."<sup>1216</sup>
- *Spectator* reported: "Engineering Student Council's survey results show majority support for divestment from Israel, ending the dual degree program with Tel Aviv University, and canceling the opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center."<sup>1217</sup>

#### October 15, 2024:

- Covington & Burling LLP wrote a letter to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on behalf of Columbia related to the Committee's subpoena request.<sup>1218</sup>
  - "On behalf of our client Columbia University, this letter provides a further response to the Committee's request for a list of all disciplinary cases since October 7, 2023. We have discussed with the Committee staff the difficulty of providing such information because it is not maintained in the ordinary course in a manner that facilitates the efficient generation of such a list. Nonetheless, in an effort to respond to the Committee's request for information regarding discipline, and further to our conversation with the Committee staff, we previously provided updated information regarding discipline cases identified in Appendix of our August 8, 2024 letter (as revised on August 14, 2024) that relate to Columbia-affiliated student respondents."
  - "Today, we are providing additional disciplinary information regarding sanctions that have been imposed in certain cases. In cases arising from issues related to the October 7, 2023, attacks, between October 7, 2023, and June 30, 2024, and for cases other than those being processed under the Rules of University Conduct as described in our October 1, 2024, letter, the University has implemented the following actions as final sanctions in disciplinary cases: four students have been placed on disciplinary suspension; nine students have been placed on disciplinary probation; thirty-two students have been placed on conditional disciplinary probation; and four students have received disciplinary warnings. Additionally, about fifteen students have had mandatory educational conversations as part of an alternative resolution process."

<sup>1216</sup> Forgash, "Stefanik, Ernst pen letter urging FBI to investigate CUAD for making 'violent threats'."

<sup>1217</sup> Tulasi Cherukuri and Ria Vasishtha, "ESC survey results show majority support for divestment from Israel," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 14, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/14/esc-survey-results-show-majority-support-for-divestment-from-israel/>.

<sup>1218</sup> Huddleston, "Columbia's production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns." Smith.



- “A Petition for Senate Action to the University Senate Pursuant to Section 1(M) of the Senate Bylaws ‘On the Governance of the Chair of the Executive Committee’” published expressing concern that the University Senate might reelect Executive Committee Chair D’Armiento for a fourth consecutive term.<sup>1219</sup>
  - “Good governance also ensures that Senate leadership, including the Chair of the Executive Committee, act in an impartial manner towards all Senators. Unfortunately, allegations have been made that the current Chair has at times not done so (see Appendix). These allegations undermine the community’s trust in the Senate and impair the Senate’s legitimacy.”
  - “The arts and humanities faculty are thus over-represented on the Rules Committee.”
- Professor Davidai temporarily barred from campus for “repeatedly harass[ing] and intimidat[ing] University employees in violation of University policy.”<sup>1220</sup>
  - “Columbia has consistently and continually respected Assistant Professor Davidai's right to free speech and to express his views. His freedom of speech has not been limited and is not being limited now. Columbia, however, does not tolerate threats of intimidation, harassment, or other threatening behavior by its employees.”
  - Davidai’s campus access would be restored once he went through a training on University policies for employee behavior.
  - Though Davidai was restricted from entering campus, these limitations did not affect his compensation or status as a faculty member.
  - The University offered to provide Davidai with alternative office space off campus.
- Professor Davidai publicized the University’s decision to restrict him from campus in a video that has since been deleted from his Instagram account. In the video Professor Davidai stated: “The University has decided to not allow me to be on campus anymore. . . Why? Because of October 7<sup>th</sup>. Because I was not afraid to stand up to the hateful mob. And because I was not afraid to expose Mr. fucking Cas Holloway.”<sup>1221</sup>

#### October 16, 2024:

- Professor Franke announced in a post on X: “I have filed an ethics complaint against @OuttenGolden, the law firm that I hired to represent me when @Columbia launched an unfounded & politicized investigation of me because I condemned violent attacks ag pro-Palestinian student protesters on our campus.” The post received nearly 1 million views.<sup>1222</sup>
- At around 5:00 PM a group of anti-Zionist Jewish students constructed a “Liberation Sukkah for Palestine” on the first day of the Jewish holiday Sukkot. The group was planning to stay on the lawn for a week until the end of Sukkot, according to a member of the organizing collective.<sup>1223</sup>

#### October 17, 2024:

- CUAD posted “COMMEMORATING AL-AQSA FLOOD | HONORING OUR MARTYRS | TACTICAL LESSONS FROM BRAZILIAN STUDENTS” on Substack. In a series of posts on Substack, CUAD narrated its evolution since Spring 2024 from an organization that saw itself in April as a “continuation of the Vietnam antiwar movement” focused

<sup>1219</sup> “A PETITION FOR SENATE ACTION TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 1(M) OF THE SENATE BYLAWS ‘ON THE GOVERNANCE OF THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE’,” (October 15, 2024), Petition.

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/2/d/e/2PACX-1vSxcl67hGnDmAOpqWJ7FZQ8NOh2rvfaQGG-cxkmu5MCP2l92H4cUCyFu4yWk6BxsylWAoUr6cRLHHWh/pub#ftnt7>.

Rebecca Massel, “Over 250 community members sign a petition expressing concern over possible reelection of University Senate chair,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/16/over-250-community-members-sign-a-petition-expressing-concern-over-possible-reelection-of-university-senate-chair/>.

<sup>1220</sup> Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, “Hundreds of Columbia affiliates sign letter condemning suspension of Shai Davidai, calling for reversal.”

Massel, “Columbia suspends Shai Davidai’s campus access after he allegedly ‘harassed and intimidated’ University employees.”

<sup>1221</sup> Massel, “Columbia suspends Shai Davidai’s campus access after he allegedly ‘harassed and intimidated’ University employees.”

<sup>1222</sup> @ProfKFranke, X, October 16, 2024.

<sup>1223</sup> Judy Goldstein et al., “In Focus: The first night of the ‘Liberation Sukkah’,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/photo-essays/2024/10/17/in-focus-the-first-night-of-the-liberation-sukkah/>.

Maya Stahl and Shea Vance, “Anit-Zionist Jewish students build ‘Liberation Sukkah’ on Math lawns,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 16, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/16/anti-zionist-jewish-students-build-liberation-sukkah-on-math-lawns/>.

on pushing Columbia to divest from Israel to one that now openly backed armed resistance by Hamas and other groups.<sup>1224</sup>

- Citing Vladimir Lenin and Frantz Fanon, the posts explained how solidarity was essential with members of the so-called Axis of Resistance — which includes Iran, Hezbollah, the Houthis and Hamas — because they oppose imperialism.

#### October 19, 2024:

- *Spectator* published Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition (CPSC) op-ed “Recentering Palestine, reclaiming the movement.”<sup>1225</sup>
  - “The Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition is a collective of Palestinian student organizers who wish to reclaim the pro-Palestinian student movement and recenter Palestine at Columbia University.”
  - “It pains us to realize that the student body no longer seems to know the updates on the ground. Our peers are unaware of the severity of the situation because CUAD has lost focus, opting to center individual organizers and revolutionary ideals over our core demands. Statements and actions by CUAD in recent months have alienated and abandoned Palestinian students in the name of pursuing ideology.”
  - “We regret that CUAD has shifted from a horizontally structured coalition founded on Palestinian liberation to a nebulous organization that is not led by the affinity group of Palestinian student organizers.”
  - “If CUAD will not center Palestine or listen to our concerns, then we must. Palestinians deserve a movement focused on Palestine, with clear goals and demands from a University with extensive ties to the occupying state. This unfortunately no longer seems possible with the current coalition as it stands. We would prefer to think of this as a refocusing and grounding move—one that is part of a natural progression within movement-building. Regrouping is often not only inevitable, but also necessary within social movements. By forming a new Palestinian-led coalition dedicated to divestment, we evolve and redirect: Palestine will be the compass of the pro-Palestinian movement on campus, with Palestinian students its bearers. To do so, we universally uphold two political tenets: the right to return and the right to resist.”
  - Four demands: “Divest from companies and weapons manufacturers profiting from Israeli apartheid and genocide,” “cancel the opening of the Tel Aviv Global Center, given that Palestinian affiliates of Columbia would be restricted from access to this program due to Israel’s apartheid policies,” “Cease the dual degree partnership with Tel Aviv University for the same reason,” “Stop the School of General Studies’ pipeline of Israeli soldiers who are complicit in war crimes against the Palestinian people and neighboring sovereign countries since October 2023.”
  - On January 8, 2025, two [redacted Palestinian students] received a notice of allegations from the Office of Institutional Equity regarding this op-ed. The allegation stated: “On October 19, 2024, CPSC, and/or you both, individually, and/or as active and/or involved members of CPSC, by and through *The Columbia Spectator* publication, published an ‘Op Ed,’ (below) which may have subjected individuals to unwelcome conduct that may have created or contributed to a hostile working, learning, or campus living environment; that altered the conditions of employment or education; and/or that unreasonably interfered with individuals’ work, academic performance, or ability to benefits from some aspect of the University’s educational programs or activities on the basis of the individuals’ actual or perceived membership in, or association with a Protected Class. This allegation falls under the Policy’s definition of Discriminatory Harassment.” The op-ed was signed by CPSC, not these two particular students.” The notice concluded with: “According to the Policy, these allegations will be processed under a Formal Investigation and Determination procedure. . . You are encouraged to review the Policy for more information about the various definitions of Prohibited Conduct and the University’s procedures for responding to potential violations. The Investigative Team directs all Parties to preserve all relevant evidence in the Party’s possession, including emails, texts, social media posts, or other electronic communications or records.”<sup>1226</sup>

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<sup>1224</sup> CUAD RESISTANCE REACHES THE CORE OF THE ZIONIST REGIME | REPRESSION WON'T DIVIDE US | MOBILIZE THE MASSES TO ACHIEVE VICTORY.

Otterman, "Pro-Palestinian Group at Columbia Now Backs 'Armed Resistance' by Hamas."

<sup>1225</sup> Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition, "Recentering Palestine, reclaiming the movement," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 19, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/opinion/2024/10/19/recentering-palestine-reclaiming-the-movement/>.

<sup>1226</sup> The Office of Institutional Equity, "Columbia Palestinian Solidarity Coalition ("CPSC") Notice of Allegations," (January 8, 2025).

### October 23, 2024:

- 25 State Attorney Generals wrote a letter to Interim President Armstrong:<sup>1227</sup>
  - “As the Attorneys General of South Carolina and Arkansas, we are joined by the Attorneys General of the 23 undersigned states to raise grave concerns about antisemitism on the campus of Columbia University, and to encourage your administration to hold the line against demands to divest from Israel. This issue is a matter of special concern to the states because students from across the country attend Columbia University.”
  - “Despite this wave of antisemitic rhetoric, Columbia University is not the only institution of higher education that has declined the demands to divest. On October 9, 2024, Brown University announced that its governing board voted to reject a student proposal to divest from companies involved in Israeli military and security activities. This decision was made in light of a letter sent by 24 state Attorneys General to Brown highlighting the profound legal consequences of adopting a divestment proposal. In short, the letter explains how yielding to divestment calls rooted in antisemitism could trigger laws in nearly three-fourths of States prohibiting States from associating with entities that discriminate against Israel, Israelis, or their business partners. Against that backdrop, we commend Columbia University for its decision earlier this year to not divest from Israel. And we urge your administration to continue to maintain that position despite blatantly antisemitic pressure from some pro-Palestinian student groups. While balancing student speech rights against credible threats to people and property can be a delicate task, declining to divest should be an easy call.”

### October 24, 2024:

- Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition (CPSC) posted images on Instagram with text that read “The Right to Resist and Return: Palestinians have the Right to Resist, by any means necessary. Our land, our liberation, & our right of return are non-negotiable. We will resist until every inch of our land is restored, and every Palestinian can live in dignity, free, in our homeland.” One of the other image slides shared stated “Our Demands: Divest: from companies and weapons manufacturers profiting from the Zionist occupation and genocide of our people. Cancel: the Tel Aviv Global Center, which restricts access for Palestinians. Stop: the dual-degree program with Tel Aviv University. End: the School of General Studies’ recruitment pipeline of Zionist forces complicit in the genocide.”<sup>1228</sup>
  - On January 8, 2025, two [redacted Palestinian students] received a notice of allegations from the Office of Institutional Equity regarding this Instagram post. The allegation stated: “On October 24, 2024, CPSC, and/or you both, individually, and/or as active and/or involved members of CPSC, exercised effective control over CPSC’s public Instagram account and played a substantial role in the joint publication of the following two (2) images and text, which may have subjected individuals to unwelcome conduct that may have created or contributed to a hostile working, learning, or campus living environment; that altered the conditions of employment or education; and/or that unreasonably interfered with individuals’ work, academic performance, or ability to benefits from some aspect of the University’s educational programs or activities on the basis of the individuals’ actual or perceived membership in, or association with a Protected Class. This allegation falls under the Policy’s definition of Discriminatory Harassment.”

### October 25, 2024:

- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>1229</sup>
  - Establishment of the Office of Institutional Equity
  - Proposed update to the University Senate By-Laws (Structure and Operations)
  - Petition under Section 1.m. of the University Senate By-Laws (Professor J. Mitts)
- Stand Columbia Society published “Issue #012: Happy Birthday, Columbia!!”<sup>1230</sup>
  - The newsletter discussed an October 15, 2024 petition that raised concern over the possible reelection of the University Senate Executive Committee Chair D’Armiento. The newsletter expressed concern that the Senate was trying to “undermine” its current procedures to shift its internal governance structure. The newsletter did

<sup>1227</sup> Alan Wilson et al., “Dear President Armstrong,,” (October 23, 2024), Letter. <https://www.scag.gov/media/jdylhrvu/25-states-letter-to-columbia-univ-10-23-2024-signed.pdf>.

<sup>1228</sup> The Office of Institutional Equity, “Columbia Palestinian Solidarity Coalition (“CPSC”) Notice of Allegations.”

<sup>1229</sup> Columbia University Senate, “October 25, 2024 Plenary.”

Columbia University Senate, “November 22, 2024 Plenary.”

<sup>1230</sup> Stand Columbia Society, “Issue #012: Happy 270th Birthday, Columbia!!,” (October 25, 2024).

not discuss that the Senate had been considering an amendment that would “clarify the application of those existing term limits.”

- Covington & Burling LLP wrote a letter to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on behalf of Columbia related to the Committee’s subpoena request.<sup>1231</sup>
  - “On behalf of our client Columbia University, this letter and the accompanying materials provide a further response to the Committee’s requests for disciplinary information, including the September 10, 2024, e-mail request for information on all disciplinary cases since October 7, 2023. As you know, Columbia has previously provided significant information about disciplinary matters, including a chart on August 8, 2024, an update to that chart on August 14, 2024, letters on October 1 and 15, 2024, that included updates on the information in the August chart and information regarding imposed disciplinary sanctions, various specific items of disciplinary information requested by the staff over the past several months, and more than 10,000 documents relating to disciplinary matters.”
  - “We have discussed with the Committee staff the difficulty of providing the requested list of all cases since October 7, 2023, because disciplinary information is not maintained in the ordinary course in a manner that facilitates the efficient generation of such a list. Nonetheless, in an effort to respond to the Committee’s requests, and further to our discussions with the Committee staff, Columbia is today providing a list of student matters involving respondents identified as affiliated with Columbia, arising from reported incidents related to antisemitism from October 7, 2023, through August 21, 2024, that were not otherwise already provided to the Committee in the August 2024 chart and subsequent updates. We are providing this information as it appears in the University’s systems, organized by individual respondent.”

#### October 28, 2024:

- U.N. Watch, a nongovernmental organization monitoring the performance of the U.N., wrote a letter to Interim President Armstrong and Barnard President Rosenbury calling on them to cancel an event scheduled on campus with UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories Francesca Albanese. The letter stated that Albanese has engaged in “Holocaust inversion, antisemitism, and supporting Hamas terrorism.”<sup>1232</sup>
- A petition in support of the University Senate was issued in response to an October 15, 2024 petition, “On the Governance of the Chair of the Executive Committee.”<sup>1233</sup>
  - “We, the undersigned, state our support for the existing policies and procedures of the Columbia University Senate, including the process by which amendments may be made to the Senate’s governing documents, including its by-laws.”
  - “We express our concern that a petition has been circulated within Columbia that seeks to undermine the well-functioning process by which changes to the Senate’s procedures and structure take place. In the name of ‘best practices of corporate governance’, the petition demands that the Senate take action on several proposed amendments.”
  - “Second, the petition seeks to subvert the normal procedures already being pursued by the Committee on Senate Structure and Operations. The petition’s drafters appear to be aware of confidential deliberations from the Senate Structure and Operations Committee as it has been considering amendments related to term limits, which may appear on the Senate Plenary’s Agenda on October 25, 2024. The petition seeks to accomplish an end-run around that process by making an 11th hour demand that the Senate take up a set of other measures without the benefit of full and careful consideration by the appropriate Committee.”
  - “Third, the petition rests its demands on a set of claims that are either unsubstantiated or are demonstrably false. The petition essentially recites talking points drawn from social media that advance a political agenda, rather than address actual deficiencies in the Senate.”
- Columbia lawyers informed Professor Davidai’s legal team that he had until November 1, 2024 to complete three one-hour training sessions on University policies. Due to prior commitments, Professor Davidai requested an extension to

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<sup>1231</sup> Smith.

<sup>1232</sup> @CUJewsIsraelis, X, October 29, 2024.

<sup>1233</sup> "A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY’S SENATE," (October 28, 2024), Petition. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14-YcWL15eIEE4P7boU2ZiiWJOAMc-2LaNSyIow32Ex0/edit?tab=t.0>.

Spencer Davis, "University senators respond to allegations of ‘partiality’ raised against senate chair," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/12/02/university-senators-respond-to-allegations-of-partiality-raised-against-senate-chair/>.

complete the sessions by November 7 or 8, but the University declined and said that failure to comply would prevent him from teaching.<sup>1234</sup>

#### October 29, 2024:

- Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield posted on X: “As UN Special Rapporteur visits New York, I want to reiterate the U.S. belief she is unfit for her role. The United Nations should not tolerate antisemitism from a UN-affiliated official hired to promote human rights.”<sup>1235</sup>
- Letter is issued to Interim President Armstrong condemning the temporary suspension of Professor Davidai and urging its immediate reversal.<sup>1236</sup>
  - The letter stated that the suspension “is an egregious act of retaliation and an attempt to silence Professor Davidai. . . We are distressed by the University’s decision to bar Professor Shai Davidai from campus for allegedly harassing or intimidating University employees during the on-campus memorial for the victims of the October 7th massacre of Jews in Israel perpetrated by Hamas and its supporters.”
  - Over 400 University professors, students, parents, alumni, and staff signed the letter.

#### October 30, 2024:

- *Spectator* reported on the formation of the Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition (CPSC): “Student organizers have disaffiliated from Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) and established the Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition (CPSC), a Palestinian-led collective pushing for University divestment from Israel.”<sup>1237</sup>
- Francesca Albanese, U.N. special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, spoke at Barnard as part of an ongoing “Human Rights and Humanitarianism in Contemporary Conflict” lecture series. She presented a prepared speech on the war in Gaza and her experiences at the United Nations. Albanese took a series of audience questions asking her to elaborate on her positions regarding borders, asylum, and October 7, 2023. The event was hosted by the Barnard economics and human rights departments.<sup>1238</sup>
- The House Committee on Education and the Workforce notified Columbia University that they would be publishing a 325-page report “Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed” the next day, October 31, 2024.<sup>1239</sup>

#### October 31, 2024:

- The House Committee on Education and the Workforce published Republican Staff Report “Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed.”<sup>1240</sup>
  - The report described an “epidemic of hate, violence, and harassment targeting Jewish students.”
  - “The Committee’s investigation has been unprecedented in its depth and scope. For the first time in its 157-year history, the Committee issued subpoenas to postsecondary institutions for obstructionist, dilatory responses to document requests made in furtherance of the Committee’s consideration of potential legislative solutions to address campus antisemitism. The Committee has collected more than 400,000 pages of documents over the course of its investigation. Now, the Committee is releasing key findings in this report.”
  - “Information obtained by the Committee reveals a stunning lack of accountability by university leaders for students engaging in antisemitic harassment, assault, trespass, and destruction of school property. At every school investigated by the Committee, the overwhelming majority of students facing disciplinary action for antisemitic harassment or other violations of policy received only minimal discipline. At some schools, such as Columbia

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<sup>1234</sup> Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, "Hundreds of Columbia affiliates sign letter condemning suspension of Shai Davidai, calling for reversal."

<sup>1235</sup> @USAmbUN, X, October 29, 2024.

<sup>1236</sup> Gomez-Sotomayor-Roel, "Hundreds of Columbia affiliates sign letter condemning suspension of Shai Davidai, calling for reversal."

<sup>1237</sup> Emily Pickering, "Student organizers disaffiliate from CUAD, establish Columbia Palestine Solidarity Coalition," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, October 30, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/10/30/student-organizers-disaffiliate-from-cuad-establish-columbia-palestine-solidarity-coalition/>.

<sup>1238</sup> Emily Pickering and Molly Bordoff, "U.N. special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories speaks at Barnard ‘Gaza in Focus’ event," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/06/un-special-rapporteur-on-the-occupied-palestinian-territories-speaks-at-barnard-gaza-in-focus-event/>.

<sup>1239</sup> Esha Karam and Ayaan Ali, "The House committee’s report on antisemitism, annotated," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 22, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/22/the-house-committees-report-on-antisemitism-annotated/>.

<sup>1240</sup> "Republican Staff Report: Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."

Huddleston, "Columbia’s production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns."

and Harvard, radical faculty members worked to prevent disciplinary action from being taken against students who violated official policies and even the law.”

- “At Columbia, students who engaged in the criminal takeover of a university building were allowed to evade accountability.”
- “Columbia’s University Senate obstructed plans to discipline students involved in the takeover of Hamilton Hall.”
- “Columbia’s leaders betrayed their legal and moral obligations to their Jewish communities, as they worked to sell them out by cutting deals with antisemitic, pro-Hamas students.”
- “Columbia University leaders failed to publicly correct a false narrative by anti-Israel students that two Israeli undergraduates had perpetrated a ‘chemical attack’ with military ‘skunk spray’ that was used to vilify Israeli students and call for their exclusion. The Columbia administration failed to correct the record after initially suggesting ‘serious crimes’ had taken place, even after learning the incident merely involved the release of a non-toxic gag ‘fart spray.’ Columbia only acknowledged the incident was not a chemical attack months later after reaching a settlement with one of the students responsible.”
- “Shafik also refused to make a public statement of support for students in the University’s dual degree program with Tel Aviv University as anti-Israel activists campaigned for its abolition. This refusal came despite the urging of more than half of the program’s students, the dean of the School of General Studies in which the program was situated, the University’s Chief Operating Officer, and the Executive Director of Columbia/Barnard Hillel.”
- The report revealed that top administrators and members of the Board of Trustees, including co-chairs David Greenwald, Law ’83, Claire Shipman, CC ’86, MIA’94, and Jonathan Lavine, CC ’88, were actively involved in conversations with President Shafik on what punishments would be levied to protesters. In the published exchanges, administrators and trustees discussed which types of discipline they would consider pursuing against protesters depending on which demonstration they participated in, as well as what office would be responsible for adjudication.
- Numerous incident reports filed to the University were published. While names of students were redacted, many incidents had clearly identifiable information. Furthermore, these published incident reports had been, in some cases, dismissed or found to not have any evidence to substantiate them. In at least one instance, the Congressional report published a complaint that contained clearly identifiable information of a student, yet the alleged incident never happened. The student had not seen the complaint against them until published in the report. In another case, information such as school of enrollment and national origin were given by Columbia and published in the report. No students were notified by the Administration in advance or after the report’s publication that any incident reports involving them were sent to Congress.
- The report alleged that the University “offered greater concessions to encampment organizers than they publicly acknowledged” and “failed to correct false narratives” of a spraying incident at a protest in January.
- The report also argued that the University Senate “obstructed plans to discipline students” involved in the April Hamilton Hall occupation and that University leadership “expressed contempt” for congressional oversight.
- Among the sources cited in the House Republican Staff Report include: *Columbia Daily Spectator*, administrator emails, Task Force on Antisemitism reports, government officials, testimonies from students and staff, Stand Columbia publications, and more.
- “While the University Senate has presented itself as representative of the broader University community, University stakeholders including the Chair Emeritus of Columbia’s Board of Trustees, current Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees, deans of two Columbia schools, and a prominent faculty member expressed shock and disdain for the Senate’s radicalism.”
- “These communications make clear that multiple key Columbia stakeholders viewed the University Senate as extreme and out of touch. This gives the lie to the Senate’s narrative that it is an authentic representative of the University community and shows that Columbia’s leaders’ deference to the radicalized Senate in disciplinary matters was excessive and unwarranted.”
- “The University Senate’s obstruction of discipline and favoritism toward the antisemitic, pro-terror students who have wrought havoc on Columbia’s campus serves to discredit both the Senate and the Rules process, which has effectively served as a get out of jail free card for the University’s worst offenders. For Columbia to be an institution where all students from all backgrounds can thrive, its leaders must be willing to stand up to the Senate’s radicalism and take their University back.”
- An anonymous University Senator prepared a document for Columbia Board of Trustees Chair Emerita Lisa Carnoy who provided it to Co-Chair Greenwald criticizing the Rules of University Conduct and the University Judicial Board process titled “Addressing the Breakdown in Disciplinary Processes.”
  - “Columbia University’s Rules of University Conduct are designed to maintain an respectful and productive academic environment. The Rules explicitly forbid such acts such as shouting down

speakers, blocking access, occupying offices, disrupting educational activities, and concealing one's identity when confronted by university representatives. Yet, these things keep happening. Our campus culture now has a 'default expectation' that rules are not enforced and actions no longer have consequences."

- "Analysis: The root cause of this problem is the broken enforcement mechanism. The Rules Administrator (currently Ann Thornton, Vice Provost and University Librarian) plays a 'facilitating' role. She accepts complaints, gathers evidence, advises parties of their rights and of the process, etc. She has no sanctioning or adjudicatory power, which belongs solely to the University Judicial Board, which is appointed by the University Senate's Executive Committee and is comprised primarily of faculty and students."
  - "Proposed Resolution: The way to resolve this inherent conflict and broken system is to remove or dilute the faculty's burden of 'sanctioning' responsibilities. This could take the form of transitioning the UJB to an 'advisory' body (with sanctioning power held separately by administration), or of adding seats to the UJB such that administration comprises a majority. The wholesale dissolution of UJB is also a possibility, although not recommended."
  - "The above analysis and recommendation would resolve the currently untenable situation where faculty insist on their exclusive power to administer discipline, but at the same time are heavily disincentivized from doing so. This has, over time, created an expectation that 'rules don't matter' and 'actions don't have consequences', which has in turn contributed to the systemic breakdown of disciplinary processes and of a healthy academic culture on campus. This cannot continue."
- The Office of Public Affairs published a "Statement in Response to Report Released by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce."<sup>1241</sup>
    - "Columbia strongly condemns antisemitism and all forms of discrimination, and we are resolute that calls for violence or harm have no place at our University. Since assuming her role in August, Interim President Armstrong and her leadership team have taken decisive actions to reinforce Columbia's academic mission, make our community safe, and address the Committee's concerns, including by strengthening and clarifying our disciplinary processes."
    - "Under the University's new leadership, we have established a centralized Office of Institutional Equity to address all reports of discrimination and harassment, appointed a new Rules Administrator, and strengthened the capabilities of our Public Safety Office. We are committed to applying the rules fairly, consistently, and efficiently."
    - "As clearly shown in the report, Columbia provided significant documents and information in response to the Committee's subpoena and other requests."
    - "Columbia did not consent to the disclosure of these documents or the underlying information. We provided this information in connection with our response to the Committee's subpoena and requests, and we requested confidential treatment of the information we provided."
    - "When the Committee provided one day's notice of the report, we again raised with the Committee our repeated requests that they protect students' privacy, and we are deeply disappointed that the Committee did not do so."
  - CPSC made an Instagram post. One of the slides on the post stated: "To be clear: This report, released by official government entities, is meant to distract from the ongoing genocide in Gaza while further endangering Palestinians on campus. This shameless attempt to weaponize campus protests embodies the depravity of the Zionist entity and its American supplier. We unequivocally reject these accusations and the distraction from the genocide in Gaza. We demand that Columbia University end the pipeline of IOF soldiers who kill our friends and family in Palestine and then harm us on campus."<sup>1242</sup>
    - On January 8, 2025, two [redacted Palestinian students] received a notice of allegations from the Office of Institutional Equity regarding this Instagram post. The allegation stated: On October 31, 2024, CPSC, and/or you both, individually, and/or as active and/or involved members of CPSC, exercised effective control over CPSC's public Instagram account and played a substantial role in the joint publication of the following image and text, which may have subjected individuals to unwelcome conduct that may have created or contributed to a hostile working, learning, or campus living environment; that altered the

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<sup>1241</sup> Columbia University Office of Public Affairs, "Statement in Response to Report Released by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce," news release, October 31, 2024, <https://communications.news.columbia.edu/news/statement-response-report-released-house-committee-education-and-workforce>.

<sup>1242</sup> The Office of Institutional Equity, "Columbia Palestinian Solidarity Coalition ("CPSC") Notice of Allegations."

conditions of employment or education; and/or that unreasonably interfered with individuals' work, academic performance, or ability to participate in or benefit from some aspect of the University's educational programs or activities on the basis of the individuals' actual or perceived membership in, or association with a Protected Class. This Allegation falls under the Policy's definition of Discriminatory Harassment."

#### November 2024 (specific date unknown):

- The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE), established Summer 2024 to "fairly and expeditiously" address cases of discrimination, sent out first notices to students. Students were sent notices for writing op-eds calling for divestment from Israel, sharing social media posts in support of Palestinian people, joining "unauthorized protests," putting stickers up off campus that mimicked "Wanted" posters of Columbia trustees, and co-hosting an off-campus art exhibition that focused on the April 2024 occupation of Hamilton Hall. Under OIE's policies, students were required to sign a nondisclosure agreement before accessing case materials or speaking with investigators. In March 2025 *The Associated Press* reported that "several students and faculty who spoke with the AP said the committee accused them of participating in demonstrations they did not attend or helping to circulate social media messages they did not post."<sup>1243</sup>

#### November 1, 2024:

- University spokesperson Samantha Slater wrote in a statement to *Spectator* that Columbia "did not consent" to the publication of dozens of confidential documents disclosed in a report from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce titled "Antisemitism on College Campuses Exposed."<sup>1244</sup>
  - "We provided this information in connection with our response to the Committee's subpoena and requests, and we requested confidential treatment of the information we provided."
  - Many of the confidential documents included specific details about student disciplinary cases, which are historically kept private. While the names of involved individuals are redacted, the over 100 cases included reveal details about disciplinary outcomes, social media activity, and school affiliations.
- Stand Columbia Society published "Issue #013: We've read the House Committee's report (and it's bad...)"<sup>1245</sup>
  - "But below we highlight three particularly disturbing incidents that illustrate the committee's core finding. 1) One of the most well-reported incidents of the protests was when protestors accused pro-Israel students of launching a 'chemical attack' (including front page NY Times coverage). Turns out the 'chemical weapon' was 'fart spray' purchased on Amazon. Despite knowing that the 'chemicals' used in the 'attack' were 'non toxic' and 'good for a prank,' Columbia's administration failed to correct the narrative. Worse, the administration suspended the students involved for a year and a half – longer than the students who violently broke into Hamilton Hall. Columbia only corrected the record (and lifted the suspensions) after reaching a \$395,000 settlement with one of the students it excessively disciplined. 2) The leadership of Columbia's University Senate, which is supposed to represent all stakeholders and act as part of University leadership, actively obstructed plans to discipline students involved in the takeover of Hamilton Hall. 3) Twenty-seven protestors were arrested by the NYPD outside of Hamilton Hall the night of April 30-May 1. All disciplinary cases against them were dismissed due to 'insufficient evidence.' We strongly suspect this is due to masking to conceal identity."
  - "First, we (finally) have the disciplinary record. We've called for a regular publication of anonymized, aggregated disciplinary statistics, which Columbia briefly did and then took offline. Well, the report contains them and the stats are telling." The newsletter then lists the statistics included in the report.
  - "In other words, ransacking buildings, holding a maintenance worker hostage, and causing massive damage to our University's reputation did not warrant a single expulsion (yet). This speaks volumes about the University's handling of unrest."
  - "Second, some of Columbia's leaders are trying to lead, but are being buried by bureaucratic resistance."
  - "Yet when push came to shove, the reaction over and over again-at every level- seems to be to surrender to inertia and defer to 'legitimacy' (which we've also written about). From the report: "Columbia's leaders' plans for

<sup>1243</sup> Jake Offenhartz, "Facing Trump's threats, Columbia investigates students critical of Israel," *The Associated Press*, March 6, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/columbia-university-campus-protests-trump-congress-ba0eddec4679d70287202831c52ebed6>.

<sup>1244</sup> Vance, "Columbia 'did not consent' to publication of confidential documents in congressional report, spokesperson says."

<sup>1245</sup> Stand Columbia Society, "Issue #013: We've read the House Committee's report (and it's bad)," (November 1, 2024).



expelling the criminal students who occupied Hamilton Hall crumbled as they progressively capitulated to the University Senate’s obstruction of disciplinary actions. In particular, the University Judicial Board, which is University-Senate-appointed and which the report describes as ‘toothless’ (due to being structurally disincentivized to impose discipline) is supposed to convene within fifteen days of receiving materials, with the whole process complete within two months. One of our subscribers who is close to these matters has informed us that the UJB (if it has convened at all) has not returned any decisions. The University Senate even took down the UJB’s website that formerly listed its members. While we won’t speculate as to why, if the UJB continues in the neglect and nonperformance of its duties, then its mandate has to be reexamined. No functional enterprise can afford to leave one of its critical choke-points moribund.”

- “As we’ve written before, the Trustees have full authority under the 1810 Charter to act – including instituting new tools and processes if present ones are failing – and we need their voice where it matters. Seven of the students involved in the Hamilton occupation were allowed to graduate – which is de facto ‘amnesty.’ The Harvard Corporation overrode the faculty and withheld diplomas for 13 suspended students in the face of fierce faculty opposition. We deserve no less in resolve, in courage, and in leadership from our Trustees.”
- “Fourth, Columbia is being held hostage by a fringe minority of radical students and their faculty enablers. The total record of disciplinary investigations stands at 455. If we assume all of them were culpable of misconduct, that is 1% of our student population. This 1% has held, and is holding, the other 99% hostage.
- “To our Trustees, our President, our administration, and our University Senate: you have a new leadership team, a new and empowered Rules Administrator, a centralized Office of Institutional Equity, a strengthened Title VI policy, and other tools at your disposal. Use them with resolve, with courage, and without delay. This cannot continue”

#### November 6, 2024:

- The New York State Supreme Court dismissed the New York Civil Liberties Union and Palestine Legal’s lawsuit against Columbia for the suspension of its chapters of SJP and JVP. Both student groups remained suspended.<sup>1246</sup>
  - In the decision, Judge Nicholas W. Moyné wrote: “After reviewing the record, the Court finds that Columbia University’s decision to temporarily suspend the lawsuits from their status as recognized student groups was neither arbitrary or capricious, irrational or in violation of clearly established University policies.”
  - Veronica Salama, lead counsel on the NYCLU case, said that the verdict in part “did not come as a surprise,” citing the “Palestine exception” to free speech to describe the University’s crackdowns on pro-Palestinian protest.

#### November 8, 2024:

- In response, to the New York State Supreme Court’s November 6, 2024 dismissal of Palestine Legal’s lawsuit the NYCLU posted on X: “Schools should never be sites of censorship, or places where admin, donors, or politicians can stifle speech they dislike. . . Students at private colleges have the right to fair, equal treatment under the law — and we’ll keep fighting to ensure their civil liberties are protected.”<sup>1247</sup>
- NYCLU issued a press release in response to the November 6, 2024 dismissal of Palestine Legal’s lawsuit: The “court’s decision sends the unfortunate message that private universities can break their own policies without accountability. . . We, and certainly Palestine Legal, will continue to fight for students’ civil liberties, and we will continue to monitor these issues and ensure that just these universities are not censorship. . . They’re not places where administrators and donors and politicians can crush speech that they disagree with.”<sup>1248</sup>
- Stand Columbia published “Issue #014: Fault Lines Within the Columbia Faculty.”<sup>1249</sup>
  - The newsletter discussed University Senate petitions from October 15, 2024 and October 28, 2024.
  - “‘Good governance’ faculty sent a petition requesting Senate governance reforms. . . Another group of faculty sent a counter-petition rebuking the good governance petition and questioning its legitimacy and findings.”
  - “The letter. . . alleges that certain committees appear to be stacked with members of some faculties while excluding members of other faculties. The implied question: when 10% of University faculty (with what appears

<sup>1246</sup> Pickering, “New York State Supreme Court upholds Columbia’s suspension of SJP and JVP.”  
*Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, Columbia-Barnard Jewish Voice for Peace, Maryam Alwan, and Cameron Jones.*

<sup>1247</sup> Pickering, “New York State Supreme Court upholds Columbia’s suspension of SJP and JVP.”

<sup>1248</sup> Pickering, “New York State Supreme Court upholds Columbia’s suspension of SJP and JVP.”

<sup>1249</sup> Stand Columbia Society, “Issue #014: Fault Lines Within the Columbia Faculty,” (November 8, 2024).

to be heavily solidified views against good governance) hold 33% of faculty seats on the Critical Rules Committee, is that truly representative of the Senate – or dare we say, “legitimate”?”

- “Stepping back, we are struck by just how polarized the faculty appears to be – and what this means for the quality of a Columbia education if students are not regularly exposed to a diversity of viewpoints.”
- “We do believe that Columbia students miss out on important opportunities to learn and engage if the makeup of their faculties and departments become ‘monocultures.’ This is especially salient as the A&S Humanities and A&S Social Science departments are overwhelmingly responsible for the famed Core Curriculum of Columbia College and are most of our undergraduates’ first (and lasting) point of exposure at Columbia. If we are now talking about the quality of a Columbia education, well, isn’t that why we’re here?”
- In the news highlights section: “He also notes the important caveat that, ‘Whether a private corporation should be bound by the First Amendment by its voluntary choice ... is a very different question.’”

#### November 9, 2024:

- The Hind’s House Collective, a group advocating for “divestment from genocide and the liberation of Palestine,” opened an exhibition at Alpha Delta Phi’s brownstone. The collective, which formed Fall 2023, announced the “Hind’s House” exhibition in an Instagram post on November 5, 2024. The post called on visitors to “unite and fight back.”<sup>1250</sup>

#### November 10, 2024:

- Stand Columbia Society published “Issue #15: We Calculated Columbia’s Institutional Risk Exposure Due to the Election. It’s \$3.5 Billion Per Year.” The newsletter published recommendations for the University including issuing a strong public statement on Title VI prohibitions against discrimination and discriminatory harassment, publishing aggregated discipline statistics regularly, giving Public Safety formal police powers, increasing ‘ideologically diversity,’ altering the admissions process, and restructuring shared governance.<sup>1251</sup>
  - Recommendations from the newsletter:
    - “Issue a strong public statement on Title VI prohibitions against discrimination and discriminatory harassment. The administration should make a strong public statement about Columbia’s new Title VI policy, emphasize its willingness to enforce this policy, and explain that the power to do so does not belong to the University Judicial Board (which lacks credibility).”
    - “Publish aggregated disciplinary statistics regularly – without the need for subpoenas. Columbia briefly did this before taking those stats offline. This is important because ‘justice must not only be done, but also must be seen to be done.’ It sends a clear message that Columbia is (or is not) enforcing its rules – and if so, both establishing public credibility and a credible deterrent.”
    - “Augment our Public Safety organization with formal police powers. Columbia Public Safety is not equipped to deal with making to conceal identity, noncompliance, and violence. A few months ago, Columbia contemplated hiring peace officers to augment Public Safety. Peace officers, under New York State Law, are private employees with police powers to make arrests and use physical force in making those arrests. As they serve under Columbia supervision (and may even wear Columbia uniforms), Columbia will have far greater discretion on use of force and perhaps they will not carry the negative connotations our community associates with the NYPD.”
    - “Build on our strong track record of recruiting and promoting a diverse faculty. Our Presidents have repeatedly championed their desire for diverse viewpoints in our faculty. Yet, we see some faculties and departments trending more and more into ‘monocultures.’ We are strongly in favor of protecting academic freedom of individual faculty; but we also suggest that departments and faculties would be stronger if they could provide more breadth of opportunities for their student. We could start with some ‘quick wins’ with respect to adjunct and lecturer hiring in certain departments, which are managed year-to-year.”
    - “Set appropriate expectations for applicants in the admissions process.” . . . “Ask some tough questions about what kind of students we are admitting. Are we consciously admitting students

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<sup>1250</sup> Emily Chen, “Hinds House Collective’s multimedia exhibit explores the pro-Palestinian movement with art from around the world,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, November 13, 2024, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/main/2024/11/13/hinds-house-collectives-multimedia-exhibit-explores-the-pro-palestinian-movement-with-art-from-around-the-world/>.

<sup>1251</sup> Stand Columbia Society, “Issue #015: We Calculated Columbia’s Institutional Risk Exposure Due to the Election. It’s \$3.5 Billion Per Year,” (November 10, 2024).

- putting protest over academics and those seeking ‘the total eradication of Western civilization’ when they have loudly telegraphed their intentions? We have a robust application supplement, which we can refine to clarify what is important to us.”
- “Restructure our shared governance arrangements. In the more than a year since October 7, 2023, we have seen our 55-year-old shared governance arrangements fail. They have failed due to unclear powers, organizational inertia, and a lack of feeling of “legitimacy.” They have permitted some bodies to wield an effective veto, creating structural gridlock. No organization can function like this. We have called for this before: if the premise behind the 1969 power-sharing arrangement is no longer valid, then its stakeholders must recommit to them, or play a constructive role in revising them.”
  - “The ‘how’: faculty consultation and legitimacy”
    - “We are conscious that the senior faculty have a special place in the shared governance of the University.”
    - “Solely top-down action without consultation runs the risk of being cast as ‘illegitimate’ and runs the risk of backfiring, exacerbating further more harm downstream.”
    - Advocated for “forming and empowering a small working group that formulates bold strategy with a powerful mandate to enact change can broadcast positive ripple effects. This group should be time-limited in scope, prioritize consultation over consensus, embed itself into Columbia’s locus of authority, and operate with a bias toward action.” The newsletter compared this to the “Executive Committee of the Faculty” led by Professor Michael Sovern in 1968-1969.
    - “There are shared governance bodies such as the President’s faculty advisory groups as well as the University Senate. We think these are necessary but not sufficient, especially as the University Senate appear to have lost credibility after allegedly obstructing the expeditious enforcement of rules.”
    - To “rebuild legitimacy” the newsletter recommended:
      - “First the administration should take the above immediate short-term steps including giving the UJB and its Appeals Board a deadline to adjudicate the Hamilton Hall and encampment cases.”
      - Second the President should appoint a “Task Force on Institutional Risk to assess longer-term implications” that should “be ideologically balanced and more representative of the senior faculty across the University than current shared governance bodies.” The Task Force should “be specifically empowered by both the President and the Trustees, and paired with a Trustee committee (similar to the Temple Committee in 1968) for regular exchanges of views.”
      - “This Task Force should operate with the expectation that consultation does not equate to consensus; an intransigent minority should be heard, but cannot be permitted to place our University at critical risk.”
  - “A final point: Columbia University matters to the United States and to the world.”
    - “It would be a mistake to read an incoming Trump administration’s potential actions as merely an ‘attack on wokeness.’ There is bipartisan anger at the state of our universities. Since World War II, American universities, including ours, have built their expansive and ambitious academic mission on the bedrock of Federal investment – initially to confront the USSR in an era of great power conflict, a theme which is again resonant today. And in the process, the Federal government has created, funded, and stewarded the research and development apparatus that have fueled American innovation, growth, and success.”
    - “It is in America’s interests (and the interests of both parties) that our universities cannot be allowed to fail.”
    - “Our ‘natural experiment’ last week suggests an overwhelming supermajority of Columbia’s faculties (perhaps 90% or more) believes in good governance. It is not a stretch that they would also believe that neither engaging with terrorists, promoting ‘monocultures,’ glorifying lynchings and violence, nor deadlocked administration are particularly good ideas.”
    - “The internal politics that our administration, Trustees, and senior faculty must navigate is simple: do they permit a loud, fringe, and unrepresentative minority to (illegitimately?) wield a veto or not? This is not an argument for political expediency, but rather because it is the right thing to do.”

### November 11, 2024:

- CUAD hosted a “Martyrs Day” protest on South Lawn to honor Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian individuals killed in the war in Gaza and in Israeli strikes. Protestors planted paper poppies and read speeches. The protest was held to “reclaim” Veterans Day, with the group writing that its members “refuse to honor the US War Machine,” CUAD also echoed its ongoing call for divestment and “the total liberation of Palestinians.”<sup>1252</sup>

### November 19, 2024:

- The University Senate Student Affairs Committee wrote a statement expressing deep concern over “Trustee Overreach,” citing published communications between trustees discussing disciplinary outcomes in the October 31, 2024 Republican Staff Report.<sup>1253</sup>
  - “We are deeply concerned about the actions of the University’s Board of Trustees over the past year, as alleged in the Republican Staff Report from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. If confirmed, we believe these actions would betray the students’ right to privacy and confidentiality, which the University should strive to respect notably in the spirit of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Furthermore, these actions would jeopardize the integrity and fairness of disciplinary processes. We recognize the important role of trustees in overseeing the institution’s governance and their fiduciary responsibilities. Nevertheless, communications presented in the report are deeply concerning. Most significantly, a member of the trustees reportedly reviewed individual student records in a manner that creates the appearance of an improper influence on the student disciplinary process. As students, it is unfortunate that these trusted individuals whom we admire and respect for safeguarding the institution’s values, maintaining the integrity of its governance, and upholding the rights of its students allegedly behaved in such a manner. In order to maintain the fairness and impartiality of our disciplinary processes, it is crucial that even the appearance of improper influence be avoided. To share information regarding ongoing student disciplinary cases with individuals with no formal role in the disciplinary process threatens the integrity of that process and risks not only betraying students’ trust but also violating students’ right to privacy. We call upon the university administration to take action to rebuild and sustain trust throughout the community. It is the only way we will be able to make progress as an institution. We hope that the University will reaffirm its commitment to student privacy so as to ensure that disciplinary processes remain independent and confidential.”
  - Columbia redacted student names when providing documents to the House Education and Workforce Committee, but included information such as organization and school affiliations in addition to detailed descriptions of social media posts, copies of emails, and narratives of the alleged incidents that made some students identifiable.

### November 21, 2024:

- *Spectator* reported “More than a year into gate closures, West Harlem residents feel excluded from Columbia: Community leaders have expressed frustration over lack of direct communication and consultation from the University.”<sup>1254</sup>
- The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) emailed the Columbia community new antidiscrimination and discriminatory harassment policy and procedure training. The training aimed to educate students and student groups on reporting discrimination and harassment, including discrimination against protected classes under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 30-minute training supplemented the office’s antidiscrimination and harassment policy published on September 21. The new material also provided information on students’ rights, reporting procedures, and how the OIE handles reports. Some examples that the training listed as discriminatory harassment included “calls for genocide,” “endorsements of violence,” and “signing inflammatory petitions.” The training stated the answer to the question “does expressing a view regarding a country’s policy fall under discriminatory harassment?” would depend on the context. The OIE could consider

<sup>1252</sup> Emily Pickering, “CUAD holds ‘Martyrs Day’ protest to ‘reclaim’ Veterans Day,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/12/cuad-holds-martyrs-day-protest-to-reclaim-veterans-day/>.

<sup>1253</sup> Columbia University Senate, “November 22, 2024 Plenary.”

Huddleston, “Columbia’s production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns.”

<sup>1254</sup> Isha Banerjee and Skyler Gluck, “More than a year into gate closures, West Harlem residents feel excluded from Columbia,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/city-news/2024/11/21/more-than-a-year-into-gate-closures-west-harlem-residents-feel-excluded-from-columbia/#:~:text=Some%20residents%20expressed%20frustration%20about,divides%20Columbia%20from%20West%20Harlem.>

these views discriminatory if they are “directed at members of the Columbia community” and have a “discriminatory impact” that “limits participation in university life.”<sup>1255</sup>

#### November 21, 2024:

- Barak Ravid, a CNN analyst and Israeli journalist, spoke at the Kraft Center for Jewish Life at an event titled “What does the Trump Presidency mean for the Israeli-Hamas war and the Middle East?” Aryeh, Columbia/Barnard Hillel’s pro-Israel group, hosted the event, which was moderated by Business School Professor Assaf Zeevi.<sup>1256</sup>
  - Before the event, CUAD called on students to protest and demanded the University administration “sever ties with Hillel.”
  - NYPD officers barricaded the Kraft Center as demonstrators picketed and protested outside as part of an International University Day of Action organized by the national chapter of SJP.

#### November 22, 2024:

- Stand Columbia published “Issue #017: Columbia’s (Responsible) Faculty: Please Introduce Yourself.”<sup>1257</sup>
  - “Today, public noise paints Columbia as dominated by radicals who have captured our shared governance structures. But the data suggest that is not true – a broad base of faculty supported a good governance petition to the University Senate. We are at a moment of real institutional risk that calls for the all-of-University response that can only happen when the responsible faculty partner with Trustees with the common interests – if not fiduciary interests – of the University in mind.”
- Monthly University Senate Plenary.<sup>1258</sup>
  - Chair D’Armiento facilitated a discussion on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce’s October 31 report on antisemitism on college campuses. Multiple University Senators self-identified as having been “smeared” and spoke to the effects of “misinformation” in the House report.
  - On behalf of students, Professor Joseph Howley asked Interim President Armstrong about legal risk surrounding potential Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) violations. Professor Howley said that some documents from the October 31 Republican Staff Report “identify alleged perpetrators in very identifiable ways, and the House has now published student identifying information.”
  - Armstrong responded that Columbia is committed to protecting student privacy.
  - The University Senate Structure and Operations Committee responded to allegations of “partiality” leveled against Senate Executive Committee Chair D’Armiento in an October 15, 2024 petition.
- An account posted a video of University Senator during a Zoom University Senate plenary on X with the caption: “Speaking about antisemitism as a PARTICULAR ill on campus is not the right approach.’ Today in her official capacity as a @Columbia Senator, grad student [redacted student Senator] (@[redacted]) argued against even discussing antisemitism on campus! This is so unbelievably offensive.” [Redacted University Senator] received harassment, some of which was racialized and sexualized, on the internet following this post.<sup>1259</sup>

#### November 24, 2024:

- @documentingjewhatred posted about [redacted University Senator] on Instagram: “So many people commented on (@[redacted]) [redacted]’s video and mentioned the strong support of the Jewish community to the Asian community during the pandemic, when Asian hatred reared its ugly head. They were wondering where is the empathy, and the solidarity with the pain of the Jewish students. [redacted] @[redacted] argued on @columbia senate meeting that they shouldn’t even talk about antisemitism because it’s affecting just one group and not all the students. Then we find out

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<sup>1255</sup> Pickering, “Office of Institutional Equity issues new antidiscrimination and harassment policy training for students.”

<sup>1256</sup> Daksha Pillai, “Pro-Palestinian protestors call to ‘sever all ties with Hillel’ outside Kraft Center,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/22/pro-palestinian-protesters-call-to-sever-all-ties-with-hillel-outside-kraft-center/>.

Emily Pickering, “CNN analyst Barak Ravid discusses hopes for Trump presidency, Israeli politics at Kraft Center,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/25/cnn-analyst-barak-ravid-discusses-hopes-for-trump-presidency-israeli-politics-at-kraft-center/>.

<sup>1257</sup> Stand Columbia Society, “Issue #017: Columbia’s (Responsible) Faculty: Please Introduce Yourself,” (November 22, 2024).

<sup>1258</sup> Huddleston, “Columbia’s production of disciplinary cases in congressional subpoena raises privacy concerns.”

Molly Bordoff, “Faculty discuss concerns about personal ‘smears’ in House report at University Senate plenary,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/11/25/faculty-discuss-concerns-about-personal-smears-in-house-report-at-university-senate-plenary/>.

<sup>1259</sup> @LishiBaker, X, November 22, 2024.

that she is actually from Wuhan, and was very emotional about the hatred towards her homeland. So what happened to you [redacted]? Columbia? How would you have felt, [redacted], if someone said back then that Sinophobia should not be acknowledged?"<sup>1260</sup>

- In response to this post, [redacted student Senator] received racialized comments. Some speculated on her membership in the CCP and demanded her deportation, others called her "slant eye yellow bitch," "chink," and "subhuman."

#### December 2024 (specific date unknown):

- The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) sent notices to [redacted Palestinian student], who served as a negotiator for pro-Palestinian protestors during the April 2024 encampments. In March 2025, [redacted Palestinian student] told *The Associated Press*: "I have around 13 allegations against me, most of them are social media posts that I had nothing to do with." [Redacted Palestinian student] was supposed to graduate in December, but "after refusing to sign the office's nondisclosure agreement, [redacted Palestinian student] said the university put a hold on his transcript and threatened to block him from graduating. But when he appealed the decision through a lawyer, they eventually backed down."<sup>1261</sup>

#### December 5, 2024:

- Around 6:15 PM CUAD protested the annual Tree Lighting ceremony for the second year in a row.<sup>1262</sup>
- @jewhatedb and @shaidavidai coposted a video that accused a student Senator of associating with terrorists and contained a private photo the student posted in a swimsuit from when they were 20 years old.<sup>1263</sup>
  - "Who is [redacted student Senator]? Until recently she was a nobody. A quiet name in the background of the Columbia Senate. But that all changed on November 22, 2024. That's when [redacted student Senator] took the stage at Columbia's Senate plenary meeting to weigh in on Jew Hatred. 'I especially think that speaking about antisemitism as a particular ill on campus is not the right approach. Rather we should be looking at protecting students as a body, as a whole. And if that means looking beyond this particular set of grievances, which I recognize are serious but nevertheless it leaves out many other legitimate concerns. Speaking about antisemitism I think in some conception leaves out the fact that many anti-Zionist Jewish students are not being heard and have not had their voices recognized. And the suspension of student groups like Jewish Voice for Peace has left a really deep scar on campus culture.' [redacted student Senator (Columbia senator) arguing against the right to consider discussing 'antisemitism' on Columbia campus. But here is the shocking part: [redacted student Senator] is not Jewish. She has no expertise in 'antisemitism' (only in Jew Hatred). So why is she posting opinions that clash with the overwhelming consensus of the Jewish community? Could it be because [redacted student Senator]'s perspective is shaped by [redacted]? Who is [redacted]? [Redacted] a leader of Columbia University Divest (CUAD) – is no stranger to controversy. Columbia University Apartheid Divest (CUAD) has previously called for violence and armed resistance, breaking university rules. And here's where it gets interesting: Helen actively supports Maryam. She retweets her inflammatory posts and echoes her sentiments. Helen Han Wei Lui is biased, extreme, unapologetically divisive. The question is why is she still in power?"
  - In response to this post, redacted student Senator received racialized and sexualized comments. Some speculated on her membership in the CCP and demanded her deportation, others called her "slant eye yellow bitch," "chink," and "subhuman."

#### December 6, 2024:

- *The Wall Street Journal* reported: "The Trump NIH Pick Who Wants to Take On 'Cancel Culture' Colleges: Jay Bhattacharya would consider academic freedom at universities and medical schools seeking NIH grants."<sup>1264</sup>

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<sup>1260</sup> @documentingjewhatedoncampus, Instagram, November 24, 2024.

<sup>1261</sup> Offenhardt, "Facing Trump's threats, Columbia investigates students critical of Israel."

<sup>1262</sup> Daksha Pillai and Joseph Zuloaga, "'Distraction by design': Columbia University Apartheid Divest holds protest at Tree Lighting ceremony," *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/12/06/distraction-by-design-columbia-university-apartheid-divest-holds-protest-at-tree-lighting-ceremony/>.

<sup>1263</sup> @jewhatedb, Instagram, December 5, 2024.

<sup>1264</sup> Liz Essley Whyte, "The Trump NIH Pick Who Wants to Take On 'Cancel Culture' Colleges," *The Wall Street Journal*, December 6, 2024, <https://www.wsj.com/health/healthcare/jay-bhattacharya-national-institute-health-grants-cancel-culture-645101f5>.

- Stand Columbia Society published “Issue #020: The Cult Dynamics of Campus Protests: A Perfect Storm.”<sup>1265</sup>
  - This newsletter described protests at Columbia as “cult-like.”
  - This newsletter discussed altering admissions processes. “Perhaps have a conversation on what kind of incoming first years are in our alma mater’s and society’s best interests.”

#### December 9, 2024:

- Jafra, the Palestinian Student Committee of CUAD, posted “Urgent: Meta has suspended CUAD Instagram” along with screenshots of the suspension. Meta did not immediately respond to *Spectator* requests for comment on the suspension.<sup>1266</sup>
- Around 2:00 PM CUAD held an “NYC all out for Palestine” protest, starting at the main Barnard gates.<sup>1267</sup>
  - Dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrated.
  - Around a dozen counterprotesters gathered within a barricaded area, some with large Israeli flags.
  - Professor Davidai gave speeches to the group of pro-Israel protesters and walked by the barricades, filming the pro-Palestinian protesters.
  - Dozens of NYPD officers and vehicles were present at and around the protest for the duration of the demonstration. NYPD officers attempted to separate the pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian protesters with barricades.
  - CUAD relocated the protest to 116th Street and Broadway from Futter Field after Barnard restricted campus access to Barnard ID holders and Barnard faculty and staff with select exceptions in anticipation of the protest.
  - Due to campus access restrictions, a line of over 100 people stretched down the block waiting to get into Barnard’s campus.
  - At around 3:00 PM dozens of additional pro-Palestinian protesters crossed Broadway from Columbia and joined the protest in front of Barnard, forming a line.
  - Over 100 protesters then marched around Barnard campus twice, holding a banner that read “Globalize the Intifada” along with “Within Our Lifetime.” Protesters chanted “Feminism is resistance” and “NYPD, KKK, IOF, you’re all the same,” using air horns and drums.
  - Approximately 3:30 PM a student reported being punched in the face and another student reported having an Israeli flag stolen at the off-campus protest. The NYPD Hate Crime Task Force investigated the incident as a hate crime.
  - At around 3:30 PM, Barnard security closed the main entrance gates and members of Barnard security used a large metal chain to lock them. Security members unlocked the chain to let people in and out of the gates after they scanned their IDs. The chain was lifted when the protesters began dispersing around 4:00 PM.
  - Protesters put stickers with names and photos of Barnard trustees, labeled “All trustees are bastards,” on the windows of Barnard buildings.
  - A spokesperson for the NYPD confirmed to *Spectator* that there were no arrests or charges filed at the protest
  - CUAD initially planned to hold the protest on Barnard’s campus on Futter Field, according to an Instagram post.

#### December 12, 2024:

- In “Columbia Alumni for Israel” WhatsApp chat, Professor Gil Zussman sent a link to the “Anti-Zionist Faculty Barometer,” which “provides a ranking system to measure the presence and activity of anti-Zionist faculty on U.S. college campuses,” according to its website. Columbia and Barnard are ranked at the highest level at “5,” meaning “critical level of anti-Zionist faculty presence/activity found.”<sup>1268</sup>

<sup>1265</sup> Stand Columbia Society, “Issue #020: The Cult Dynamics of Campus Protests: A Perfect Storm,” (December 6, 2024).

<sup>1266</sup> Colette Holcomb and Emily Pickering, “Columbia University Apartheid Divest holds pro-Palestinian protest at Barnard gates,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/12/10/columbia-university-apartheid-divest-holds-pro-palestinian-protest-at-barnard-gates/>.

<sup>1267</sup> Stahl and Huddleston, “‘The trust is absolutely broken’: Barnard initiates disciplinary processes against students after ‘unauthorized’ protest.” Rebecca Massel, Colette Holcomb, and Emily Pickering, “Columbia student reports being punched in the face, robbed of Israeli flag at protest,” *Columbia Daily Spectator*, <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2024/12/11/columbia-student-reports-being-punched-in-the-face-robbed-of-israeli-flag-at-protest/>.

<sup>1268</sup> Huddleston, “In leaked messages, members of ‘Columbia Alumni for Israel’ group chat work to identify, punish pro-Palestinian protesters.” Lennard and Lacy, “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind the Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protesters.”

- Professor Zussman had sent multiple messages throughout Fall 2023-Spring 2024 asking group chat members to “amplify” X posts by @CUJewsIsraelis, and shared posts from Columbia Faculty and Staff for Israel’s X account.
- On February 15, 2025, *The Intercept* published “The Columbia Network Pushing Behind The Scenes to Deport and Arrest Student Protestors” about the chat. The chat counted over 1,000 members including alumni, parents, at least three students, at least two current Columbia faculty members, and one associate dean. Group chat members shared names of students allegedly affiliated with pro-Palestinian student groups, focusing on identifying students who were allegedly leaders of the organizations. Members called for the expulsion, arrest, and deportation of pro-Palestinian protesters. Several group members have referenced meetings or correspondence with school administrators, including Columbia’s interim president, trustees, donors, and executive vice presidents.

### December 13, 2024:

- Monthly University Senate Plenary:<sup>1269</sup>
  - Statement About Community (Student Affairs Committee): December 8, 2024
    - “As members of an academic community and as public-facing individuals, we understand and accept that we are subject to both support and criticism. Critique is an essential part of our work and of the dynamic environment we foster in our institution, where diverse ideas and perspectives come together. However, it is important to acknowledge that certain forms of behavior extend beyond the boundaries of healthy, constructive dialogue and only serve to shut down open discussion. We are deeply concerned by recent events in which select comments made in plenary from one of our student Senators were shared on social media. Despite vicious racist and sexist online harassment in response to this post, fellow community members continued to target the Senator and provided a platform for further harassment. Harassment and doxing is a violation of privacy and an unacceptable form of aggression. Such actions, including the sharing of personal information without consent, not only harm individuals but undermine the core values of respect and integrity that define our community. Sexual harassment, cyberbullying, and other forms of harmful behavior are not, and will never be, tolerated within our community. These actions do not align with the values we strive to uphold and fail to meet the standards we expect of one another. In light of this, we call on all members of our community to return to a norm of respectful discourse without utilizing online platforms to effectively silence individuals with whom you disagree. We invite those who disagree with us or who seek clarification of a senator’s statements or comments to engage through the appropriate channels rather than resorting to actions that may generate hostility or harm. We must hold each other—and ourselves—to this norm of interaction, discussion, and debate. As a deliberative community, we must be able to engage in the type of open and productive communication that reflects our institution’s academic pedigree and supports the growth and well-being of all individuals. Let us focus on fostering a climate in which dialogue, collaboration, and understanding can thrive, and let us remember that every space we share—whether physical or virtual—is an opportunity for respectful exchange and intellectual growth. We remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that every member of our community can safely speak without fear in a respectful and supportive academic environment.”
  - Statement from student Senator:
    - “Thank you, I’d like to be the first to express my gratitude to the Student Affairs Committee for this statement, which I wholeheartedly endorse. My name is [redacted], I represent [redacted] and I am the most recent student leader to be targeted by individuals both within our campus community and from outside interest groups. My November 22nd remarks were filmed, in violation of Senate bylaws, by a fellow student and distributed on social media with the explicit intent to incite harassment and violence. The student in question has deliberately misconstrued my remarks by characterizing them as minimizing the issue of antisemitism on campus. I reiterate now, once and for all: antisemitism is an egregious form of discrimination at Columbia, especially when Jewish students and faculty are intimidated for speaking critically about the Israeli government. This form of discrimination has been amplified through the creation of an informal system where individuals

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<sup>1269</sup> Columbia University Senate, "December 13, 2024 Plenary."



at Columbia are being platformed and rewarded for doxing with the support of outside entities as they distribute defamatory media to silence dissent. To be sure: this incident has almost nothing to do with me, or my role as a student leader, the intent is only to prohibit free speech. I am reminded of the doxing trucks that circulated campus for months last term especially during the encampment. They drove circles outside my apartment, singlehandedly broadcasting the names of my fellow students which they branded as terrorists for exercising the right to free speech and to protest. These individuals operated anonymously then. Not anymore. There is no secret as to who the student responsible for doxing me is, he apparently feels no need to hide. Columbia's continued inaction on the matter has emboldened them to operate openly – they are proud, even - to hold our institutions like the Senate hostage to serve at their whims. They will not stop until they have ICE brought onto campus to deport our students, and I am so disappointed that even today our president was not able to give us assurances against this outcome. Here is exhibit A of our administration's bias and ineptitude: the University has known for weeks that my remarks were being filmed and distributed online, thus undermining me and student leaders like myself from representing their constituency, and they have not taken action. Even right now they are filming me in the back of this very room. This is unfortunately unsurprising, doxing has now become predominant culture at Columbia and is symptomatic of the institutional backing for the perpetrators as Columbia fails to impose due process to hold them accountable, even dedicating significant institutional resources to protect them. Columbia has the resources to punish students for behavior on social media – but apparently not this group. Not once. Not ever. Would anyone like to know what I, and other female and minority students at Columbia, have been called in the last week alone? Ask yourselves what kind of violence young women, young women of color, can be threatened with, and you will know, and your stomach should churn as you realize the kind of dehumanizing behavior these perpetrators are capable of. They have no appetite for civil discourse or reasonable criticism. Just last week Professor Shai Davidai posted a photo of me, from when I was 20 years old in a swimsuit – for his hundreds of thousands of followers to leer at and eroticize. This individual in particular is unsafe around female students and should never again enjoy the privileges of teaching. He has a proven pattern of targeting young women online after dozens of reports about his harassing behavior and the only reason we are talking about me today is because I happen to be a privileged student leader who enjoys tremendous support from my department and my constituents. Other vulnerable students have not had the same privilege. Columbia has failed them. Columbia could have stopped him, but chose not to, and even now is electing to ignore the harm they have facilitated by allowing these perpetrators to monopolize institutional resources. Finally, to the faculty, scholars, students and administrators of good faith here with me today, I urge you to consider that the perpetrators of this harassment at Columbia will one day grow bored of us. Their interest in our institution is insincere at best and only an instrument to amplify their ideological rhetoric. This is true of the recent House Republican report, and I imagine, true of the upcoming federal administration. These individuals will work to discredit, spin lies, undermine, harass, and embarrass our institution, we will cower to their intimidation by trading away our civil liberties and the humanity of our students, and then they will grow bored and we will be left to clean up the mess they make of our school, our students, our legacy as an institution. Columbia was my dream school. I was waitlisted for my program and I went to my department and begged to come here, and when the perpetrators of this harassment are gone, I, and all the scholars and leaders like me, will be left to clean up the mess they make of our home, the home that I love. So I urge that our administration take action today, and in the upcoming months and years, to not let them overtake our institution without fighting the good fight, for our colleagues, and our students.”

- Petition under Section 1M of the University Senate By-Laws (Sen. S. Bernofsky)
- Update from Rules Administrator Gregory Wawro

#### **December 16, 2024:**

- At 11:46 AM Senior Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs Dean Richard Slusarczyk reached out to [redacted Palestinian student] in an email titled “Doxxing incident”: “Professor [redacted] informed GSAS of the doxxing incident. I am so sorry to hear that this has happened. I want to check in with you to find out how you are doing. I understand that you filed a report with OIE. A report about the incident was filed with University Life, who

works with students who have been doxed and has resources on their website. I am available if you would like to talk about this or if you have any questions. My cell is [redacted]. Please do not hesitate to reach out.”<sup>1270</sup>

- At 5:55 PM [redacted Palestinian student] replied to Dean Slusarczyk re “Doxxing incident”: “Thank you for reaching out. My primary concern at the moment is the safety of my two young children. The doxxing of my personal information not only puts me at risk, but also exposes my children to potential harm. I’m unsure how much these individuals know about me, but since they are part of the Columbia community, I fear they may be able to access my address—especially since I live in University housing. This is something that has been causing me significant anxiety, and it is keeping me up at night. I have already requested that the University consider moving my family to different housing—ideally, something where my children can have their own rooms and feel safer (at no cost to us). I’m still waiting to hear back. The last few days have been incredibly stressful, and have prevented me from focusing on my final exams. I strongly urge the University to take swift action in addressing and reprimanding these individuals, who have demonstrated a pattern of attacking and doxxing underrepresented women on entirely baseless claims other than identifying me as Palestinian. This has gone on for too long and would in no way be permitted if it were happening to any other demographic on campus. As both a student and an employee of the University, I ask that you do everything in your power to protect us and to condemn these overtly racist attacks. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.”

#### December 17, 2024:

- The Office of Public Affairs published “Statement on Professor Massad’s Spring 2025 Course.”<sup>1271</sup>
  - “Professor Massad’s statements following the terrorist attack on October 7<sup>th</sup> created pain for many in our community and contributed to the deep controversy on our campus. We have consistently condemned any celebration or promotion of violence or terror. We remain committed to principles of free expression and the open exchange of viewpoints and perspectives through opportunities for constructive dialogue and understanding throughout our campus community, and we seek to provide a learning environment and classrooms that promote intellectual inquiry and analytical thinking along with civility, tolerance, and respect. Professor Massad’s class is one of three courses Columbia students can elect to take next semester on the subject of Zionism and the history of Israel, two of which are offered through Columbia’s Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies. Professor Massad’s class is limited to 60 students and is not a required course.”

#### December 18, 2024:

- U.S. House of Representatives published “Staff Report on Antisemitism.”<sup>1272</sup>
  - “(1) Universities Failed to Stop Antisemitism on Their Campuses, Likely Violating Title VI. The Committee found that numerous universities failed to stop antisemitism on their campuses, likely violating Title VI. Specifically, Columbia University explicitly acknowledged that its campus became a hostile environment in violation of Title VI.”
    - “Columbia University: Columbia stands out for its egregious failure to combat antisemitism on its campus, despite its president acknowledging that the University was in violation of its Title VI obligations. On April 29, 2024, Columbia’s then-President Minouche Shafik publicly stated that an encampment established on April 17, and related incidents “create[ed] a hostile environment in violation of Title VI, especially around our gates, that is unsafe for everyone.” This statement came after an April 21, Committee letter to the University documenting numerous disturbing incidents at and around the encampment, and warning that Columbia was in “major breach” of its Title VI obligations. Yet, Columbia’s leadership failed to restore order to the campus until May 1, after a group of students and others criminally took over a campus building, Hamilton Hall.”
    - “These were not isolated incidents. Rather, they were part of an extensive pattern of Columbia’s failures to enforce University rules to address antisemitic conduct. In a disturbing August 2024 report, Columbia’s presidentially appointed Task Force on Antisemitism detailed an atmosphere of pervasive civil rights violations at the University. The Task Force wrote, “[Jewish students] consider the University bound by duty and by law to ensure students are able to learn and live in a neutral

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<sup>1270</sup> Richard Slusarczyk, December 16, 2024.

<sup>1271</sup> Statement, “Statement on Professor Massad’s Spring 2025 Course.”

<sup>1272</sup> U.S. House of Representatives, *Staff Report on Antisemitism* (December 18, 2024).

- environment in which discrimination is not tolerated, without fear for their safety” but “[w]hat we heard makes clear that hundreds of Jewish and Israeli students did not have this experience at Columbia University in the academic year 2023-2024.” The Task Force found Israeli students were frequently targeted on the basis of their national origin in violation of federal antidiscrimination law, explaining that “hatred toward Israelis has reached alarming levels on campus” and that “Israeli students found the pervasive hostility made it difficult to access necessary services, such as healthcare.” The Task Force also found “[v]isibly observant [Jewish] students, like ones who wear traditional head coverings, have been frequently met with extreme hostility.”
- “(2) Students who established unlawful antisemitic encampments—which violated university policies and created unsafe, hostile environments—were granted shocking concessions.”
    - “In the spring of 2024, there was a wave of unlawful antisemitic encampments established on campuses throughout the country. These encampments frequently generated substantial harassment – and in some cases physical assaults – of Jewish students, created hostile environments, and disrupted campus operations. In a dereliction of their responsibilities, many school officials failed to clear these encampments in a timely manner, often negotiating with encampment participants, and in some cases appeasing them with appalling concessions. Two of the most notable cases are Northwestern, the first school to capitulate to its encampment; and Columbia, the first school where an encampment was established, and where the University’s fecklessness led to the criminal takeover of a campus building. In both cases, the universities’ shocking efforts to appease students went farther than the public was led to believe.”
    - “Columbia University: Despite Columbia offering more significant concessions than it publicly acknowledged, efforts to appease encampment organizers did not result in an agreement. Columbia offered to have the University body responsible for considering divestment requests and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees review proposals to divest from companies with criteria that would open the door for anti-Israel activists to pursue spurious claims against companies with ties to Israel or that are involved in defense manufacturing. Columbia also offered amnesty for some encampment members, to create a University fund to invest in projects in Gaza and the West Bank and to provide scholarships for students with ties to Gaza and the West Bank. Even after negotiations broke down, Columbia continued to appease the radical encampment when then-President Shafik promised to ‘explore pursuing’ the encampment’s demands. This mentality appears to be shared by Columbia’s current leadership. In September 2024, Columbia’s Interim President Katrina Armstrong shamefully apologized to students arrested for the takeover of Hamilton Hall and for participating in the encampment.”
  - “(3) So-Called University Leaders Intentionally Declined to Support Jewish Communities on Campus”
    - “The Committee found that so-called university leaders deliberately chose to withhold support from Jewish communities on campus, demonstrating a refusal to address the hostile environments at their institutions. On many campuses numerous antisemitic students, faculty, and staff openly supported Hamas’ terrorism and engaged in harassment and intimidation of Jewish communities. Jewish students, faculty, and staff often felt abandoned by administrators’ passive and muted responses to the explosion of antisemitic hate on campus. The Committee’s investigation found that these failures to act were not mere oversights but intentional decisions.”
    - “Columbia University Failed to Correct False Narratives of a “Chemical Attack” Used to Vilify Jewish Students but Imposed Disproportionate Discipline on Jewish Students Involved: Columbia University administrators allowed a false narrative that Jewish students had perpetrated a “chemical attack” at an anti-Israel rally to persist for months despite knowing it was false and that the students involved had merely sprayed novelty “fart sprays.” In an apparent case of disparate treatment, the Jewish students responsible were given excessive year-and-a-half long suspensions, substantially longer than any suspension for antisemitic conduct violations. Columbia failed to correct the record despite requests from the Jewish community, even as anti-Israel students used the false narrative of a “chemical attack” purportedly involving military-grade “skunk spray” to demonize Jewish students and call for excluding Israelis. Columbia finally acknowledged that the incident was not a “chemical attack” in August 2024, pursuant to a settlement with one of the Jewish students excessively disciplined, which also awarded the student \$395,000 and modified the suspension to conditional disciplinary probation.”
  - “(4) Universities Failed to Enforce Their Rules and Impose Meaningful Discipline for Antisemitic Behavior, and in Some Cases, Radical Faculty Thwarted Meaningful Discipline.”

- “Universities have often asserted that their FERPA obligations prevent sharing information about their responses to disciplinary cases, but that they would address antisemitic incidents seriously. In fact, the Committee’s review of disciplinary information, produced by 11 universities, reveals that the schools utterly failed to enforce their rules and impose discipline in response to antisemitic conduct violations, encouraging future transgressions. In some cases, radical faculty thwarted meaningful discipline.”
    - “Columbia University: Columbia said the 22 students arrested for the criminal takeover of Hamilton Hall would face expulsion. Instead, the University lifted the students’ interim suspensions after pushback from radical faculty, allowing 7 to graduate, restoring to good standing, and leaving 3 with preexisting sanctions suspended and 1 on probation. Despite dozens of students being arrested for conduct related to Hamilton Hall and the encampment, or having faced discipline for other egregious antisemitic incidents; Columbia failed to expel students and issued final suspensions to only four students. Members of Columbia’s University Senate, led by Executive Committee Chair Jeanine D’Armiento, thwarted discipline by intimidating Columbia’s weak leaders into allowing the Hamilton Hall perpetrators to avoid real discipline. Columbia dropped the arrested students’ interim suspensions, transferring their cases from an administrator-driven disciplinary process to a feeble Rules of University Conduct process under the control of the University Senate, which allowed nearly all arrested students to graduate or return to campus.”
  - “(5) So-Called University Leaders Expressed Hostility to Congressional Oversight and Treated Campus Antisemitism as a Public Relations Issue, Not a Serious Problem Demanding Action.”
    - “So-called university leaders expressed hostility and contempt toward congressional oversight of campus antisemitism and public criticism. Rather than treat the antisemitic hate plaguing their campuses as a serious problem, they handled it as a public relations issue. Columbia Board of Trustees leaders dismissing congressional oversight on campus antisemitism as “capital [sic] hill nonsense” and expressing hope Democrats would win the House and spare them from further oversight.”
  - “Recommendations”
    - “The executive branch should hold universities accountable for their failures to address campus antisemitism with meaningful consequences.”
    - “The Committee’s investigation found that postsecondary institutions failed to enforce rules and impose meaningful discipline in response to antisemitic conduct violations, an abdication of their Title VI responsibility to prevent a hostile environment. To comply with their Title VI obligations, universities must enforce their conduct rules and enact meaningful disciplinary sanctions, including suspension, expulsion, and termination of employment where appropriate.”
    - “Additionally, Jewish students received inappropriate or excessive discipline, including for actions that should not have been conduct violations, such as speaking out about antisemitism. This contrasts with the meager discipline imposed for serious antisemitic incidents. These failures raise significant Title VI disparate treatment concerns, and universities must examine their disciplinary processes to eliminate such disparate treatment.”
    - “Universities should also reform admissions and hiring processes that have filled their student bodies, faculties, and staffs with pro-Hamas antisemites.”
    - “Universities Must Recognize That Discrimination Against “Zionists” is an Unacceptable Antisemitic Civil Rights Violation: Universities should make clear that discrimination against Zionists is an unacceptable violation of their conduct policies and must prevent hostile environments created by discrimination against “Zionists.” Campus Jewish communities are often targeted through antisemitic discrimination and harassment on the purported basis of being “Zionists.” While criticism of Israel is not inherently antisemitic, hatred against “Zionists” is. Anti-Zionism has been recognized as a form of antisemitism by major Jewish organizations and a bipartisan vote of the U.S. House of Representatives.”
    - “Universities Must Increase Academic Rigor and Viewpoint Diversity: Universities that take billions in taxpayer dollars have been captured by radical faculties. In the humanities and social sciences areas, faculty espouse a narrow range of views which are oftentimes deeply antisemitic. Academic standards have deteriorated, and at many institutions viewpoint diversity is nearly nonexistent. This must change, especially among tenured faculty. Universities must restore academic rigor and stop their programs from being platforms for intellectually bankrupt radicalization and indoctrination, including the perpetuation of antisemitic falsehoods.”

- “Universities Must Increase Transparency Regarding Their Handling of Conduct Incidents: Universities have frequently refused to share details with the public on their handling of conduct incidents, leaving campus communities in the dark as to what actions, if any, were taken. While universities have often asserted the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as a purported ground for refusing to produce this information, their blanket refusals go beyond FERPA’s requirements. Schools have handled this issue inconsistently, often asserting FERPA as a grounds for not releasing information they prefer to withhold, while on the other hand sharing information on specific incidents publicly or to non-governmental third-parties in certain instances where it suited them. Institutions can and should share more information on their handling of antisemitic conduct incidents.”
- “The Executive Branch Should Aggressively Enforce Title VI and Hold Universities Accountable for Violating Their Obligations”
- “Congress Should Pass Legislation Removing Title IV Eligibility from Any University That Boycotts or Divests From Israel”

**December 30, 2024:**

- At 12:31 PM [redacted student] emailed Rules Clerk, Redacted UJB members, redacted advisor, and redacted lawyer in an email titled “Re: Rules Clerk | University Judicial Board Hearing: January 13, 2025 at 4:40 p.m.: [redacted student]”: “I am responding to your notice of hearing as a courtesy, and out of a good-faith assumption that you are not aware that CSSI effectively expelled me of four months ago due to what they alleged was a ‘violation of an interim suspension order,’ due to my alleged presence in the encampment and Hind’s Hall. Despite my numerous requests for evidence as to the legitimacy of CSSI’s original interim suspension against me, stemming from a coercive threat requiring me to be interrogated by Private Investigators regarding a Palestinian Resistance 101 political education event or face interim suspension, CSSI failed to do so. Nevertheless, when the University Senate called for a pause on all CSSI handling of encampment and Hind’s Hall related charges, CSSI decided to pursue a separate case against myself and other students for alleged ‘violation of interim suspension directives.’ They served as judge, jury, and executioner – as they always do – in violation of the University’s Charter and Statutes, and decided to suspend and ban me from campus for 2 months, after already evicting me from my Columbia-leased apartment, barring me from psychological and health services, and forbidding me from accessing my on-campus job. The two year suspension imposed by CSSI made me ineligible for my full scholarship, if CSSI even allowed me to return after 2 years (which they reserved the power to decide). Given that I am a low-income, financially independent graduate student, I was only ever able to attend Columbia due to my full scholarship awarded to me by SIPA. Dean Yee at SIPA confirmed that I lost my scholarship due to CSSI’s interim suspension against me in the Spring and the 2 year suspension and disciplinary probation from CSSI as well. Notably, the scholarship only requires the student to be in “good academic standing,” and I maintained a 3.89 GPA at SIPA. It is quite offensive if the UJB is aware of the expulsion by classist means and is still expecting me to further disciplinary hearings, so I am assuming good-faith that CSSI never communicated these outcomes to you. I will attend further disciplinary hearings only if the UJB can provide me with a written override of this CSSI decision and articulate a path for me to return to Columbia with my scholarship intact. Otherwise, you are complicit in the Title 6 discrimination, targeting, and classist expulsion perpetrated by CSSI, and I hold you equally responsible. I have cc’d my lawyers as well as an . . . advisor. . . on this communication.”<sup>1273</sup>

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<sup>1273</sup> Redacted student, December 30, 2024.

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