

The statement below passed with overwhelming support in Sociology today.

September 10, 2014

Deeply troubled by the actions of University of Illinois administrators with respect to the revocation of an employment offer to Dr. Steven Salaita, the faculty of the Department of Sociology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign cast a vote of no confidence in the leadership of Chancellor Phyllis Wise, President Robert Easter, and the Board of Trustees. As the University and the world confront complicated and divisive issues, the pursuit of knowledge and understanding in our democracy requires academic institutions to defend academic freedom and respect freedom of speech. Successful leadership of a preeminent public academic institution requires commitment to shared governance and to established protocols for hiring, tenure, and promotion. Failure to practice any one of these undermines the University's mission to educate society and create new knowledge. Such failures also seriously threaten the reputation of the University of Illinois.

We therefore call upon the Chancellor, President, and Board of Trustees to reinstate Dr. Salaita. We further call upon them to demonstrate their commitment to shared governance and academic freedom by affirming their support for established protocols for hiring, tenure and promotion.