

George Blumenthal
Office of the Chancellor
200 Clark Kerr Hall
University of California
1156 High St
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Acting Chancellor Blumenthal:

We are writing to express our outrage over and opposition to the unjust intention to suspend Alette Kendrick for a period of **3 years**, in essence a sentence of expulsion, for participating in the October 18th protest. As Alumni, we will not tolerate racist repression at our Alma Mater.

We understand the use of police force and repression against student activists, *especially* female student activists of color, as representative of the hostility, antagonism, and violence that underrepresented student populations often face at UCSC and in the community. We understand the harsh ‘punishment’ specifically being sought against Alette Kendrick as endorsing the climate and expression of anti-Black aggression and intimidation. We oppose the University’s intent to punish any of our fellow students and activists, *especially* female activists of color, for exercising their political rights, for expressing dissent, and for practicing their right to assemble (rights the University would now seek to abridge as well). Chancellor Blumenthal, we urge you to stop any University process that would result in the suspension of Alette Kendrick.

In the wake of the October 18th protest, a memorandum issuing from your office circulated throughout the campus and expressed approval for the police response to the student protest. Such an endorsement hurt Black students at UCSC not only because it justified the dehumanizing treatment of Alette, but because it corresponded with long legacies of police brutality toward Black people, it expropriated a Black woman’s body to demonstrate the power of the state/University, and it rationalized the racial profiling and harassment so many Black UCSC students have experienced from the police.

Support of the police response through academic suspension is akin to the racist messages recently written on the bathroom walls of Baskin Engineering. It indicates the University’s participation in rendering underrepresented students, especially Black students, susceptible to the state-sanctioned or extralegal production and exploitation of group-differentiated vulnerability to premature death. By this we mean that the University has participated in the use of racial profiling to make Alette the target of the police response, has leveled severe charges and punitive measures, has subjected her to the racist and sexist criminal court system, and has created a climate of racial terror/intimidation. All of these University responses have produced conditions that isolate, exploit, and harm Alette, other Black students and students of color at UCSC.

After all, UCSC’s continued refusal to address student concerns about the lack of infrastructure for students of color (lack of faculty of color, curricula, funding for student initiated outreach/retention, etc) is an indication that UCSC’s expressed principles of community and commitment to diversity are purely rhetorical. UCSC’s continued endorsement of the police’s actions as well as UCSC’s intent to essentially suspend Alette Kendrick fundamentally proclaims UCSC’s active commitment to racial profiling, police brutality, the increase in the number of prisons, the growth of the prison population, state-sanctioned intimidation and repression, and the justification of violence.

If UCSC would truly like to abide by its stated principles of community and commitment to diversity, it must eliminate any intent to suspend Alette academically. Failure to do so would leave us with no choice but to withhold all future financial support for UCSC.

Sincerely,

Cc: Doug Zuidema