

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND
COMMITTEE ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND DIVERSITY
Resolution on Canary Mission, 2019**

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Background

Canary Mission (canarymission.org) is an anonymously hosted website that, in its own words, is devoted to identifying "people and groups that promote hatred of the USA, Israel and Jews on North American college campuses," principally by creating a searchable online database accessible to the public. Canary Mission's website features the slogan "because the world should know." Its own staff and funding are not listed. Its methods reportedly include contacting employers of people on its list, as well as tagging them on social media, and using search engine optimization so that its entries appear early on internet searches. The objective appears to be to adversely influence admissions, hiring, promotion, grant applications, and other decisions affecting the lives and careers of people listed on its site. Such an objective would be problematic under any circumstances, but it is compounded by the inclusion of numerous errors and falsehoods in the entries on individual people.

In 2016, the chair of AAUP's Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure, Hank Reichman, wrote that "Canary Mission is a blacklist, pure and simple. It echoes the long-discredited and horrific blacklists of the McCarthy era."

A number of UCSC faculty and students are listed on the Canary Mission website. We are concerned about the effect on members of our community, whose futures rest on their reputations, which are under assault. We are also concerned with Canary Mission's contribution to an atmosphere of suppression and anonymous accusations, which run counter to our principles of academic freedom, our right to freedom of expression, and the UC Santa Cruz Principles of Community.

The UC-wide Committee on Academic Freedom sent a memo dated March 29th for consideration by the Academic Council. The description of Canary Mission above draws from that memo. Its primary concern is with the evaluation of prospective and current students and the hiring and advancement of faculty. The present resolution focuses on specific actions that should be taken on our campus to address the effects of Canary Mission on our community.

Resolution:

Therefore, the UC Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate calls on Chancellor Blumenthal to initiate the following actions:

1. Formally affirm that Canary Mission and similar websites will not be used in any university procedures, including hiring, reviewing, grant-making, admissions, or any other selection procedures;
2. Issue a statement disavowing the activities of Canary Mission and similar websites in attacking academic freedom, seeking to stifle freedom of discussion, and--by virtue of its

“easily searchable format”--inviting attack on faculty, students, and other members of the university community;

3. Offer free legal assistance to any UC Santa Cruz affiliate who is listed on the Canary Mission website and who is being harmed by being so listed. Such assistance may include help with removal from the website, help in obtaining visas and other travel documentation for faculty and students whose research abroad (e.g., in Israel/Palestine) has been compromised, a university letter for the placement files of affected students condemning Canary Mission and affirming the students’ good standing at UC Santa Cruz, or other help required by those facing material consequences of their listing on the site;
4. Offer free psychological assistance to any UC Santa Cruz affiliate who is listed on the Canary Mission web site and who is being harmed by being so listed.
5. Provide free technical assistance to remove profiles from the site, if possible; and
6. Seek a statement from UC Office of the President and the Council of Chancellors condemning Canary Mission. We urge consideration of a joint Administration-Senate statement on this topic. To that end, we also ask that Chair Lau take this resolution to Academic Council for systemwide consideration.

Respectfully submitted;

COMMITTEE ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND DIVERSITY

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