

Dear Interim President Garber,

We have been watching with increasing alarm the continuing situation with the encampment in the Yard and agree entirely with your statement that this must end. We agree with the following principles, which we have edited from a similar document which MIT faculty members sent to their President.

We support you fully in recognizing the following principles:

1. **Freedom of speech on campus is subject to limitations in time, place and manner, and subject to other applicable US laws, including Titles VI and IX.**
2. **The right to free speech is not a right to cancel the speech of others.** The encampment's violation of Harvard rules is not theoretical. It has prevented the use of a central campus space by many students, and now threatens to displace and marginalize activities by groups following the rules.
3. **The right to protest does not imply the right to impose unlimited costs on the University.** The Harvard police and other elements of the Harvard administration which are tasked with supporting our entire community have been stretched to the breaking point by the encampment. This cannot continue indefinitely.
4. **Conduct rules should not be set aside in troubled times.** On the contrary, it is at times like these that they must be applied rigorously and fairly, along with free speech protections and a respect for diverse viewpoints.
5. **Students engaged in civil disobedience must accept the consequences of their actions.** The willingness to accept the consequences of one's actions is a critical difference between civil disobedience and mob rule.
6. **Academic freedom is not negotiable.** Harvard should never negotiate away the rights of its faculty, students and staff to engage in research and engage in scholarly collaborations which advance the academic mission. Any concession on this front, including minor adaptations to Harvard's current processes or a commitment to review them in light of the protestors' agenda, is likely to be interpreted as politicization of Harvard's procedures.
7. **The administration must not make concessions to protesters that would have not been granted had they followed the rules.** Concessions of this type would reward bad behavior and undermine our commitment to fundamental principles of civil discourse. Furthermore, it may encourage other groups to engage in disruptive behavior.
8. **Prompt removal of the encampment should be followed by civil dialogue with those representing the views of the protesters who remain in good standing with the university.** The sooner the encampment is removed, the sooner a meaningful conversation can begin.

On the basis of these principles, and recognizing that there can be no academic freedom in an atmosphere of lawlessness, we fully support your efforts to end the encampment swiftly and as peacefully as possible,

so that the academic missions of our community, including exams and commencement, can go forward without further disturbance.

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