

June 11, 2021

Senators-

It is with a heavy heart and great disappointment that I write this message.

We cannot be with you at the meeting today because of concerns for the safety and well-being of our students and staff. What could have been an educational moment for students to gain greater insight into the Israel-Palestinian conflict and an opportunity to build a stronger and supportive campus community at De Anza, turned into a performing stage where senators and others driven by personal agendas spewed passionate, but misguided accusations based on lies and distortions. This manipulative and malicious campaign intended to eliminate the truth, led to hateful speeches, personal attacks, and offensive language. This biased process resulted in expressions of antisemitism. Ironic when not but a few weeks ago, the DASG adopted a statement against antisemitism. ".....and the DASG is committed to challenging all forms of bigotry and discrimination." Perhaps the DASG should challenge itself.

We had hoped that we could rise above the hurt to find a way for all communities to work towards a better future, but clearly, the DASG's allegiance does not include the Jewish community at their campus.

It is sad and painful to realize that those who speak of social justice and use it as a badge of honor, don't mean it for all, just for a selected few.

As senators, we had hoped that you would remember your responsibility to serve all students and represent everyone. We thought you would allow yourselves to truly consider the resolution we presented in solidarity with and compassion for all students. But all evidence to the contrary, during the meeting on Wednesday, your comments showed you being of closed minds and hearts. We wish you would have honored the oath you took to represent all your fellow students.

"As elected representatives of the De Anza Student Government, we strive to:

Be a safe, equitable, and inclusive body that reflects the diversity of the student population. We are committed to serving our fellow students, amplifying their voices, and advocating for their needs in an accountable and transparent manner."

You had the opportunity to leave a legacy that promotes dialogue and cooperation, that is respectful of the experiences of all groups and individuals, but instead, you are leaving a legacy where the Jewish community at your campus feels marginalized, unwelcomed, and unrepresented.

"Returning **hate** for **hate** multiplies **hate**, adding deeper **darkness** to a night already devoid of stars. **Darkness** cannot drive out **darkness**; only light can do that. **Hate** cannot drive out **hate**, only love can do that." MLK Jr

Hillel of Silicon Valley on behalf of Jewish students at de Anza College.