

To the Indianapolis Faculty Council:

As faculty members at IUPUI, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful learning environment that values the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of all our students. Recent events in the Middle East have deeply affected our Arab, Muslim, Palestinian, and Jewish students, and we stand in solidarity with them, recognizing the emotional and psychological toll on their academic and personal lives.

These issues impact our academic mission, not as political matters, but as challenges that affect student well-being, mental health, and academic progress. Our commitment to student well-being includes providing support, fostering respectful dialogue, promoting mutual understanding, and finding common ground in our shared commitment to education and inclusivity. We unequivocally condemn any Islamophobic comments or acts directed at Palestinian and Muslim students. We unequivocally condemn any antisemitic comments or acts directed at Israeli and Jewish students. Such incidents create a hostile and unsafe environment for our entire campus and community, affecting the well-being, mental health, and academic progress of our students.

In recognizing the current challenges, we want to emphasize the existence of valuable support systems for students, including CAPS, Interpersonal Violence Prevention and Advocacy, other campus wellness services, as well as the Bias Incident reporting mechanism. While we'll actively promote these resources, our request here is to proactively cultivate a supportive campus environment, reducing the need for reactive measures to address harm.

Upholding the principles of academic freedom and the IUPUI Civility Statement, we ask our faculty to actively engage in creating a space for empathy, understanding, and support among our students. We also ask that faculty in every school actively promote the welfare and safety of all students on our campus, ensuring that our commitment to inclusivity extends to their well-being, mental health, and academic progress.