

August 14, 2024

Students for Justice in Palestine

sent via email to [REDACTED]

To the current president of Students for Justice in Palestine:

On August 02, 2024, a Panel of the Subcommittee on Organizational Conduct met regarding the allegation that your organization violated the Student Code. After a complete examination of the information presented, the Panel concluded the following: On April 26, 2024, your group promoted, hosted, sponsored, and/or engaged in an unapproved and unauthorized event and encampment on university grounds adjacent to the Alma Mater. While at this location, your group engaged in the following conduct: (i) erected tents and canopies despite being directed by university staff and law enforcement that the action was not permitted and violated university policy; (ii) lacked an approved space reservation request and failed to remove the non-permitted structures within the time period established by university officials; (iii) participated in a blockade as well as instructed individuals to not take down the camp, and (iv) individuals at your sponsored protest event initiated physical contact with and impeded access and the attempted removal of the non-permitted structures by university staff and law enforcement by linking arms and using wooden boards

On April 28, 2024, through May 10, 2024, your group promoted, hosted, sponsored, and/or engaged in an unapproved and unauthorized event and encampment at the south end of the university's main quad with tents and canopies. This twelve-day event was done without an approved space reservation. During this organization sponsored event, instruction was given to participating individuals to interfere with any official attempting to remove the structures.

Rationale

In finding facts and determining responsibility, the Panel relied upon the following sources of information: documents and images (social media posts of Students for Justice in Palestine) contained within the Investigative Report, statements made to the media by members of Students for Justice in Palestine contained within the Investigative Report, and the mass email sent out by Chancellor Robert Jones.

The Panel determined that the registered student organization Students for Justice in Palestine promoted, hosted, sponsored, and/or engaged in an unapproved and unauthorized event and encampment on the university grounds. This is supported by the multiple social media posts made by the Students for Justice in Palestine via their designated Instagram page, where they informed individuals of the protest happening on April 26, 2024. The Panel determined that the Students for Justice in Palestine organized and hosted the encampment based on a social media post made on April 26, 2024, on their designated page, they specifically stated the following, "Alongside SJP

UIUC, students of UIUC are taking a stand by setting up an encampment in solidarity with the people of Palestine to support our demands for student protection and divestment."

Additionally, the Panel determined that there was a preponderance of evidence to determine that the Students for Justice in Palestine organized and hosted an encampment on university grounds during the period of April 28, 2024, through May 10, 2024, due to the numerous social media posts on their designated page that made a call for individuals to join them in a specific location, the south main quad of the university.

Furthermore, the Panel determined that the Students for Justice in Palestine failed to comply and instructed others to not comply with university staff and law enforcement officials on April 26, 2024, in their attempt to remove the erected structures from university property based on the statement that was made in an interview by a member of Students for Justice in Palestine where they stated that tents were set up at 5 a.m. and that the "school and police" were unclear around the policies regarding the camp and when they attempted to gain clarity they were met with short responses. The member also stated "We decided we are not leaving," because they believe that the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is complicit in what is occurring in Palestine.

The Panel also determined that the Students for Justice in Palestine participated in a blockade and physical contact with police officers and university staff on April 26, 2024, preventing them from removing the erected structures from university grounds based on photos contained in the investigative report that were uploaded to the organization's designated social media platform.

The Panel determined there was not enough evidence to show a preponderance that the respondent utilized amplified sound during classroom instruction times nor instructed others to make physical contact and interfere with any official attempting to remove the structures during the period of April 28, 2024, through May 10, 2024.

On the basis of this finding, the Panel determined that your organization violated the following sections of the Student Code:

Student Code/1-302.m,
Student Code/2-304.a.3,
Student Code/1-302.h,
Student Code/2-304.a.1,
Student Code/1-302.g,
Student Code/1-302.f,
Student Code/1-302.e.2,
Student Code/1-302.e.1,
Student Code/1-302.a.1,
Student Code/1-302.a.2,
Student Code/1-302.a.4,
Student Code/1-302.q (e.g. Housing Hallmarks),
Student Code/1-302.r

As a result, you are assigned the following sanctions:

1. Revocation

Start Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Your organization's registered student organization ("RSO") status at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is REVOKED effective August 13, 2024. Thus, your organization's relationship with the university is terminated until representatives of your organization successfully petition the Subcommittee on Organizational Conduct to restore its status. Revocation records are maintained indefinitely. Your organization may request a petition hearing in Spring 2027 for possible reinstatement of its status as an RSO beginning in Fall 2028. All petition materials, including evidence of your completion of the above requirements, should be submitted to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution by no later than the first of November for a guaranteed fall hearing or the fifteenth of March for a spring hearing.

2. Educational Sanction

Start Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024

You are required to have two-thirds of your membership and all executive board members attend a workshop and/or training on exploring the reasoning, rationale, and importance of university policy and procedures for expressive activity on university grounds in order to promote a safe learning environment for all students. Your organization can choose a workshop and/or training of your choice, however, you must have approval from the Office for Student Conflict Resolution before enrolling and attending your chosen workshop and/or training. Any workshop and/or training completed without the prior approval of the Office for Student Conflict Resolution will not be accepted.

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Senate Committee on Student Discipline. To do so, you must email a notice of appeal to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution at conflictresolution@illinois.edu by no later than 5 p.m. on August 20, 2024. Along with this notice, you should also submit a completed "Appeal Information Checklist" (attached). **With the exception of any No Contact Directives and unless you are told otherwise, the above sanctions are not implemented until the appeal deadline passes or an appeal hearing is held.** Procedures for appeal are located at <http://conflictresolution.illinois.edu/policies/student-discipline/appendixB/> and at conflictresolution.illinois.edu/policies/student-discipline/articleIII/#section3-03.

Please contact your case coordinator if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Mariah N. Young
Associate Director and Assistant Dean of Students

xc: Student Engagement;