

Dear Razan and the members of Students for Justice in Palestine,

Thank you for your letter regarding the war in the Middle East and the devastation it is having on so many innocent Palestinian lives. We see you, we hear you, and I empathize with the deep pain and sorrow that you are experiencing. I am grateful for the chance to address the issues that you raise in your letter. The wellbeing of our UD community, especially our students, remains my top priority.

The University's mission is focused on providing education, research and service to meet the needs of our community. While we all hope for peace in the Middle East and throughout the world, it is not the University's role to call for a ceasefire in an international conflict. Where we believe the University can have the most significant and relevant impact in advancing world peace is through education and engagement, so I wholly support the efforts of our academic departments and student organizations to provide opportunities for everyone in our community to learn about the history, politics, culture, economies and other aspects of the Middle East situation.

In recent years, the University has increased transparency around its finances, and you can find all of the information that we publicly release on [this page](#). Specifically, [this annual report](#) on the University's endowment provides information about its purpose, investment categories and performance. The University has no direct investment in any of the entities you reference.

Tuition and fees are not part of the University's endowment. The money that students pay in tuition supports the expert faculty, the dedicated staff and the classrooms, labs and other academic and social spaces on campus that benefit students throughout their time at UD. Tuition, however, does not cover the entire cost of a UD education; the University supplements those funds through philanthropy and state appropriations. The Comprehensive Fee supports a wide range of services, including the Career Center, the more than 400 Registered Student Organizations, recreational programming, programs focused on diversity and inclusion and many others. The Comprehensive Fee also funds the Office of the Dean of Students, which helps students and families with a variety of personal and academic issues. Also, the Student Centers Fee supports all of the programs and activities at Perkins and Trabant student centers.

Students on the President's Student Advisory Council (PSAC) are selected through a nomination and application process and consist of a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the University. The presidents of the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Government, who represent the entire student body, are the only appointees on the Council. We encourage your participation in the next application cycle for PSAC, as well as actively engaging with your student government.

The UD Anti-Racism Initiative (UDARI) has subcommittees focused on different aspects of social justice and the diversity of our faculty, students and staff. Alison Parker, whom you copied on your letter, is a co-chair of UDARI. She can offer guidance on the establishment of a new subcommittee. More information about how to engage UDARI and on the University's diversity caucus structure can be found on the [Office of Institutional Equity website](#).

In closing, we will always encourage free expression and civil discourse to enable education and progress. We also will continue to offer a range of services and programs to support our students. To this end, I have charged José-Luis Riera, our vice president for the Division of Student Life, and Fatimah Conley, our vice president for the Office of Institutional Equity, to meet with you and the officers of Students for Justice in Palestine to further discuss your

concerns. Please know that we are here to support you, and all of our students, toward building a stronger community.

Sincerely,

Dennis Assanis
President