

November 22, 2011

Linda P.B. Katehi, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Fifth Floor, Mrak Hall
UC Davis, One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Chancellor Katehi:

I am writing to you as a member of the Academic Senate and an Assemblymember regarding the events that took place on Friday, November 18th involving protests on the UC Davis campus. As a member of the UC Davis community, I was stunned to see videos of the use of pepper spray against non-violent student protesters.

The free expression of ideas is at the core of a university, and student demonstrations through peaceful protests have deep historic roots at the University of California. The tragic incident that happened on campus on Friday was disturbing and damaged trust in university leadership and the bonds of community at UC Davis. I support your decision to create a taskforce to review Friday's events with a report in 30 days, and I look forward to learning about the findings of the report.

I have spent over a decade at UC Davis as a faculty member teaching and studying how to build stronger, healthier communities. I hope that the final result will be a stronger campus community. I offer my assistance, if helpful, from my office or personally so we may move forward from this incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Pan".

Richard Pan, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, and
Assemblymember, 5th Assembly District