



University of California Student Association
1107 9th St, Ste. 711
Sacramento, CA 95814
510-834-8272 | www.uksa.org

September 23, 2025

RE: Concerns Regarding Disclosure of Personal Information to Federal Government

The University of California Student Association (UCSA), which represents the voices of the 230,000 undergraduate students across the system, writes to express our deep concern regarding the recent revelation that UC Berkeley has provided the personal information of approximately 160 students, staff, and faculty to the federal government, in compliance with an investigation initiated by the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) into alleged antisemitism on campus.

This disclosure of sensitive personal information, particularly without clear explanation, has greatly unsettled our student community. UC Berkeley's decision to release these names, absent clear transparency regarding the legal basis or specific details of the cases involved, indicates serious concerns about UC Berkeley's protections for the privacy of the students and faculty under its care.

Furthermore, the situation is compounded by the chilling impact this has on the exercise of free speech and academic freedom at UC Berkeley. The seeming federal overreach into protected student expression disproportionately impacts students from immigrant and historically marginalized communities exercising their First Amendment rights. We are deeply concerned that students, faculty, and staff who have expressed their political views, or engaged in other forms of constitutionally-protected expression, will likely be unduly affected by this disclosure. The fear of being targeted or persecuted for exercising fundamental rights has only grown stronger in the wake of this incident.

UCSA recognizes that UC Berkeley, like the broader UC system and all national institutions of higher education, is under significant pressure from the current federal administration. Nevertheless, both UC Berkeley and the UC system are duty-bound to protect the constitutionally-protected rights of its students, staff, and faculty, especially their First Amendment rights. As one of our nation's leading public institutions, how UC Berkeley responds to these attacks on student data privacy sets an example for all universities across our democratic country. By complying with this investigation without students knowing what clear safeguards were established, we are concerned the university risks compromising the privacy and safety of individuals who may now fear retaliation or further government scrutiny. **We strongly request that all University of California schools inform students what data is collected about them, especially in regards to free speech conduct cases. We also request the University to commit to the protection of student, faculty, and staff data, by communicating how this data will be distributed and the protections the University will take if the current federal administration targets First Amendment rights.**

As student leaders, we acknowledge the unprecedented circumstances we are living in. However, it is vital that the UC recognize that student, staff, and faculty protections are core to the University's mission and cannot afford to be expended. We are committed to working with UC leadership to protect the privacy and security of students across our campuses, who have entrusted our universities with their safety and well-being.



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Sincerely,

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