March 1, 2024

Jolie Brislin

ADL Regional Director

Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Jolie,

I am writing in response to your letter dated February 29, 2024, regarding the events of February

27, 2024, when a visiting Israeli physics professor was delivering an open lecture as part of a

public symposium about black holes and was subsequently interrupted by protestors voicing their

views about the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

After conferring with University Police, UNLV faculty decided to end the lecture by Prof. Asaf

Peer early as a result of the interruptions. University Police then accompanied the guest lecturer

to his vehicle as a precaution only.

I am reviewing the decisions and actions associated with the event to help determine how we can

better handle such situations in the future. With that consideration, I have asked our Provost

Office, Division of Diversity Initiatives, and University Police Services to review the events of

February 27, in consultation with our Office of General Counsel, so we are all better aligned.

We must be consistent in our approach to free speech and academic freedom, while also

understanding the boundaries of protected speech, especially when it involves academic

programming and related functions, or class lectures. We must also ensure our policies, and any

resources needed to reinforce or protect those policies, are readily accessible and understood by

our faculty, staff, and students. This is especially important to communicate with the entire

campus as we approach a presidential general election cycle and with the ongoing international

conflicts.

Sincerely,

Keith E. Whitfield, Ph.D.

President