

Open Letter on Arrest of UConn Students

We, the undersigned faculty and faculty leaders at UConn, deplore the actions taken by the UConn administration to suppress nonviolent student protests on campus. The University action was unwarranted and disproportionate. It was inconsistent with the University's role in protecting free speech and civil discourse, as underscored by statements from the national AAUP ([In Defense of the Right to Free Speech and Peaceful Protest on University Campuses](#)) and the ACLU ([Open Letter to College and University Presidents on Student Protest](#)), as well as UConn's own Metanoia on [Pathways to Productive Civic Discourse](#) three weeks ago.

Now that the arrested students have been released and called to court, we call for the university to immediately drop criminal charges against them, to refrain from any disciplinary actions against them, and to offer them the opportunity to make up any missed exams or final papers.

Finally, we urge the UConn administration to guarantee and reaffirm student, staff, and faculty rights to free speech, peaceable assembly, and protest on pressing issues of the day.

Respectfully,

(letter sent at 10am, May 8; signatories as of May 21 below, affiliations for identification purposes only)

[Link to add your signature here](#)

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