



Los Angeles

September 25, 2013

Statement to the CSU Board of Trustees

I thank you for the opportunity to speak to the board this morning. My name is Estee Chandler. I organize the Los Angeles chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace. JVP is a national, grassroots organization with 35 chapters nationwide.

We have over 130,000 members and supporters, including over 13,000 in CA. We don't claim to speak for all Jews, though clearly we are a large and growing segment of the Jewish American population.

As an organization we are inspired by Jewish values to work together toward real peace, with justice, in Israel & Palestine. We use international law and human rights to frame and ground our work.

We've recently learned about a letter to the CSU Board of Trustees accusing Prof. David Klein of misuse of his CSUN email address and website. As you are probably aware, these accusations are not new. In our opinion they are merely an attempt by AMCHA activists to revisit baseless charges, which CSUN has already rejected.

As is true of JVP, AMCHA doesn't represent the "Jewish community" they represent themselves. I am not here today to oppose their positions, but to reject their attempts to limit free expression and robust debate on campuses by attacking groups and individuals in order to limit criticism of the policies of the State of Israel. Shamefully, they often do so by casting the accusation of anti-Semitism or self hating Jew.

Jewish Voice for Peace does not support limitation of free expression by groups opposing or supporting policies of the Israeli government. But we do believe that we must stand and oppose the harassment of faculty members because of their personal political beliefs, as is the case here.

University campuses are exactly where vigorous debates about all subjects should be taking place, and we hope that CSUN and this board will continue to protect those who engage in them.

Estee Chandler
Jewish Voice for Peace, Los Angeles
Chapter Organizer
LosAngeles@jewishvoiceforpeace.org
213.400.9201

10153 ½ Riverside Drive #288, Toluca Lake CA 91602
LosAngeles@jewishvoiceforpeace.org - 213.400.9201