

Dear Faculty and Staff –

You may have seen some online news or social media conversation regarding an organization called Students Supporting Israel at Augsburg College. Some of the comments and news posts inaccurately state that Augsburg College has taken action against this group, so I am writing to ensure that our campus community has the correct information.

As always, Augsburg College seeks to be an open community that welcomes an intentionally diverse mix of people. We are committed to fostering a supportive learning environment where students of different backgrounds and perspectives can grapple with challenging topics—an environment that calls for civility and fairness on all sides of the discussion and aims toward increased clarity and understanding, even if it does not lead to agreement.

To that end, I want to clarify that no student organization has been banned from meeting or expressing their views on campus. Nor has the College, to date, taken any decision or action relative to the group. A timeline of actual events has been posted on our news site, www.augsburg.edu/news/2014/09/29/faq-student-organizations-augsburg-college, in an effort to provide factual information regarding what actions have occurred relative to this topic. As that timeline states, the Campus Activities and Orientation office is currently in the process of conducting a review of the Sept. 17 Day Student Government vote, which was requested by the student leaders of Students Supporting Israel as part of the standard appeal process options for student organizations seeking to be chartered.

The expectation is that CAO will communicate their findings with the students involved by the end of the week. After those student meetings are complete, Augsburg will update the news page with further information. Until that time, please know that any posts or comments stating the College has taken any official action regarding this topic are premature.

Finally, if you would like further information or conversation about this topic—for your own understanding or in order to communicate with others in our community—please contact Rebecca John, vice president of Marketing and Communication at 612-330-1482 or rjohn@augsb.org.

I am grateful for your commitment to our vibrant and supportive teaching and learning community.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Pribbenow
President