

May 21, 2024

OSU has witnessed with dismay the horrific events that have taken place over the past six months in Israel, Gaza and the region and is saddened by the loss of innocent human lives – no one can feel dispassionate or neutral in the face of this human suffering. Recognizing the profound loss of life in the region since October 7, 2023, OSU joins the President of the United States and other universities in its desire for a ceasefire, end to violence and lasting peace in the region.

Over the past six months, OSU has engaged in dialogue with student members of the OSU Palestine Solidarity Coalition (OSU-PSC), and on a near daily basis since the overnight encampment began on May 15, 2024. These conversations have been in good-faith and progress has been made.

Based on communications with the OSU-PSC on May 20, 2024, the university provides the following set of actions that advance the OSU-PSC's goals and the university's mission and values:

1. OSU has provided [information](#) about its direct investments on a public website and will update these disclosures annually. The OSU Foundation provides [information](#) about its investments on its website; it does not hold direct investments.
2. OSU will establish a Task Force on Responsible Investing charged with evaluating the alignment with institutional investment policies with institutional values and priorities, while maintaining compliance with relevant laws and regulations. The task force will make recommendations for any revisions to investment policies to the OSU Board of Trustees for their consideration and potential adoption. Establishing this Task Force allows the opportunity for joint efforts and communication while adhering to established shared governance principles. This task force will launch by fall term 2024 and engage the OSU community widely. OSU invites student members recommended by the OSU-PSC to participate in this engagement.
3. OSU will form a Task Force on Responsible Procurement charged with evaluating the alignment of institutional procurement with institutional values and priorities, while maintaining compliance with relevant laws and regulations. The task force will make recommendations for any revisions to procurement policies to the OSU President for consideration and potential adoption. Establishing this Task Force allows the opportunity for joint efforts and communication while adhering to established shared governance principles. This task force will launch by fall term 2024 and engage the OSU community widely. OSU invites student members recommended by the OSU-PSC to participate in this engagement.
4. OSU has and will continue to vigorously protect the free expression and academic freedom rights of all OSU community members, including by resisting any attempt to interfere with the academic freedom of any faculty member. OSU's policies in this area are among the most supportive of free expression in the country. The limits of these policies are narrowly tailored and clearly spelled out. Additionally, OSU staff will continue to counsel OSU students and faculty who wish to learn more about these policies and how to convey their opinions and viewpoints consistent with their rights and responsibilities.

5. OSU will continue enforcing university policies prohibiting discriminatory and harassing conduct based on nationality, ethnicity or religion, including prohibited anti-Palestinian and anti-Semitic behavior.
6. OSU has not sanctioned any OSU student or university employee for their participation in the overnight encampment. Once the overnight encampment is disbanded, the university will maintain this position assuming no additional overnight encampment is established.
7. The creation of new curricula and courses of studies, such as Middle Eastern studies, involves shared governance partners and state agencies. OSU currently offers courses on the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Politics and Religion in the Modern Middle East, Middle Eastern Literature, and Jewish and Islamic Traditions, to name a few, as well as an option in Global Perspectives on War, Peace and Empire. OSU commits to work with interested faculty and students to develop educational programming, including lectures or panels, on these and related topics with planning to begin in June 2024. OSU invites student members recommended by the OSU-PSC to join these efforts.
8. The university will develop, publish on a public website and publicize a “library guide” that contextualizes the complex and interwoven incidents of displacement and violence that characterize the history and present of the Palestine, Israel and the region. This library guide will allow OSU community members and the public to engage topics of imperialism, colonialism and oppression critically to learn more, make connections to the OSU community and think for themselves. This library guide will encourage OSU community members and the public to critically engage in topics of imperialism, colonialism, and oppression; to make connections of these topics to the OSU community; and to develop how these topics relate to themselves. Development of this library guide will begin in June 2024 with an intended publication date of fall term 2024. OSU invites student members recommended by the OSU-PSC to join this effort.
9. To contribute to the alleviation of civilian suffering, OSU will support a university effort to raise funds for the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) which has worked in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel since 1967, partnering with the Palestine Red Crescent Society and Magen David Adom, to provide direct humanitarian aid and advocate for humanitarian protections. OSU invites student members recommended by the OSU-PSC to join this effort. Planning sessions will begin immediately once the encampment is disbanded.

Please indicate in a reply to this email by 1:00 p.m. today, May 21, your agreement to join us in the implementation of these actions and immediately disband the overnight encampment.

To this point, no one has been sanctioned for their participation in the overnight encampment, despite their ongoing violation of university policies. Without an agreement to disband by 1:00 p.m. today, May 21, the university will begin the process of holding individuals participating in the overnight encampment accountable under the Code of Student Conduct, other university policies and criminal statutes.