



ACTA
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

Board of Directors

John W. Altman, Chairman
Janice Rogers Brown
Heidi Ganahl
Reuben Jeffery
Paul S. Levy
Michael B. Poliakoff
Mark Ridenour
Karrin Taylor Robson
Stuart Taylor, Jr.
Stephen Joel Trachtenberg
Edwin D. Williamson

Anne D. Neal
Senior Fellow

Joshua T. Katz
Scholar-in-Residence

Council of Scholars

George E. Andrews
Pennsylvania State University
Mark Bauerlein
Emory University
Marc Zvi Brettler
Duke University
William Cook
SUNY–Geneseo
Paul Davies
William & Mary
David C. Doughty, Jr.
Christopher Newport University
Niall Ferguson
Stanford University
Sydney L. Gulick III
University of Maryland
Robert “KC” Johnson
CUNY–Brooklyn College
Joshua T. Katz
American Enterprise Institute
Anatoly M. Khazanov
University of Wisconsin
Alan Charles Kors
University of Pennsylvania
Jon D. Levenson
Harvard Divinity School
Molly Levine
Howard University
George R. Lucas, Jr.
U.S. Naval Academy
Joyce Lee Malcolm
George Mason University
Matthew A. Malkan
UCLA
Michael Podgursky
University of Missouri
James A. Sellers
Pennsylvania State University

September 16, 2024

Dear Regents of the University of Michigan:

As I am certain you already know, the University of Michigan’s Central Student Government (CSG) continues to withhold funds for all student activities. This is an effort to pressure the board of regents to divest from companies that do business with the State of Israel. I respectfully recommend that the regents act firmly and swiftly to address this campus dysfunction that injures U-M students and the reputation of the university.

By intentionally withholding funds from all student clubs for the sole purpose of advancing the political agenda of a group of its members, the CSG is actively in violation of the University of Michigan Code of Conduct, which prescribes disciplinary sanctions for “disrupting University business operations or University sponsored activities” or “misusing any University funds, equipment, materials, services or property or the funds, equipment, materials, services or property of others.” Under the University’s Disruptive Activity Policy, “no one has the right to infringe on the exercise of others’ speech and activities by disrupting the normal celebrations, activities, and operations of the University (‘University Operations’).” By seizing the student funds to advance their personal and political agenda, ultimately leading to the halt of many student activities, the members of the CSG responsible for withholding funds are in clear violation of these standards.

It is entirely appropriate for you as fiduciaries of the university to ensure that the administration faithfully carries out university policy. This includes disciplining the members of the CSG responsible for this disruption and providing for the disbursement of withheld funds to allow for student activities to resume. To expedite this, the board may also consider taking emergency action, as the board’s bylaws state, “Emergency action may be taken by the board between meetings if and when any matter arises which, in the opinion of the president, or any three members of the board, requires official action by the board prior to the next meeting.” Given the exigency of the CSG’s actions—that is, bringing student activities to a standstill—a resolution calling for the immediate

PROMOTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND EXCELLENCE

1730 M Street NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036
T (202) 467-6787; (888) ALUMNI-8 F (202) 867-6784 info@GoACTA.org GoACTA.org

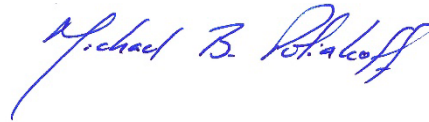
September 16, 2024

Page 2

release of student funds may be in order, along with disciplinary action against those found responsible.

I write not solely as the leader of a higher education policy organization, but also as a proud U-M alumnus, holding a doctorate awarded in 1981. As you navigate these difficult times, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) is here to help. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (202) 467-6787 or MPoliakoff@GoACTA.org if you would like to learn more. Thank you for your service to higher education.

Regards,



Michael Poliakoff, Ph.D.
President

«Prefix» «First_Name» «Last_Name», «Suffix»

September 17, 2024

Page 3