

Open Letter: Dissolve the Task Force

On March 26, Chancellor Miranda announced a [Task Force on “Statement Guidelines”](#), in direct response to the rising tide of solidarity with Palestine across UIC.

Since then, a student encampment movement has [spread rapidly across the country](#) in opposition to the [US government’s continued support](#) for Israel’s genocide of the Palestinian people.

Now we are witnessing a nationwide crackdown against political activity on campuses: we have already seen [hundreds of students](#) arrested, numerous academics who publicly express support for Palestine have been removed [from the classroom](#) or [fired](#), and [new repressive policies](#) that grant administration broad powers to clamp down on concerted activity.

Chancellor Miranda’s “Task Force” is only a local manifestation of this nationwide campaign of political repression.

Though the UIC community has already expressed vocal opposition to the Task Force through a [letter of concern](#), it remains in operation. As [United Faculty have since pointed out](#), this Task Force also bypasses the university’s processes of democratic governance. Its call for [“input” from the community](#) is a thin veneer disguising its real function to limit political activity.

Not only does this Task Force herald further repression of our Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab co-workers, but it also threatens workers’ ability to organize on campus. This is especially relevant to our work as academics, concerning our right to write and teach.

The national political climate and historical record make it abundantly clear: *any repression of political activity is an attack on workers.*

In the strongest possible terms, GEO condemns this Task Force and calls on Chancellor Miranda to dissolve it immediately.

We call on graduate workers, faculty, students, and the UIC community to join us in demonstrating our opposition on May First at 3pm at the Quad!

In solidarity,

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