

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Department of Religion

School of Literature, Cultures and Linguistics
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
3072 Foreign Languages Building, MC-166
707 South Mathews Street
Urbana, IL 61801



5 September 2014

Chancellor Phyllis Wise
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Dear Chancellor Wise,

At its meeting of 5 September 2014, the faculty of the Department of Religion at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign cast a vote of no confidence in you, as Chancellor of the University, and in President Robert Easter as well as the Board of Trustees.

This no confidence vote pertains to the University's decision to rescind the offer of an associate professorship with tenure in American Indian Studies to Dr. Steven Salaita.

The Religion Department objects strenuously to the highly irregular way in which the University administration rescinded the appointment offer to Dr. Salaita. With this action, the University administration has violated established procedures for making faculty appointments and has overruled a thorough and carefully conducted faculty and administrative review of Dr. Salaita's career without adequate justification. Moreover, in this case, the University administration has shown an unacceptable disregard for the fundamental principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech.

Substantial evidence is now available that indicates that the administration's decision was influenced by political considerations and by the interference of donors and alumni. That is a fundamental breach of the integrity of the university.

If this decision is not reversed, the reputation of the University of Illinois as an institution that aspires to the highest ideals in American education will suffer substantial damage.

We call on you and the Board of Trustees to reinstate Dr. Salaita's appointment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David H. Price'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

David H. Price
Head, Department of Religion
University of Illinois

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Department of Religion

School of Literature, Cultures and Linguistics
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
3072 Foreign Languages Building, MC-166
707 South Mathews Street
Urbana, IL 61801



5 September 2014

Chancellor Phyllis Wise
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Dear Chancellor Wise,

At its meeting of 5 September 2014, the faculty of the Department of Religion at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign cast a vote of no confidence in you, as Chancellor of the University, and in President Robert Easter as well as the Board of Trustees.

This no confidence vote pertains to the University's decision to rescind the offer of an associate professorship with tenure in American Indian Studies to Dr. Steven Salaita.

The Religion Department objects strenuously to the highly irregular way in which the University administration rescinded the appointment offer to Dr. Salaita. With this action, the University administration has violated established procedures for making faculty appointments and has overruled a thorough and carefully conducted faculty and administrative review of Dr. Salaita's career without adequate justification. Moreover, in this case, the University administration has shown an unacceptable disregard for the fundamental principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech.

Substantial evidence is now available that indicates that the administration's decision was influenced by political considerations and by the interference of donors and alumni. That is a fundamental breach of the integrity of the university.

If this decision is not reversed, the reputation of the University of Illinois as an institution that aspires to the highest ideals in American education will suffer substantial damage.

We call on you and the Board of Trustees to reinstate Dr. Salaita's appointment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David H. Price".

David H. Price
Head, Department of Religion
University of Illinois