



April 4, 2019

**VIA EMAIL**

Pitzer College Board of Trustees  
1050 N. Mills Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711

Dear Chairman Brown and Honorable Members of Pitzer College's Board of Trustees:

On March 14, 2019, President Melvin Oliver exercised exemplary leadership by vetoing the College Council's recommendation to suspend Pitzer College's study-abroad program at the University of Haifa in Israel. In the thoughtful [message](#) he issued to the Pitzer community, President Oliver noted that if implemented, the recommendation would impair students' educational opportunities in violation of the College's core values. As he properly made crystal clear, implementing the recommendation would not be in Pitzer's best interests and in fact would "only harm the College."

Now Israel-bashers and anti-Semites at Pitzer are determined that President Oliver pay a price for his appropriate and wise decision. As we have seen them do on campuses across the country, they are using bullying tactics to intimidate, stifle and silence their detractors – even stooping so low as to engage in public and ugly [name-calling](#) against President Oliver.

The Student Senate has even drafted a [resolution](#) calling for a vote of no confidence in President Oliver. The resolution states that if President Oliver does not retract his decision to veto the College Council's recommendation by the end of the day on April 11, 2019, the Student Senate is "call[ing] for his immediate resignation or removal from office."

The bigotry and hypocrisy are obvious. Pitzer College has [study-abroad programs in China, Cuba and Turkey](#), all of which have documented horrific human rights records. As President Oliver noted, the College Council's recommendation was bigoted, because it singled out and sought to suspend only one study-abroad program, in the Jewish state of Israel. It is also bigoted because Israel is a human-rights-loving country and the only democracy in the Middle East where everyone – Jews, Arab Muslims, Arab Christians, non-Arab Christians, Druze, Bedouins and others – have equal rights. Arabs hold government posts, and serve in the Knesset and on the judiciary.

Targeting the University of Haifa, of all places, is even more outrageous and ludicrous because it happens to be a model of pluralism among institutions of higher education. Arab students comprise [over 41 percent](#) of the student population. The Israel-bashers and anti-Semites

at Pitzer are wrongly trying to prevent your students from studying at a distinguished university that is in fact a shining example of diversity, respect and inclusion.

As President Oliver did, please show leadership by endorsing his decision and rejecting the bigoted College Council's recommendation that, if implemented, would violate your students' academic freedom. We respectfully urge you to issue a clear and forceful statement, prior to April 11, 2019, which expresses (1) your support for President Oliver's decision; (2) your rejection of any effort to boycott Israel; and (3) your complete and total confidence in President Oliver and his continued leadership of Pitzer College.

President Oliver is a model for other college leaders across the country who are facing similar discriminatory calls for boycotting America's ally, Israel. Please stand with him and let the anti-Semites and Israel-bashers on your campus know that bullying, name-calling and intimidation will not work at Pitzer College.

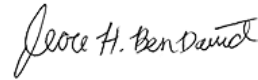
Respectfully,



Morton A. Klein  
National President



Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.  
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Leore Ben-David  
Managing Director, ZOA Campus

