

## INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT Office of the Student Body President

Over the last three months, an investigation into the Student Body President and Vice President has evolved from allegations of antisemitism to accusations of election fraud. Since the committee's report was released, we have identified several discrepancies between the information presented and the information documented in the report.

This annotated report aims to offer a comprehensive perspective, ensuring an accurate portrayal of the complete story. With the belief that withholding this information would be unjust to the student body and the 41% of voters who supported Ignite, we emphasize the importance of transparency. Our goal is to provide the public and members of Congress with the necessary information for making informed decisions.

The report below highlights discrepancies between the evidence presented and the disclosure choices made by the Oversight and Finance Committee. Their original report is presented unchanged, accompanied by annotations with detailed footnotes and relevant appendices.

We have removed names to protect the identity of those involved and provide anonymity. We encourage you to all read this, look at the evidence, evaluate the totality of the evidence provided, and make a complete and accurate assessment of the information presented.

> Aaliyah Raji IU Student Body President

Marsha Koda

IU Student Body Vice President

#### Executive Summary

This annotated report raises concerns about the objectivity, fairness, and conduct of the investigation conducted by the OAF committee. The following key points summarize the most important annotations:

- 1. **Negative Portrayal**: OAF's use of language with negative connotations, suggests a perceived deficiency in the character of the president and vice president. The committee's specific selection of evidence is a major concern.
- 2. **Bias and Selective Adherence to Procedures**: This annotated report documents instances of bias, including insufficient representation, leading lines of questioning, and failure to address racist remarks. Concerns are raised about conflicts of interest, selective adherence to procedures, and doubts about the objectivity of the investigation.
- 3. **Subpoena Selection and Transparency Issues**: Questions are raised about the selective issuance of subpoenas. Transparency issues arise, such as the discrepancy in the motivation behind the issuance of subpoenas.
- 4. **Sealed Evidence and Investigation Scope**: Concerns are raised about the explicit description of sealed evidence, which may contradict the intended purpose of its seal. The inclusion of irrelevant information and questioning of the legitimacy of the election strays from the investigation's original purpose.
- 5. Character Assassination and Harmful Rhetoric: This annotated report criticizes accusations of complicity and compromising the integrity of the executive branch. Concerns are raised about the committee's omission of a publicly dissenting opinion.
- 6. **Communication and Accountability**: This annotated report highlights concerns about the committee's failure to communicate effectively with the executive branch. It challenges subjective statements about the president's accountability and that the majority of the cabinet chose to remain in their roles.
- 7. **Role and Impact of Investigation**: The report questions the scope and impact of the investigation, emphasizing its negative consequences on the executive branch. The committee's failure to uphold IUSG's values and create an inclusive environment is criticized.

In summary, the annotated report raises significant doubts about the fairness, objectivity, and transparency of the investigation, calling into question the legitimacy of its findings and recommendations.

# FINAL REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

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#### **REGULAR SESSION**

OF THE

**2023-2024 CONGRESS** 



## BEGUN AND HELD AT BALLANTINE HALL, THE INDIANA MEMORIAL UNION, AND ZOOM

NOVEMBER 17, 2023, TO JANUARY 8, 2024

#### Prepared by

#### THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND FINANCE

Under the Direction of John Lane, Chair

With Contributions by Committee Members Aidan Chism, Elizabeth Conley, Justin Farajollah, Shane Sanders, Jack Tyndall, and Drew Yeager

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#### Authority Affirmed

This investigation was conducted under the provisions of R.B. § 2-5-4 (b) of the bylaws of Indiana University Student Government. It was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Finance pursuant to Rule IX (a) of the Standing Rules of Congress wherein the committee is to be referred all measures regarding "Oversight and reform of IUSG structures and processes, generally" along with Rule IX (b) "Each standing committee shall study and review matters under its jurisdiction and report its findings from time to time".

#### Background

This report has been drafted by the committee on Oversight and Finance and represents the findings of the committee as a whole during this investigation. The committee's investigation began on November 17<sup>th</sup> at approximately 7:45pm upon unanimous decision of the committee to investigate allegations concerning the President and Vice President of IUSG. The committee set out to discern the validity of the allegations made against the President and Vice President, mainly in regard to those made in Public Evidence Exhibit A, the resignation letter of Makiah Pickett and Alex Kaswan, and if the President and or Vice President has failed in their duty to "uphold the dignity of IUSG in their conduct and behavior" as according to R.B. § 4-1-1. It should be noted that this report will not discuss the character of any individuals included in the investigation, and that this report is solely for the purpose of achieving the aforementioned goals¹. The committee subpoenaed and heard testimony from 11 individuals over three days in the following order: Abigail Garrison, Abby Rose, Alex Kaswan, Ethan Fine, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While instances of explicit character defamation are limited in this report, the language employed is imbued with negative connotations. It portrays the president and vice president in a manner that could lead individuals to infer a perceived deficiency in their character. This is particularly illustrated by the committee's repeated deliberate selection of evidence which they have taken out of context.

Makiah Pickett on November 28<sup>th</sup>, Abby DeArmitt and Rachel Applefield on November 30<sup>th</sup>, and Aaliyah Raji, Marsha Koda, Cooper Tinsley, and Patrick Lee on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.<sup>2</sup> From there, the committee has met in multiple closed-door sessions in order to hash out the evidence and testimonies, deliberating on the facts of the investigation and the answers to our set goals. In this endeavor to conduct an objective and impartial investigation, the committee has also met with advisors from IU's administration to ensure that the investigation is up to university standards<sup>3</sup>. We the committee, the interviewees subpoenaed, and those under investigation, are all in the end, students of Indiana University. With all this in mind, the committee concludes its investigation of the President and Vice President with the submission of this final report to the IU Student Body Congress.

#### Committee Resources Publicly Available

Public evidence has been kept on the publicly accessible drive with updates on the investigation on the IUSG website. The committee uploaded the internal resolution which established the general rules and procedures for the investigation to the committee's folder on the central drive. The recordings were done by laptop and uploaded as available by the chair, the minutes approved by the committee and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It is important to highlight that, as evidenced in hearing recordings, Ms. Garrison, Ms. Rose, Mr. Kaswan, and Mr. Fine, all conveyed that they had not directly heard any antisemitic remarks from the President. Instead, they indicated that they had received this information from Ms. Pickett.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> As detailed in **Appendix 1**, we have documented several instances of bias, including insufficient representation of all parties in the initial list of subpoenaed individuals, bias toward Mr. Tinsley based on his dissenting opinion as a Jewish leader, leading lines of questioning with implicit bias, and failure to address blatantly racist remarks during testimony. For example, Mr. Tinsley was asked by Mr. Sanders if the only reason he got the job as Chief of Staff was because he was Jewish, a line of questioning that would not be tolerated in any other setting. There are ample concerns about conflicts of interest within the committee, as many members have personal relations with interviewees, and Mr. Chism ran against the Ignite campaign. The committee's selective adherence to procedures, especially in response to suggestions from the Office of Student Conduct, raises severe doubts about the objectivity of the investigation. The failure to uphold rights provided by the Office of Student Conduct, as outlined here and in **Appendix 2**, further undermines the claim that this investigation is up to University Standards. It is not. The committee has selectively chosen which procedures presented by IU administration they would follow, casting doubt on the overall objectivity and fairness of the investigation.

uploaded as available by the chair, and evidence as admitted by the committee. The index page of Congress on the IUSG website, which contains the schedules and contact information for all congressional committees, has been regularly updated with the Oversight and Finance's hearing times and places. In the same location, there is a direct link to the Oversight and Finance committee's publicly available OneDrive folder, housed within the public Congress drive. This folder contains all evidence, hearing recordings, minutes, and statements made publicly available by the committee. To reach this information, one can navigate to the IU student government website, click on Congress, and then scroll down to the committee's section.

#### Subpoena of Interviewees and Testimonies

The committee, using the defined procedure in internal Rule #5, subpoenaed 11 interviewees in total. The committee subpoenaed 9 interviewees unanimously at the first meeting of the investigation on November 17<sup>4</sup>. These interviewees included Aaliyah Raji, the President of IU Student Government, Marsha Koda, the Vice President of IU Student Government, Abigail Garrison, the former Congressional Secretary for the IGNITE administration, Patrick Lee, the former External Co-Chief of Staff for the IGNITE administration, Abby DeArmitt, the former Internal Co-Chief of Staff for the IGNITE administration, Makiah Pickett, the former Co-Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The primary subpoenas issued, predominantly targeted individuals who agreed with the allegations of antisemitism and/or poor leadership, limiting the capabilities to provide due process. It is noteworthy that this selection overlooked a comprehensive representation of pertinent perspectives. The issuance of an initial subpoena of an individual external to the current or former membership of IUSG, whose sole contribution to the specific allegations against the President and Vice President was through tweets in response to the resignation letter and the initial statement released by the President, raises questions about the qualifications and relevance of his testimony. Additionally, the committee's reluctance to subpoena another former Director of DEI introduces an additional layer of uncertainty regarding the extent to which the committee genuinely aspired to maintain objectivity from the outset. See **Appendix 3**. Furthermore, although the committee chose to investigate whether the president and vice president had neglected their duty to "uphold the dignity of IUSG in their conduct and behavior," it is noteworthy that they did not deem it necessary to issue subpoenas to any of the individuals within the cabinet who opted to remain, which constituted the majority.

IGNITE administration, Alex Kaswan, the former Treasurer for the IGNITE administration, Abby Rose, the Chabad Congressional Representative for the 2023-2024 session, and Ethan Fine, the former IIPAC President. The President and Vice President were subpoenaed due to being the subjects of the investigation, the former members of the IGNITE administration were subpoenaed due to being senior officers all having resigned within a week of each other, and Ms. Rose and Mr. Fine were subpoenaed for being present during meetings involving alleged antisemitism with the President and or Vice President.

During the meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>, the committee subpoenaed Rachel Applefield, the President of Hillel at IU, unanimously for being present during meetings involving antisemitism with the President and Vice President<sup>5</sup>. During the meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>, the committee subpoenaed Cooper Tinsley, the acting Chief of Staff for the IGNITE administration, for close ties to the President, Vice President, and former Co-Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Makiah Pickett<sup>6</sup>. The committee offered each interviewee the choice between the available hearing dates of November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Ballantine Hall, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Ballantine Hall, and December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00pm in the Indiana Memorial Union, and heard the interviewees in the order of response time. November 28<sup>th</sup> had testimony of Abby Garrison, Abby Rose, Alex Kaswan, and Ethan Fine respectively. November 30<sup>th</sup> had testimony of Abby

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Sollowing the hearings on Tuesday, November 28, Mr. Yeager proposed a motion to subpoena Ms. Applefield, asserting that "during this meeting, I was actually reached out to by [Ms. Applefield], and she is interested in testifying in front of the committee, and as Mr. Fine mentioned, she was present at the [November 16 meeting with Jewish leaders]." Furthermore, it came to light that Ms. Applefield publicly contradicted the assertion that she initiated contact with Mr. Yaeger. Instead, she disclosed that, during the hearings on Tuesday, November 28, Mr. Yaeger had reached out to her, soliciting her testimony. This revelation exposes a discrepancy between Mr. Yaeger's public statements and the actual circumstances surrounding the issuance of Ms. Applefield's subpoena, raising concerns about transparency and the veracity of information conveyed to both the public and the committee due to the blatant lie told.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Mr. Chism strongly opposed the issuance of this subpoena, asserting that Mr. Tinsley had little relevance to contribute to the ongoing investigation. It is important to highlight that we specifically urged the issuance of a subpoena for Mr. Tinsley, aligning with the precedent established by the committee, granting individuals with insight into private conversations the opportunity to share their perspectives. Mr. Tinsley, being a Jewish student with access to the majority of submitted evidence and who attended the same meeting that influenced the committee's decision to subpoena Ms. Applefield, undoubtedly possesses a unique and insightful perspective that could enhance the informativeness of the proceedings.

DeArmitt and Rachel Applefield respectively. December 3<sup>rd</sup> had testimony of Aaliyah Raji, Marsha Koda, Cooper Tinsley, and Patrick Lee respectively. All testimonies were public and recorded, with the exception of brief testimonies of the President and Vice President heard and recorded in private executive session at the decision of the committee.

#### Admission of Evidence

Evidence is a key part of any investigation and is the most effective method of determining fact from fiction. The committee admitted evidence via majority decision, meaning that the only evidence the committee used were those that were officially admitted and either sealed for privacy or opened to the public. This section will list out, label, and briefly describe the evidence the committee used in the investigation, anonymizing sealed evidence to the best extent in which it provides clear information and close secrecy.

#### **Public Evidence:**

Exhibit A: The resignation letter of Makiah Pickett and Alex Kaswan o A PDF letter
addressed to the Indiana University Student Body from Makiah Pickett and Alex Kaswan,
explaining their resignations from executive positions in IUSG, listing concerns regarding
poor leadership and antisemitism from the President and Vice

President.

Exhibit B: The President's 1<sup>st</sup> response letter o A PDF letter addressed to the Indiana
 University Student Body from the President addressing allegations made against the President in Exhibit A.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The description of the sealed evidence is conspicuously explicit, devoid of any protection, thereby negating the intended purpose of its seal. Our request to seal the evidence was motivated not only by the need to safeguard the safety of the president and vice president but also to extend that protection to former members of Ignite's cabinet.

Exhibit C: The President and Vice President's response letter o A PDF letter addressed to the
 Indiana University Student Body from the President and

Vice President addressing issues concerning antisemitism.

- Exhibit D: Ethan Fine X Posts O A series of screenshots of tweets made by Ethan Fine surrounding allegations made against the President<sup>8</sup>.
- Exhibit E: Requests for Procedural Considerations o A PDF letter addressed to John Lane,
   Chair of Oversight and Finance, from Cooper Tinsley making procedural requests regarding
   the investigation into the President and Vice President.

#### **Sealed Evidence:**

- Sealed Evidence #1: Senior Executive Staff Text Messages 0 1: Affirmative Action Messages
  - Text messages within senior executive cabinet wherein discussion was had about including Jewish and LGBTQ+ culture center information on an Affirmative Action Instagram post.

#### 2: Election Fraud

- Text messages within senior executive cabinet wherein the President and Vice

  President admitted to turning in the financial statement for the campaign late<sup>9</sup>.
- o 3: Growing Concerns of Antisemitism

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The evidence accepted by the committee aligned with racist ideas. They did not find it necessary to discuss comments that were explicitly Islamophobic and racist towards the President, as detailed in **Appendix 4**, in this annotated report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The inclusion of this particular piece of evidence significantly strays from the original purpose of the investigation. Its lack of relevance to the accusations directly contradicts the initial statement outlining the investigation's objectives. This act appears to align with the legal principle of spoliated evidence. The former cabinet members who provided the committee with this evidence have been aware of it since August, raising questions about the motivation behind withholding the evidence until now.

 Text messages within senior executive cabinet where members of cabinet expressed growing concerns of antisemitism on campus and a desire to act against it.

#### 4: Senior Officer Messages

- Text messages between two senior executive officers about executing programs against antisemitism without the President<sup>10</sup>.
- o 5: IUSG Group Chat Part 1 & 2
  - Text messages within senior executive cabinet where members of cabinet suggested efforts to combat Islamophobic and antisemitic attacks on campus.
- Sealed Evidence #3: Co-Chiefs of Staff Messages 0 1: Co-Chief 1
  - Text messages between Ms. Pickett and a Co-Chief of Staff wherein the Co-Chief of Staff suggests that President doesn't want to work on an antisemitism event.

#### o 2: Co-Chief 2

Text messages between Ms. Pickett and a Co-Chief of Staff wherein the Co-Chief
 of Staff describes the President's feelings towards an antisemitism event as

<sup>10</sup> According to the <u>bylaws</u> (R.B. § 4-11-3-b), each department is individually responsible for advocacy and programs within its designated policy area. It's crucial to note that directors, as specified in R.B. § 5-6-3-b-2, serve at the pleasure of the president, implying that their work is on behalf of the administration and, by extension, the president. Therefore, the recent discussion being framed by the OAF committee as necessitating the president's involvement is inconsistent with the established structure. Directors are granted full autonomy for their respective projects, and throughout the year, there was no precedent of the DEI director discussing any DEI initiative with the president before implementation. The inquiry arises as to why this particular initiative is being treated differently.

noncommittal and that pushing too hard for such an event could cause the Co-Chief of Staff to be ignored<sup>11</sup>.

- Sealed Evidence #4:
  - o 1: Cabinet Agendas
    - Screenshot of a cabinet agenda that outlines time to think of a response to bias in the community against Palestinian/Middle Eastern/Muslim students.
  - o 3: Correspondence
    - 1: No Outreach MESA
- Text messages between an unknown sender and a leader in the Middle Eastern Student
   Association wherein the leader confirms that Ms. Pickett did not reach out to the organization
   after an anti-Palestinian incident on campus.
  - 2: No Outreach MSA
- Text messages between an unknown sender and a leader in the Muslim Student Association
  wherein the leader confirms that Ms. Pickett did not reach out to the organization after an
  anti-Palestinian incident on campus.
  - 3: Patrick Lee on Ethan Fine Meeting
- Text messages between senior executive officers wherein Mr. Lee describes the meeting with
   Mr. Fine as informative on the current climate of antisemitism.
  - 4: Decision Not to Respond
- Text messages between senior executive officers wherein one officer states that it isn't necessary to respond to Instagram messages regarding global political conflict.
  - 5: Makiah and Aaliyah Affirmative Action

<sup>11</sup> How can the committee accurately articulate the emotions of the President? This representation lacks objectivity as it relies on subjective feeling. Given that only the President is privy to her own emotions, characterizing them becomes an assumption and lacks a factual basis, thereby contradicting the committee's assertion of maintaining objectivity.

- Text messages between Ms. Pickett and the President wherein the President questions if being Jewish just means religiously and would be included in the affirmative action movement<sup>12</sup>.
- Sealed Evidence #5: Cabinet Recording 0 1: Recording
  - A recording of an IUSG executive cabinet meeting post resignation letter wherein the President and Vice President discuss the ramifications of the resignation letter and allegations made with the cabinet.
- Sealed Evidence #6: Vice President Text Messages o 1: Applefield Screenshot 1
  - Text messages between Ms. Applefield and the Vice President wherein the Vice
     President plans to make IU Hillel Shabbat dinner but then cancels.

#### o 2: Applefield Screenshot 2

- Text messages between Ms. Applefield and the Vice President wherein the Vice
   President asks for guidance on how to respond to Mr. Fine's message about IUSG statements regarding racism.
- Sealed Evidence #7: Tinsley and Pickett Conversation Recording o 1: Phone Call Recording
  - A phone call between Ms. Pickett and Mr. Tinsley wherein Ms. Pickett explains her resignation/resignation letter.
- Sealed Evidence #8: Vice President Leave Letter o 1: Physical Copy
  - Letter proving that the Vice President was on leave from the organization
     October 10<sup>th</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Sealed Evidence #9: Makiah Pickett and President Conversations

<sup>12</sup> The President was diligently seeking essential information to educate herself on the historical discrimination faced by Jewish people in college admissions and the impact of affirmative action on them. The pursuit of knowledge is a fundamental aspect of the college experience. No student leader possesses an awareness of all issues affecting the diverse identities among the 40,000 students on this campus. Inquiry and asking questions are integral to the learning process. Please refer to **Appendix 5** for further details.

- o 1: Event Seating
  - Text messages between Ms. Pickett and the President wherein argument is had over the seating arrangements at the IUSG table possibly leaving out the President and Vice President<sup>13</sup>.
- o 2: Argument Recording
  - A recording of an argument between Ms. Pickett and the President about the professional relationship between the two.
- o 3: Co-Chief of Staff Texts
  - Text messages between a Co-Chief of Staff and Ms. Pickett wherein the CoChief of Staff describes a conversation with the President about a planned meeting with Ms. Pickett concerning the event seating and her treatment of Ms.
    Pickett.
- Sealed Evidence #10: Jewish Student Leaders and IUSG Presidents Meeting

Recording 01: Recording

 A recording of the meeting between Jewish student leaders and the President and Vice President about recent allegations made against the President and a lack of advocacy against antisemitism.

Timeline

Key points in time as gathered by the committee:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> This piece of information, pertaining to the tabling at the NMBCC African American Culture Center conferences, lacks relevance to the central purpose of the investigation. Discussing such matters does not contribute meaningfully to the ongoing inquiry.

July 1<sup>st</sup>: Affirmative Action/Makiah Pickett group text messages, show that the President is unaware of Jewish being both an ethnicity and a religion, and that she plans to educate herself on the matter<sup>14</sup>.

Oct 25<sup>th</sup>: Meeting with Patrick Lee, Ethan Fine, and the President about the Jewish community on campus. From multiple testimony, it is corroborated that nothing was requested from IUSG in collaboration during this meeting.

Oct 30<sup>th</sup>: Admitted by the President in testimony that she made remarks to Makiah Pickett during the meeting describing Abby Rose as "playing the victim" and claiming that "antisemitism is not an issue on this campus". Corroborated by recording during cabinet.

Nov 6-9<sup>th</sup>: Texts and recordings show that the President and Makiah Pickett had arguments about bias and leadership style.

Nov 10-12<sup>th</sup>: Abigail Garrison, Patrick Lee, and Abby DeArmitt, over the course of the weekend, all resign from their positions in IUSG.

Nov 13<sup>th</sup>: Resignation letter of Alex Kaswan and Makiah Pickett is received in the IUSG chat.

Nov 14<sup>th</sup>: The IGNITE administration holds a cabinet meeting in which they go over the resignation letter and the President admits to making antisemitic comments, all on recording.

Nov 15<sup>th</sup>: The President released a statement on the allegations made in the resignation letter.

Nov 16<sup>th</sup>: The President, Vice President, and Cooper Tinsley met with Jewish Student Leaders on campus.

Testimony had mixed response on how well the meeting went; a recording of the meeting shows that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Other members within the executive branch expressed a comparable level of unfamiliarity with the history of discrimination against Jewish people in college admissions, yet their instances are notably omitted. The OAF committee singularly attributed this lack of education to the President. The quest for knowledge is a fundamental aspect of the college experience, where questioning and inquiry are inherent to the learning process. The decision to not add Hillel was not made solely by the President, but rather was a joint decision by numerous members of Ignite leadership, and its unintentional nature is being misrepresented. Additional details can be found in **Appendix 5**.

apologies were given, and Jewish student leaders were heard, no further requests were made for IUSG other than a more formal apology be released acknowledging antisemitism<sup>15</sup>.

Nov 17<sup>th</sup>: The President and Vice President release a statement acknowledging antisemitism and apologizing for past actions.

Nov 28<sup>th</sup>: Hoosiers United Against Antisemitism (a group consisting of multiple Jewish student leaders at IU) issues a letter requesting that President Aaliyah Raji resign from her position and any members of her cabinet "complicit in her antisemitism" be removed from their positions as well. The first hearing of the investigation was also conducted, with interviews from Abigail Garrison, Abby Rose, Alex Kaswan, Ethan Fine, and Makiah Pickett<sup>16</sup>.

Nov 30<sup>th</sup>: The second hearing of the investigation was conducted with interviews from Abby DeArmitt and Rachel Applefield.

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>: The third and final hearing of the investigation was conducted with interviews from the President, Vice President, Cooper Tinsley, and Patrick Lee.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The recording also captures multiple instances where the President and Vice President extend apologies and where some of the Jewish student leaders provided tangible steps on how to "rebuild the bridge."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The assertion that members of the Ignite executive cabinet are "complicit in her antisemitism" constitutes harmful rhetoric that unfairly targets individuals who played no role in the issue at hand. As repeatedly demonstrated in this report, all issues involved upper-level executive members, with the inclusion of the DEI director, and there is no evidence implicating our directors. For the committee to then conclude, "So, the question arises on whether the dignity of IUSG has been upheld by the current administration, and the answer is no," raises concerns. The committee's claim that the president and vice president have compromised the integrity of the executive branch is questioned, considering their continuously stated primary focus on maintaining that integrity for the past three months. There have been multiple emails sent expressing concerns about how the investigation's conduct was negatively impacting cabinet stability, yet these concerns have consistently been overlooked, as provided in **Appendix 6**.

#### Committee Findings on Allegations Made

In the letter of resignation released by Kaswan and Pickett, the President and Vice President were accused of using blatantly antisemitic language throughout the course of their administration. The first such instance occurred in July of 2023 where the executive branch released a statement on Instagram regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Affirmative Action. In this statement the IGNITE Administration referred students to cultural centers on Campus should they need support. The following events were referenced in **Sealed Evidence No. 1-4** and was corroborated through testimony given to the committee by relevant parties. Notably absent from this post were the LGBTQ+ Culture Center and the Jewish Culture Center at IU, as pointed out by senior members of the executive cabinet in texts from **Sealed Evidence 1-1**. In these texts, President Raji was asked about the lack of inclusion for these students, she claimed that since Affirmative Action only affected students of color, it was not an issue that affected Jewish students. She was corrected on this notion and was informed that being Jewish is just one of the many intersecting identities a student may have. At this point Raji made a commitment to further educate herself<sup>17</sup>.

According to corroborated testimony of those present, on October 25, 2023, President Raji and Co-Chief of Staff Patrick Lee met with Mr. Ethan Fine for the first and only meeting the Student Body President had with members of the Jewish community on campus following the events of October 7<sup>th</sup> and before the resignation letter from Kaswan and Pickett. The IGNITE parties involved stated that they felt the meeting was productive, but Mr. Fine stated during his testimony that he felt the presence of Mr. Lee

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The decision to unintentionally exclude the LGBTQ+ Center and The Jewish Culture Center was not solely made by the President but was also influenced by other members of the upper executive team at the time. A notable quote from the previous Treasurer and co-author of the initial resignation letter, as seen in **Appendix 5**, is particularly relevant: "Well, I think it's just a misunderstanding, from reading online he is right, but I personally don't think that affirmative action affected Jews, so it's not relevant to the post since it's specifically about affirmative action." This quote highlights the joint nature of the decision-making process within the upper executive team, yet the committee persistently portrays this situation as a deliberate decision made solely by the President.

was an intimidation tactic used by the administration. <sup>18</sup> This meeting was the only form of communication that occurred until the release of the letter of resignation <sup>19</sup>. Following this meeting Mr. Lee approached the President with ideas on how to further engage with Jewish student organizations, to which he testified that the President had no interest in working with said groups. This sentiment was reiterated in a text as seen in Sealed Evidence 3-1 from Ms. DeArmitt to Ms. Pickett wherein she reached out due to the President's unwillingness to work on an event concerning antisemitism <sup>20</sup>. While the Student Body President framed the meeting as the first-time concerns were raised by Jewish students, this was not the case. On October 10, 2023, Mr. Ethan Fine contacted the Instagram account of IUSG through direct message concerning the lack of response the organization made in regard to issues facing Jewish students on campus. The following quotes come from Sealed Evidence 1-3. The Student Body President texted in a group chat with senior executives "we don't need to leave them on read we just don't need to open it' followed by "he's [Fine] is always trying to pick something" and finally "like we're not making a f—ing statement bro it's BEYOND IUSG". Vice President Koda texted a drafted statement before backtracking and stated in text messages "nah we don't have to send it" followed by "b—es are crazy". Mr. Lee and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Text messages, as seen in **Appendix 7**, directly contradict the notion of the presence of Mr. Lee being an intimidation tactic. In the message, the President asks Mr. Fine "would you mind if a couple members of my exec came as well? If not, it's totally fine just didn't want it to seem like were bombarding you. Also same goes for you! If you feel like there's anyone else you'd want at this meeting with you, please feel more than welcome to bring them." In which Mr. Fine responded with "which members?" and the President replies with "Potentially one of my cochiefs of staff and my vice president" to which Mr. Fine then responds "Great".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> This assertion is inaccurate. In both the President and Mr. Lee's hearings, it was stated that an email was sent to Jewish Student Leaders, including Mr. Fine and Ms. Applefield, on 11/3, but it received no response, as seen in **Appendix 8**. While the letter acknowledges the delay in outreach, it emphasizes the commitment to collaborating with Jewish Students to explore ways in which IUSG could offer support.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> This is an expression of sentiment rather than a verifiable fact. Once again, it raises the question of how anyone, other than the President, can accurately speak to her feelings on a particular issue. In Mr. Lee's hearing, it was mentioned that this was how "he felt," a statement that directly contradicts the President's testimony where she asserted that she never dismissed the idea but rather suggested alternative ways to support groups. Furthermore, the described feelings are characterized as "non-committal," yet there was no specific programming or event idea proposed, rendering there nothing concrete to commit to.

Ms. Garrison [two senior cabinet members], as according to **Sealed Evidence 4-2-4** concurred on the matter and President Raji stated, "ignore it and he finna be blocked". Raji's final comment on the matter was "if someone opens that dm im changing the password" which shows that the Student Body President and Vice President directed their senior staff to ignore the concerns of a Jewish student and threatened to remove access to the Instagram account if staff were to do their jobs<sup>21</sup>.

On the night of October 30, 2023, the Student Body Congress met for a General Assembly meeting. In this meeting debate was heard on Congress Bill No. 1005, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Sexual Violence Prevention Advocacy Agenda. A representative voiced concern about the lack of an Islamophobia prevention section in the legislation, as a section regarding antisemitism prevention was present in the document during second reading. According to the testimony of Makiah Pickett, as Congress was figuring out how to resolve this issue, the Student Body President was reportedly irritated about the inclusion of anything involving antisemitism in the document<sup>22</sup>. It was at this meeting that the President made a statement about then-Representative Abby Rose, of Chabad House Jewish Student Center wherein she asked, "why is she playing the victim?" as Ms. Rose discussed numerous antisemitic actions that have occurred within recent memory on campus. It is the understanding of Jewish leaders, Abby Rose, Ethan Fine, and Alex Kaswan who testified before our committee that this comment

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Senior members of the executive branch shared a similar sentiment to the President and Vice President regarding their reluctance to respond to the message. Messages from other members in the group chat, such as "I think this is good, but I don't think we have to respond; he is free to criticize us all he wants; we don't owe it to him to comment on a global issue" and "personally, I think the best course of action is not responding because he's gonna pick that apart, but just my thoughts," also reflected the reluctance of other members to respond. This situation was taken out of context and placed blame solely on the President and Vice President when it was a joint decision made by members of executive leadership.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> It's important to note that the President stated in her testimony that she was not irritated by this or at all.

constitutes antisemitism under the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition, which was adopted by Indiana University Student Government<sup>23</sup>.

At 9:57 p.m. on Monday November 13, 2023, the letter of resignation authored by Mr. Kaswan and Ms. Pickett was released to members of IUSG. According to corroborated testimony of those who resigned, the event was the culmination of a weekend that included the resignations of Mr. Lee and Ms. DeArmitt who testified resigning due to leadership differences with the President and Vice President, and Ms. Garrison who resigned for both leadership differences and personal reasons. The following evening a regular meeting of the cabinet was held behind closed doors. According to a letter and recording in **Sealed Evidence 5** sent to the committee by an anonymous cabinet member, members were asked to put all electronics away to allow members to speak their minds without recording<sup>24</sup>.

The following quote from **Sealed Evidence 5** came directly from President Raji. In reference to Mr. Kaswan she stated, "How can you claim I silenced you if you don't speak?". However, Mr. Kaswan testified that he had routinely made attempts to inform the President of issues facing the Jewish community on campus. This testimony was further proven in **Sealed Evidence 1-3** where Mr. Kaswan suggested IUSG coordinate an event with Hillel to complement similar events orchestrated with MESA<sup>25</sup>. During testimony, the President said that she could not recall making the statement, and that assertion was corroborated by the testimony of the Vice President. The lack of support for a Jewish student who the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Serious concerns arise from the committee's omission of a publicly dissenting opinion from another Jewish leader. This omission raises questions about the committee's objectivity and its potential influence on preconceived notions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> In previous meetings where crucial discussions took place, members were requested to refrain from using their devices. This practice aimed to create an environment where members could express themselves freely, fostering a sense of comfort and safety. It's crucial to recognize the importance of open dialogue, especially in matters of high priority, where individuals should feel at ease expressing their thoughts and opinions without fear of repercussions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Direct attempts to communicate with the President were not made on multiple occasions. The concern was raised once through a text on 10/27, as illustrated in **Appendix 9**. Subsequently, six days later, the President sent an email to Rachel Applefield, Ethan Fine, and another Jewish student leader, to which none of them responded. See **Appendix 8**.

President and Vice President spoke with, along with stating that he never spoke up when he did, is a troubling assertion to make concerning these issues.

Rachel Applefield testified that Vice President Koda reached out to her during Thanksgiving Break and attempted to shift the blame away from the Student Body President and said that Ms. Pickett was being manipulative. Vice President Koda testified that a majority of the phone call was spent discussing ways IUSG can help support Jewish students on campus, with a small portion going over "personal things regarding the issue at hand". As referenced in **Sealed Evidence 5** similar statement was also said by the Vice President in a prior Cabinet meeting recording before this phone call occurred the following week, therefore this shows a pattern of a belief of the Vice President that Ms. Pickett was being manipulative. This shows a clear intent to shift the blame away from those who are in the wrong towards others, and a general lack of accountability. This also contradicts the testimony given by Vice President Koda wherein she stated that she was not of the opinion that Ms. Pickett was manipulating the situation.

#### Committee Findings on Upheld Duties

In **R.B.** § **4-1-1**, one of the duties of the President and Vice President is laid out as needing to "uphold the dignity of IUSG in their conduct and behavior". The committee interprets this as embodying the most crucial aspects of IUSG in their work, while representing the core values of Indiana University's student body. Adhering to the rules of this organization, treating fellow members with respect, and maintaining individual integrity are among such criteria. Upholding the dignity of IUSG can range from respecting the views and opinions of fellow members, to publicly portraying an image of leadership, honesty, and diligence, and to properly preparing the organization to uphold its responsibilities<sup>26</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> The committee violated these values by failing to uphold the dignity & decorum of IUSG in their conduct. Despite concerns about the destabilizing impact of their investigation on the executive branch, they persisted in their approach, offering false and misrepresented information as described throughout this annotated report. This inconsistency also contradicts R.B. § 2-4-1 (d), which stresses the creation of an inclusive environment, as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

Whenever any senior administrative officer resigns from IU Student Government, it is crucial to put a plan in place to replace that position and make sure the many responsibilities of that position are upheld in the meantime. The Treasurer, Co-Chiefs of Staff, and Congressional Secretary are all especially crucial to the management and upkeep of funds, membership, and records of IUSG. Coordination between those resigning and the current administration is essential to the smooth continuation of the organization.

In this investigation, as corroborated by testimony of those who resigned and those who continued, 4 senior administrative officers and a department co-director of the executive branch resigned within 3 days of each other, with little evidence of coordination in their leave with the continuing administration<sup>27</sup>. In this case, the Treasurer, two Co-Chiefs of Staff, the Congressional Secretary, and the Co-Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, resigned, with only the Treasurer having a ready successor as a deputy treasurer. Other than the former Treasurer's testimony of plans to leave at the end of the semester, and corroborated testimony of those present of a meeting with IUSG advisors in which the Co-Chiefs of Staff discussed and in part submitted their resignations with the President and Vice President, the committee is not aware of any evidence that points to these resignations being coordinated with any leadership (who would be remaining in the IGNITE administration) prior to their effective date.

The committee received text messages as seen in **Sealed Evidence 1-2** wherein the President and Vice President admitted to turning in the financial statement for the campaign past its deadline to the Election Commission. Failure to submit a financial statement for a campaign on time is a class A election violation according to **R.B.** § 3-8-2 subsection 2, which results in an automatic disqualification from the election. According to precedent set in the IUSG Supreme Court Case *Wolak v. Election Commission*, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> The Ignite administration has continued to fill these roles, actively collaborating with IUSG advisors to oversee fund management and actively recruiting potential members to fill vacant roles, thereby ensuring executive branch stability, despite the numerous challenges to operational integrity. Existing members of Cabinet assumed the roles of Chief of Staff and Treasurer on Monday, 11/14, both unofficially and officially. Moreover, with a functioning DEI director, the sole vacant role is that of congressional secretary, which the President has effectively managed by staying current with congressional bills from 11/14 to the present day.

Election Commission is not allowed to excuse late submissions, and any excused candidates shall be deemed disqualified from the election<sup>28</sup>.

There were a total of five resignations within the span of 3 days prior to the release of the resignation letter in Exhibit A. While there were other resignations from the executive branch following these, our report will focus on these five. Treasurer Alex Kaswan and Co-Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Makiah Pickett outlined their reasons for resigning in Exhibit A, and further corroborated those reasons in their testimony. Additionally, as seen in **Sealed Evidence 10**, arguments occurred between the President and Makiah Pickett, suggesting the relationship both professionally and personally between the President and Makiah Pickett was strained<sup>29</sup>. Co-Chiefs of Staff Abby DeArmitt and Patrick Lee testified mixed reasons for resigning, repeating "differences in leadership styles" and strained tensions with the President and Vice President. Through **Sealed Evidence 1-4**, **3-1**, **3-2**, **9-3** and corroborated testimony of the Co-Chiefs of Staff, President, and Vice President, the working relationship between the Co-Chiefs of Staff and President and Vice President was strained and ineffective.

Congressional Secretary Abigail Garrison testified resigning "80% for the contents of the letter [Exhibit A], and 20% for treatment by leadership".

The resignations underscore a pattern of the President avoiding accountability for their actions and decisions<sup>30</sup>. In **Sealed Evidence 9-3** along with testimonies from Makiah Pickett, Alex Kaswan and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> This evidence is unrelated to the presented claims, raising concerns about the investigation's scope and the committee's intent to include it in the final findings. The election took place over 6700 hours ago, and questioning its "legitimacy" at this point ignores 41% of the student vote and discredits the work done by our directors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> This evidence holds no significance to the investigation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> This is an unfounded assumption that contradicts the committee's earlier commitment to avoid painting a detrimental image of the President's character. There is no evidence supporting the claim that the President consistently refuses to take accountability. The President has consistently accepted accountability for her actions, both publicly and privately. Her ongoing efforts to educate herself throughout her tenure are being discredited by this statement. The assertion lacks factual support and reflects the feelings of those who resigned rather than objective evidence. Moreover, it's crucial to note that the majority of the cabinet chose to remain in their roles

Abigail Garrison, it was reported to the committee that when mistakes were made, they were not always acknowledged, investigated, or rectified<sup>31</sup>. Additionally, Abby Rose and Ethan Fine expressed in their interviews the insincerity of the President when she acknowledged her shortcomings thereby raising a concern of the lack of responsible leadership within this organization<sup>32</sup>.

Alex Kaswan and Marsha Koda recognized a lack of engagement of the Vice President in essential cabinet meetings. Vice President Koda explained she had never led a full cabinet meeting.

During a crucial period, the Vice President also took about a one-month leave from the organization as reported in **Sealed Evidence 8**. This absence occurred when active participation and leadership were paramount, contributing to a lack of leadership within the organization. Although the reasons for such an extended leave were crucial, the Vice President was unable to perform her duties nor did she explicitly delegate them, according to a statement she made in **Sealed Evidence 10**<sup>33</sup>. The Vice President expressed to the committee in her testimony that the "institution" is to blame for incidents of antisemitism and that it

following the initial resignation letter. This contradicts the narrative of widespread dissatisfaction and paints a more nuanced picture of the internal dynamics within the administration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> This is a subjective statement lacking evidence and directly contradicts the hearings where the President and Vice President emphasized their openness to feedback from directors, even providing an anonymous feedback form. The committee should have subpoenaed numerous cabinet members who chose to remain after the initial resignations, to gain a comprehensive view.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> This is highly subjective and lacks objectivity. It raises the question of how one can gauge the sincerity of the President without being in her position. It's essential to note that during this same meeting, the President repeatedly apologized for her shortcomings, a fact supported by an audio recording of the meeting.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> The use of the word "essential" emphasizes the importance and severity of such meetings. However, weekly meetings were already a standard practice, providing directors with guaranteed time, space, and the ability to collaborate on their projects regularly. Chiefs of staff often conducted these meetings, a common practice in both Ignite administration and previous ones. Contrary to the framing, this is not an unfamiliar occurrence in IUSG. Furthermore, the suggestion that the "absence" was a choice sets a dangerous precedent, potentially undermining the real and harmful impact of negative mental health on student leaders. The Vice President did not willingly choose to be absent; she had no alternative, a fact known to the committee. Additionally, the Vice President brought this to the committee's attention not as a means to deflect but rather simply to explain why she was unable to answer certain questions due to her absence. The committee weaponized this fact. Furthermore, the President willingly assumed the responsibilities of the Vice President.

should not be the responsibility of student leaders to rectify these issues. This deflective approach undermines the collaborative efforts needed to combat antisemitism effectively and erodes trust in the leadership's commitment to resolving critical issues. Testimony from Makiah Pickett suggests that the Vice President has been "complicit and negligent" in addressing the President's actions or lack thereof.<sup>34</sup>

One recurring theme identified in the resignations is the President and Vice President's apparent reluctance to accept constructive criticism<sup>35</sup>. This was testified by several interviewees including Abigail Garrison, Abby Rose, Alex Kaswan, Makiah Pickett, and Patrick Lee. Multiple of these interviewees felt a failure to engage with feedback, whether from staff, faculty, or other involved parties, suggests an unwillingness to learn and adapt<sup>36</sup>. In **Exhibit A**, Makiah Pickett states, "My efforts to foster an inclusive community within IU's diverse student body have been met with criticism and condemnation." In the same letter Pickett and Kaswan state, "As it stands, this organization has fostered an environment where you are silenced for voicing your opinions to leadership." Furthermore, this reluctance to accept constructive criticism is shown in **Sealed Evidence 1-3**. This resistance poses a significant barrier to IUSG's ability to address challenges, improve its overall performance, and move forward as an organization.

The resignations show a gap in the President and Vice President's understanding of the diverse groups within our campus. Makiah Pickett, Cooper Tinsley, Patrick Lee, Ethan Fine, Alex Kaswan, and Abby Rose made it clear that the President and Vice President had a lack of knowledge and education on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> The Vice President wasn't asserting that the institution is solely responsible, but rather pointing out the institution's failure to provide adequate support. This unforeseen event left us to navigate on our own, and while mistakes were inevitable, these errors are impeding progress and hindering efforts to address pressing student issues.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> The President and Vice President have always accepted feedback –whether it be anonymously or directly.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> This is a subjective statement that strongly prompts individuals to form inferences about the character of the President and Vice President. The committee should've subpoenaed members who remained on the Cabinet, as it could have presented a counterargument against this subjective assertion.

the unique needs, concerns, and perspectives of Jewish Students and LQBTG+ students according to Sealed Evidence 1-1.<sup>37</sup> In Exhibit A Makiah Pickett states, "there has been a lack of awareness." Furthermore, Pickett and Kaswan explain, "this organization is not fulfilling its purpose or promise to the students of the university due to leadership ineptitude." In Sealed Evidence 10, Abby Rose stated, "We have nine pages of a document of everything antisemitic that has happened in the last month alone." This raises doubt in the President and Vice President's ability to uphold the dignity of IUSG as a whole<sup>38</sup>.

In regard to efforts made to put forward programs in partnership with Jewish student organizations and or programs combatting antisemitism on campus, there is a lack of evidence that any such concrete programs were planned/put on by the President, Vice President, former Co-Chiefs of Staff, former Co-Director of DEI, former Treasurer, or former Congressional Secretary of IUSG. Although Sealed Evidence 1-6, 3-1, and 3-2 all show text messages between Co-Chiefs of Staff and Makiah Pickett about planning such an event, no evidence supports such an event happening<sup>39</sup>. During the meeting between the President, Ethan Fine, and Patrick Lee on October 25<sup>th</sup>, it was corroborated by testimony of those present that nothing was specifically requested out of IUSG in terms of events and that Mr. Fine wished to make sure the Jewish students were heard by IUSG. One direct request from a senior

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Sealed evidence 1-1 pertains to the conversation about the affirmative action statement. As evident in the provided evidence in **Appendix 5**, the President was actively seeking information to educate herself on the matter, a fact that is unfortunately being disregarded. This situation establishes a perilous precedent, demanding student leaders to possess full knowledge on issues affecting 40,000 students. IU President Whitten herself does not meet this standard. This is a harmful criterion. Moreover, it is worth noting that the committee consistently argues that the President is uneducated. However, when she consistently asks questions to enhance her understanding, as seen in multiple appendices below, they misrepresent these actions in a negative light.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> It is important to highlight that the Vice President and Acting Chief of Staff were made aware of this document during our meeting on 11/16. Despite meeting with Jewish student leaders and expressing interest in obtaining this document to increase our awareness, we have yet to receive it.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> It is not the role of The President nor the Vice President to plan events – this typically falls under the jurisdiction of the directors, and the chiefs of staff typically serve as advisors to such projects providing insights and ideas.

executive officer in **Sealed Evidence 1-5** clearly mentioned "it would be great to reach out to Hillel to do a collaboration event on antisemitism", however there is a lack of evidence to support anything further happening in regard to the planning and or outreach for such an event from any senior executive officers.

The interviewees Abby Rose, Alex Kaswan, Ethan Fine, Makiah Pickett, and Patrick Lee expressed this concern in their respective interviews. Makiah Pickett expressed in **Exhibit A**, "it has been made painfully clear that the current administration is only open to supporting select student groups." In **Sealed Evidence 10** a Jewish student leader, Jared Cohen, stated, "Advocacy afforded to other students is not being afforded to us." The same student continued by saying, "...what you do have is a duty to do is support Jewish students on this campus and I can say that one hundred percent that that has not been done." The lack of engagement and consultation with these groups has led to a sense of exclusion and alienation, exacerbating existing tensions and hindering the president's ability to represent and serve the diverse student body effectively.

#### Summary

The preamble to the Indiana University Student Government Constitution states the following "IUSG exists to give voice to our common grievances, concerns, and hopes, and to take action to realize an ever-stronger University. We work to protect student rights, enrich student life, and improve Indiana University." The Committee on Oversight and Finance believes that this is a goal that all members of IUSG, elected or appointed, should strive towards<sup>40</sup>. The decision was made by the committee to give a recommendation to Congress at large as to how to proceed with the matters discussed in this report. It

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> As this is the shared goal for all members of IUSG, the necessity to release this annotated report and provide all the evidence within contradicts the OAF committee's ability to uphold the bylaws governing this organization.

should be noted that these decisions have not been made lightly, and that each member voted their conscience, and in the spirit of the constituents who elected them<sup>41</sup>.

It is the recommendation of the Committee on Oversight and Finance that the Student Body Congress of Indiana University introduce and adopt Articles of Impeachment against Student Body President Aaliyah Raji and Student Body Vice President Marsha Koda under the authority granted in Article III Section 6 of the IUSG Constitution.

After careful consideration, the committee has arrived at the following conclusions. In its current state, IUSG struggles to operate without a Treasurer, Chief of Staff, Congressional Secretary, or functioning Board of Finance. The departments of Communications and Engagement and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion have both been significantly weakened through the departure of Co-Directors. So, the question arises on whether the dignity of IUSG has been upheld by the current administration, and the answer is no<sup>42</sup>. The President has failed at her constitutional duty of being the spokesperson for the student body, as a group comprising 10% of that total number has been ignored since this administration took office. The Vice President and chief deputy is at least complicit in this failure, and according to testimony has failed her constitutional duty as according to Article III Section 2 to coordinate activities within the executive branch<sup>43</sup>. These questions all occur on the backdrop of an election that may have

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Several members voted with evident biases, compromising their ability to remain impartial, as illustrated throughout this annotated report and in **Appendix 1**. It is noteworthy that multiple members were unable to attend all hearings. Additionally, this report lacks objectivity and contains numerous discrepancies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> If the assessment of the dignity of the current administration hinges on the question of open positions, then the dignity is maintained. At the time of the report's release, there was an acting Chief of Staff, and the President assumed the role of Treasurer. As of the present day, all roles have been filled, either permanently or in an acting capacity, except for the congressional secretary. The OAF committee undermines the potential contributions of a sole member. While co-directors are permissible, our directors have expressed their willingness and capability to complete the work individually.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> The term "ignored" implies intent, which is not accurate in this context. It is crucial to emphasize that all decisions were the result of collaborative efforts or were made under the advisement of all senior members of the cabinet at the time. Much of the provided evidence corroborates that the decisions described in these allegations were not intentional.

been tainted by inaction of the Election Commission to disqualify the ticket for the late submission of a financial statement, which has occurred in the past.

The Committee on Oversight & Finance would like to thank all individuals who appeared in front of the committee, those who submitted evidence, and all members of Indiana University Student Government for their cooperation. The committee would like to assure anyone who reads this document that the upmost care, consideration, and thoroughness has been put into this document. We entrust the Student Body Congress to use the information provided in this report to further advocate for the students we represent in the best way possible. As initially promised, members of this committee have spent over eight weeks ensuring that our outcome was appropriate and worthy of the student body.

#### COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker:
The Committee on Oversight & Finance, which opened an INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, has voted to finalize the attached report
John Lane, Chair.
Committee vote: Yeas 6, Nays 1.
YEAS
CHISM
CONLEY
LANE
FARAJOLLAH
SANDERS
YEAGER
<u>NAYS</u>
TYNDALL

## APPENDIX 1: Appendix C Violations per R.B. § 7-2-3; Instances of Bias throughout the Investigation by Oversight and Finance.

#### MR. SPEAKER,

I write to bring to your attention a critical matter regarding the investigation by the Congressional Committee on Oversight and Finance into President Raji and Vice President Koda. The Ignite administration asserts that members of the committee exhibited unethical and biased behavior during this inquiry.

It is worth noting that on December 15, 2023, the Ignite administration brought this issue to the supreme court despite the provision outlined in R.B. § 7-2-3, due to concerns over a Conflict of Interest, as you currently serve on the Congressional Committee on Oversight and Finance and participated in the proceedings described herein. The Supreme Court has since rejected our petition due to a lack of jurisdiction regarding the conduct and behavior of members of Congress, despite the clear conflict of interest. The Ignite administration would be doing a disservice to our constituents if we did not bring these concerns to your attention.

#### Regarding Mr. Chism's stance on refraining from issuing a subpoena to Mr. Tinsley:

Mr. Chism contended, "I just don't know what potential insight can be gained by [subpoenaing him]" and asserted, "I don't see [him providing] much tangible evidence to this committee." This perspective seemingly presumed that Mr. Tinsley would inherently align himself with the President and Vice President, dismissing the possibility of him providing the committee with credible evidence.

Contrary to Mr. Chism's assumptions, Mr. Tinsley, in fact, demonstrated his qualifications to contribute meaningfully to the proceedings. He substantiated his standing by submitting over 30 pieces of evidence via email to Mr. Chism, Mr. Tyndall, and Mr. Lane on November 30 at 2:11 am. Additionally, Mr. Tinsley currently serves as the acting Chief of Staff, affording him access to pertinent information crucial to the investigation. Notably, he stands as the sole remaining Jewish student on the cabinet, thereby offering a unique perspective that merits consideration.

These facts underscore the importance of a fair and comprehensive evaluation of Mr. Tinsley's potential contribution, emphasizing the need for a judicious approach in the investigative process.

The incident involving Mr. Chism's stance on refraining from issuing a subpoena to Mr. Tinsley violates the diversity, equity, and inclusion agreement by demonstrating bias and prejudice. Mr. Chism's assumptions about Mr. Tinsley's potential lack of credible evidence based on his presumed alignment with the President and Vice President reflects a failure to actively strive towards rejecting bias and inequity. The contract emphasizes the commitment to recognizing the diverse makeup and needs of the student body, requiring a fair and comprehensive evaluation of each member's potential contribution.

Regarding the insufficiency in the representation of involved parties within the initial list of subpoenaed individuals:

The primary subpoenas issued, including President Raji and Vice President Koda, predominantly targeted individuals who agreed with the allegations of antisemitism and/or poor leadership, limiting the capabilities to provide due process. These individuals encompass Abby Rose (Chabad Representative in IUSG Congress), Makiah Pickett (former Co-Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), Alex Kaswan (former IUSG Treasurer), Abigail Garrison (former Congressional Secretary), Abby DeArmitt (former Internal Chief of Staff), and Patrick Lee (former External Chief of Staff).

It is noteworthy, however, that this selection overlooked a comprehensive representation of pertinent perspectives. The issuance of an initial subpoena to Mr. Fine, an individual external to the current or former membership of IUSG, whose sole contribution to the specific allegations against the President and Vice President was through tweets in response to the resignation letter and the initial statement released by the President, raises questions about the qualifications and relevance of his testimony. It is worth noting that Mr. Fine neglected to address comments that not only jeopardized the safety of the President and Vice President but also fostered an atmosphere detrimental to other minority groups within the student body. Numerous comments advocated for the removal of the IUSG's leadership and the "deportation" of Muslim students on campus, employing the concerning phrase "clean IU."

This observation emphasizes the imperative of ensuring a balanced and thorough representation of voices within the investigative process, underscoring the significance of refining the selection criteria for subpoena recipients.

The insufficiency in the representation of involved parties within the initial list of subpoenaed individuals violates the agreement by not ensuring a balanced and thorough representation of voices. The biased selection of individuals who predominantly agreed with the allegations creates a limited perspective, compromising the principles of due process. The failure to issue a secondary subpoena for Ms. Galloza further underscores the need for transparent and impartial decision-making processes within the committee's proceedings.

#### Concerning the secondary subpoena of Ms. Applefield:

Following the hearings on Tuesday, November 28, Mr. Yeager proposed a motion to subpoena Ms. Applefield, asserting that "during this meeting, I was actually reached out to by [Ms. Applefield], and she is interested in testifying in front of the committee, and as Mr. Fine mentioned, she was present at the [November 16 meeting with Jewish leaders]."

Subsequently, Mr. Tyndall sought unanimous consent to issue the subpoena without deliberation, a motion that was swiftly ratified by the committee. This method of issuing a subpoena based on an individual's request sets a potentially precarious precedent and introduces an additional element of imbalance to the testimonies presented.

Furthermore, it came to light that Ms. Applefield publicly contradicted the assertion that she initiated contact with Mr. Yeager. Instead, she disclosed that, during the hearings on Tuesday, November 28, Mr. Yeager had reached out to her, soliciting her testimony. This revelation exposes a discrepancy between Mr. Yeager's public statements and the actual circumstances surrounding the issuance of Ms. Applefield's subpoena, raising concerns about transparency and the veracity of information conveyed to both the public and the committee.

The secondary subpoena of Ms. Applefield and the discrepancy between Mr. Yeager's public statements and the actual circumstances surrounding the issuance of the subpoena violate the agreement's commitment to fairness and transparency. Issuing a subpoena based on an individual's request without proper deliberation sets a potentially precarious precedent, introducing an additional element of imbalance to the testimonies presented.

## Concerning the failure to issue a secondary subpoena for the former Co-Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

On Thursday, November 30, at 1:05 pm, Ms. Santiuste communicated to Mr. Tyndall via email, formally petitioning for a subpoena for the former Co-Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This request was made following the precedent set by Ms. Applefield's subpoena issued upon request.

The former director's qualifications to testify were substantive, having resigned from her position on October 15. Her testimony held the potential to shed light on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) department's response to the surge in antisemitism, as well as her personal interactions with Ms. Pickett.

Regrettably, Mr. Tyndall informed the former director, that due to an inadequacy of time between the request and the scheduled testimony, she would be unable to appear before the committee. It is noteworthy that this timeframe mirrors that of Ms. Applefield's subpoena, bringing into question the consistency and equity in the application of procedural considerations. This discrepancy underscores the need for transparent and impartial decision-making processes within the committee's proceedings.

The failure to issue a secondary subpoena for the former Co-Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, violates the diversity, equity, and inclusion agreement by undermining the principles of fairness and transparency. Despite Ms. Santiuste's formal petition and the substantive qualifications of the former director, Mr. Tyndall's response citing time constraints raises concerns about the consistent and equitable application of procedural considerations within the committee's proceedings. The committee's decision not to issue a secondary subpoena for the former director, particularly when compared to the precedent set by Ms. Applefield's subpoena issued upon request, underscores a lack of transparency and raises questions about the impartiality of the decision-making process. This discrepancy highlights the importance of adhering to a transparent and impartial approach, ensuring that all qualified individuals, regardless of their role or position, are given an equal opportunity to contribute to the investigation, in accordance with the principles outlined in the agreement.

#### Regarding the inconsistent admittance and handling of evidence:

A notable disparity in the admission of evidence surfaced when a recording of Ms. Pickett, received via email on November 30, was presented. Some members of the committee contended that, due to its purportedly personal nature, it was deemed inadmissible. Regrettably, as the deliberation on the acceptance of this recording occurred within an executive session, the administration lacks the means to independently verify whether it was ultimately admitted into evidence.

Conversely, during Ms. Applefield's testimony on November 30, an immediate unanimous consent vote was facilitated following her mention of a recording from a November 16 meeting, wherein President Raji allegedly confessed to being an antisemite. The swift and unanimous approval of this evidence into the record stands in contrast to the previous contention about the admissibility of recordings, creating an evident inconsistency in the decision-making process.

This incongruity highlights the need for a uniform and transparent approach to evidence admission, ensuring that the criteria for acceptance remain consistent throughout the committee's proceedings.

The inconsistent admittance and handling of evidence highlight the need for a uniform and transparent approach to evidence admission. The disparate treatment of recordings and the swift approval of evidence during Ms. Applefield's testimony demonstrate an inconsistency in the decision-making process, compromising the agreement's commitment to fairness.

#### Regarding implicit bias during Mr. Tinsley's testimony:

During the proceedings, Mr. Tinsley articulated on three distinct occasions that Ms. Pickett had made biased comments against the Jewish community. He asserted that he possessed evidence substantiating these claims, which he had submitted to the committee, but the committee refrained from addressing them during the questioning.

Of particular concern was Mr. Chism's initial decision to yield his time, thereby abstaining from posing any questions to Mr. Tinsley. This decision, in conjunction with Mr. Tinsley's assertions, raises apprehensions about implicit assumptions regarding the relevance and contribution of a Jewish cabinet member, serving in the capacity of an active Chief of Staff, to the proceedings.

Furthermore, Mr. Tinsley was even asked by Mr. Sanders if the only reason he got the job as Acting Chief of Staff was because he was Jewish, a line of questioning that would not be tolerated in any other setting.

The observed lack of respect and attention by Mr. Chism during Mr. Tinsley's testimony underscores the importance of impartiality and fairness in conducting hearings, emphasizing the need for each witness's perspective to be acknowledged and compromises the principles of due process.

Implicit bias during Mr. Tinsley's testimony and the lack of respect and attention by Mr. Chism and Mr. Sanders violate the agreement's principles of impartiality and fairness. The observed implicit assumptions about the relevance and contribution of a Jewish cabinet member compromise the principles of due process and emphasize the importance of acknowledging each witness's perspective.

#### Regarding implicit bias evident in lines of questioning during all testimonies:

The lines of questioning pursued by Mr. Yeager's and Ms. Conley stand out as instances where the committee appeared to seek answers that reinforced pre-existing beliefs. This pattern is exemplified in the following summarized series of questions:

- 1. "Are you aware that between 10-12% of the student population here at IU Bloomington does identify as Jewish?"
- 2. "Are you aware of the historic presence, particularly in the last three years, of violent antisemitism here on campus, including vehicular attacks, verbal assault, and vandalism?"
- 3. "Do you believe that President Raji and Vice President Koda have truly represented the 'rich tapestry of identities' of this campus, including our nearly 4500 Jewish students?"
- 4. "In your opinion, based on your experience, do you believe that President Raji and Vice President Koda are capable of striving to create an inclusive and diverse community?"

These inquiries suggest a certain predisposition and may be perceived as leading, as they appear to guide the respondents toward responses that align with predetermined perspectives. It is crucial to ensure that lines of questioning are objective, impartial, and designed to elicit information rather than validate preconceived notions. This observation emphasizes the importance of maintaining fairness and neutrality throughout the investigative process.

Implicit bias evident in lines of questioning during all testimonies violates the agreement by suggesting a predisposition and leading respondents toward predetermined perspectives. Ensuring that lines of questioning are objective, impartial, and designed to elicit information rather than validate preconceived notions is crucial to maintaining fairness and neutrality throughout the investigative process, as emphasized in the agreement.

## Regarding the committee's failure to address blatantly racist remarks during testimony:

The use of phrases like 'playing the race card' or 'playing the Black card' to dismiss the efforts of the President and Vice President in acknowledging and explaining their perspectives throughout all testimonies, represents a clear violation of the principles outlined in Appendix C. These phrases perpetuate harmful stereotypes and contribute to a climate where individuals of color are unfairly and unjustly portrayed as employing manipulative victimization strategies. By allowing such language to persist without intervention or condemnation, the environment within the Indiana University Student Government fails to align with the commitment in the agreement to reject bias and prejudice. The derogatory historical connotations associated with these phrases, which demean People of Color and misrepresent their identities, underscore the urgency for the committee to address and rectify instances that perpetuate harmful stereotypes, thereby promoting a more inclusive and equitable environment as outlined in the diversity, equity, and inclusion agreement.

In addition to the instances mentioned earlier, it is crucial to highlight the significant conflicts of interest among several committee members, particularly Mr. Chism, who faced defeat against the Ignite campaign. Notably, many members maintain personal relationships with individuals who were subpoenaed, including yourself. This raises concerns, especially considering the standards upheld by both the IUSG Supreme Court and the University, which the committee claims to have aligned with, where such conflicts of interest during hearings are typically not tolerated. Moreover, it has come to our attention that Mr. Sanders assumed

the responsibility of hosting informational meetings to discuss the progress of the investigation. Doubts arise regarding the nature of these discussions, as it is challenging to believe that he refrained from delving into topics addressed during executive sessions. The evident motivation by personal interests further adds to the skepticism surrounding the impartiality of the proceedings.

The incidents detailed above not only reveal direct violations of the diversity, equity, and inclusion agreement in Appendix C but also underscore the committee's failure to address such violations, consequently fostering an environment contrary to the principles outlined in the agreement and described further in R.B. § 2-4-1-(d). Despite acknowledging the inappropriateness of President Raji's statement, the committee not only welcomed, but even considered, a cascade of social media attacks using racially charged phrases and dismissive rhetoric, contributing to an environment that negates the commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The failure to intervene when a student leader attempted to delegitimize President Raji and perpetuate harmful stereotypes not only allowed discriminatory views to persist but also contradicted the agreement's mandate to create a space that is inclusive for individuals of all backgrounds. Moreover, the committee's allowance of racist and Islamophobic comments targeting President Raji and the general Muslim population during a hearing demonstrates a lack of proactive measures in maintaining a conducive environment. In failing to address these instances, the committee neglected its responsibility to uphold the standards set forth in Appendix C, contributing to a climate that falls short of promoting equity and inclusion within the Indiana University Student Government.

Mr. Speaker, the responsibility is yours to address each of these instances, all of which should be heavily considered when you decide which committee to refer potential articles of impeachment to. This committee has made its decision quite clear, and it is one riddled with bias, conflict of interest, racism, and the yearning for personal gain.

Sincerely,

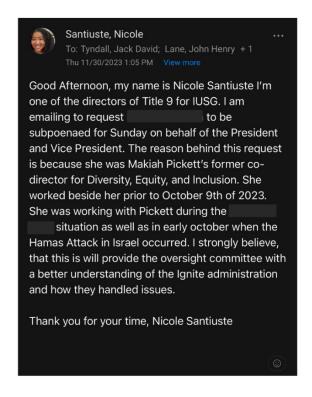
Aaliyah Raji, Marsha Koda, and Cooper Tinsley

### <u>APPENDIX 2</u>: Student rights when facing misconduct charges from the IU Bloomington Office of Student Conduct.

If you have been charged with misconduct at Indiana University Bloomington, you are entitled to these rights during the campus judicial process:

- You may read all written reports regarding the circumstances and allegations of the case.
- You may give your reaction to the reports and offer any additional information, including information that might help resolve the case.
- You are not required to answer any questions that may be asked during your judicial conference. The choice to remain silent will not be taken as an admission of responsibility.
- You may hear any testimony related to the case that may adversely affect you. You also may submit questions related to this testimony.
- You may present witnesses on your behalf either to substantiate circumstances related to
  the incident or to attest to your character. A list of persons who may serve as witnesses
  may be included in the judicial notification letter.
- You may have one and only one advisor or other counsel present during your judicial conference. This may be a friend, parent, attorney, or Student Advocate, but not a member of the Dean of Students staff. The advisor/counsel is limited to advising you and may not participate in presenting the case, questioning the witnesses, or making statements during the conference.
- You will receive written notification of the decision of the judicial conference following approval of the decision by the Dean of Students.
- You may either accept the decision and sanction of the Dean of Students or request a formal hearing before a Hearing Commission. The request must be in writing no later than 10 calendar days after the date printed on the decision letter.

APPENDIX 3: Ms. Santiuste's email to OAF leadership regarding the issuance of a subpoena for a former DEI director. This request was denied.

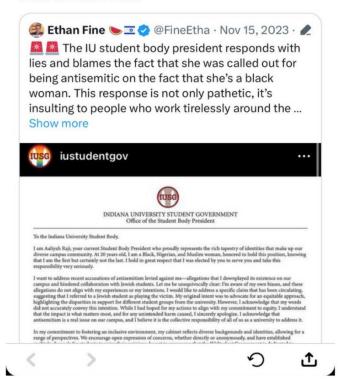


### **APPENDIX 4: Posts from Mr. Fine's Twitter account and the accompanying comments from other users.**



Instead of apologizing, student body president doubled down and said that another African American woman is coming after her for being an African American woman.

Make it make sense.



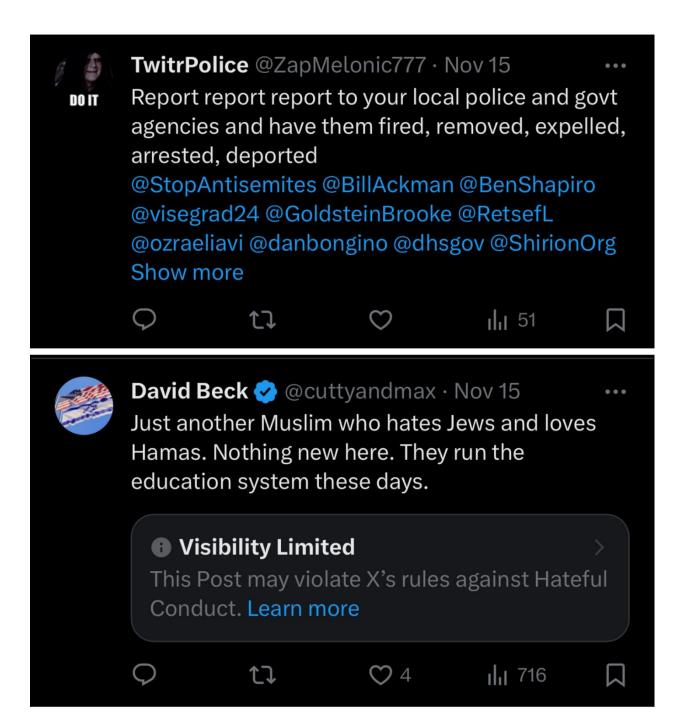


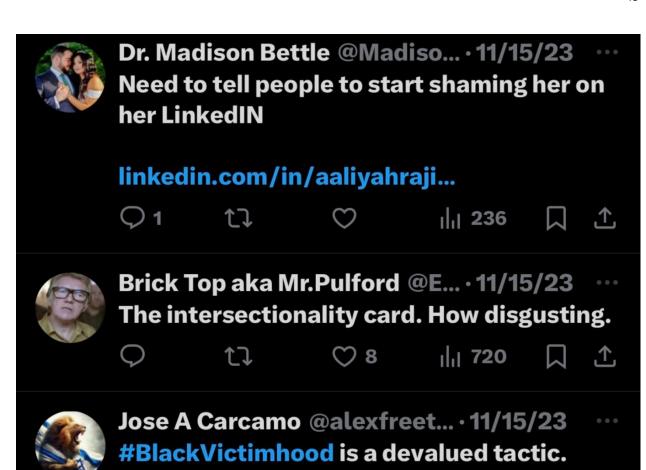






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	MLK @mlk43 · Nov 15  @ShirionOrg - please make sure her future employment options are limited				
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	LiveAndLetLive @livepluplus · Nov 14 @StopAntisemites make them famous				
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the lonely bull	DOCTOR SBAITSO @FcAuR · 11/14/23 ··· They are fucking pussies and they don't deserve the position.				
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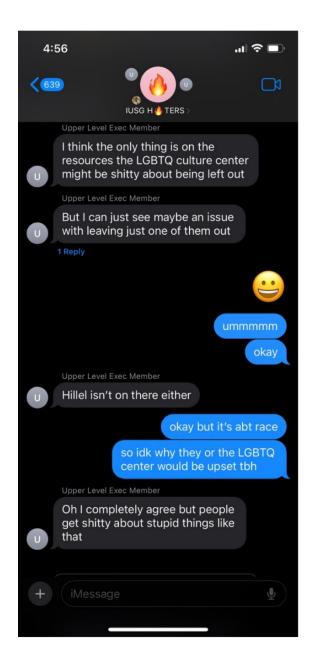


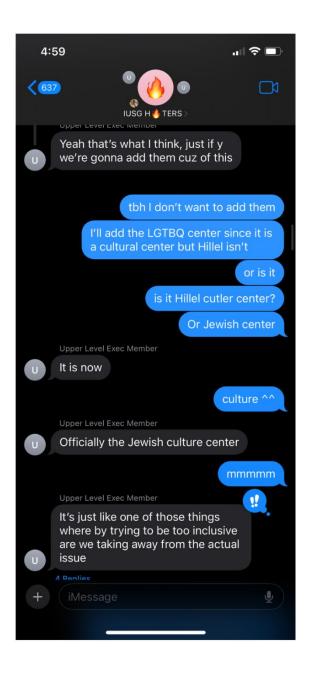
jenna @jenna62290456 · 11/15/23 ···· She was born in Nigeria & her parents came to America when she was a baby. (Google has all the answers.)

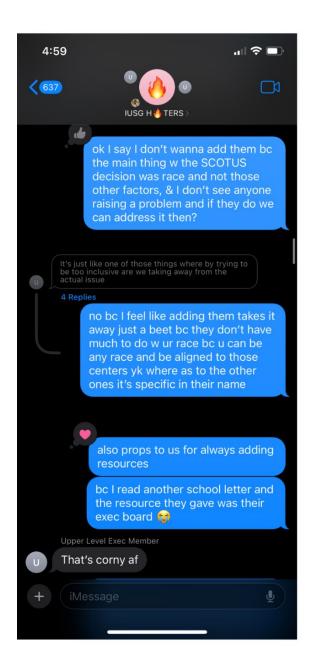
Now, she shits on the US & talks about intersectionality garbage.

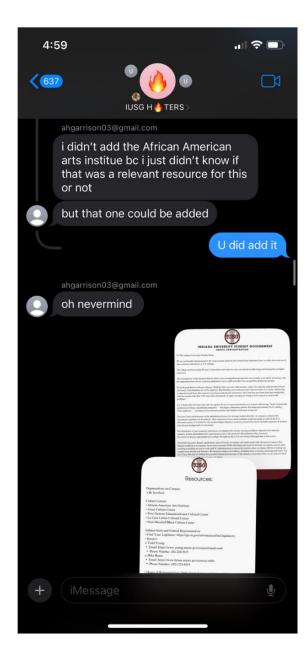
**@IndianaUniv** --her "letter" is nonsense & she's an #antisemite who does not belong in any leadership role.

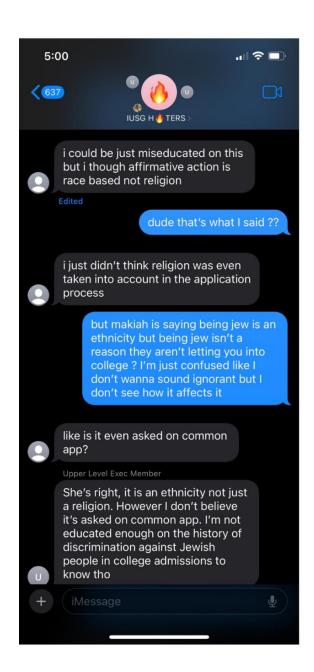
APPENDIX 5: "Affirmative Action" text messages between the President, Vice President, and former upper-level Executive Officers. The president's messages are in blue.



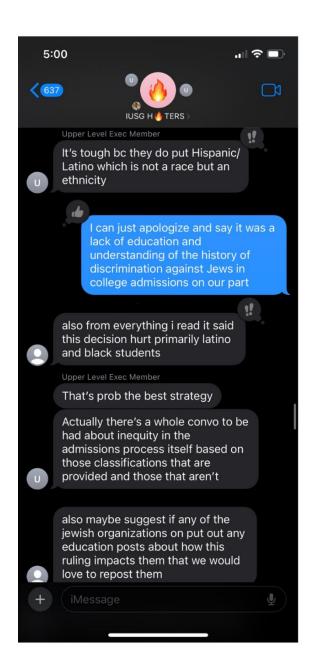


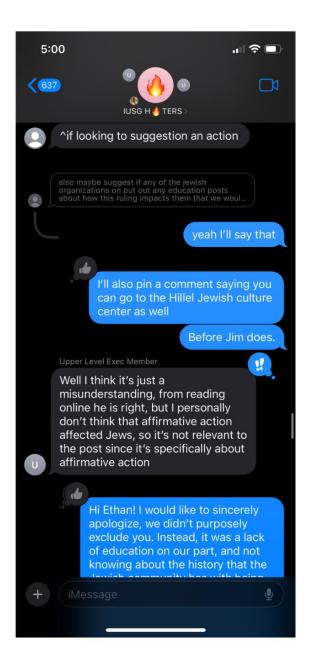


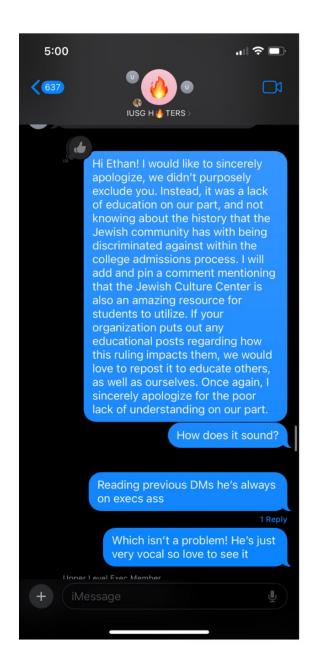


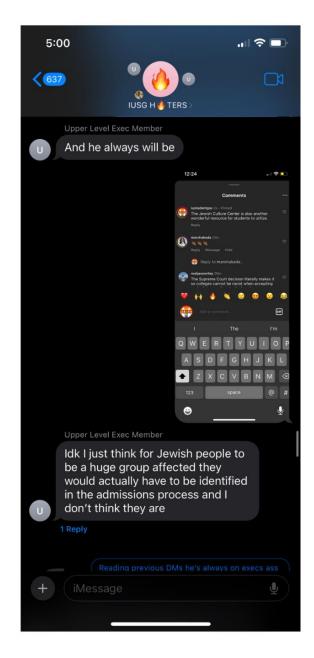


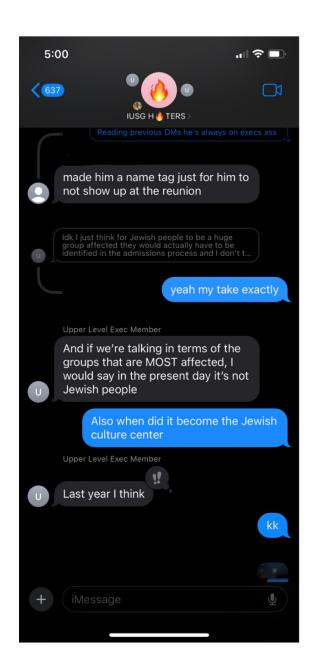


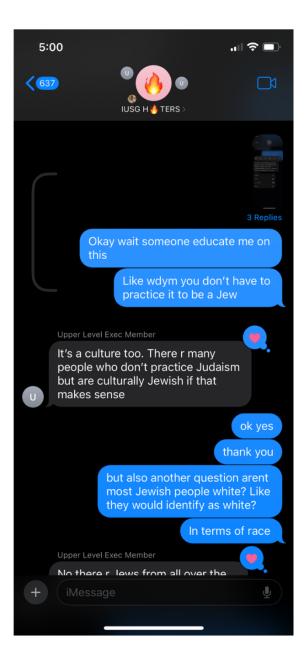


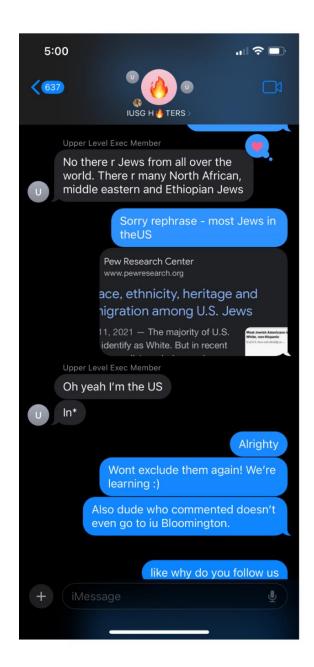


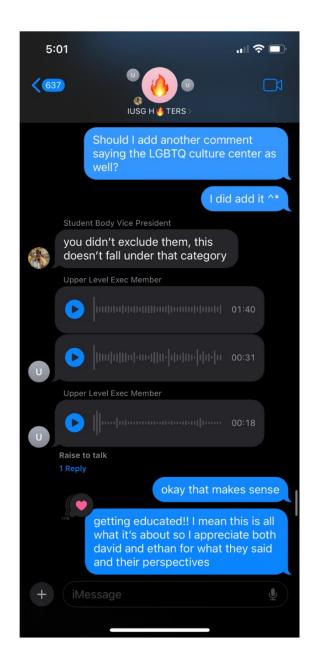


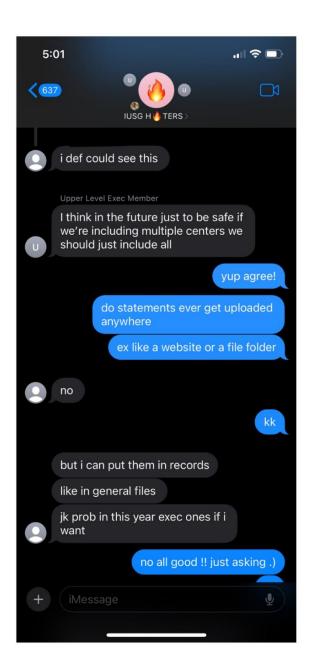












#### APPENDIX 6: Emails between the Acting Executive Chief of Staff and the Chair of the OAF Committee regarding concerns of operational integrity due to the manner in which the investigation was conducted.



Tinsley, Cooper

To: Chism, Aidan Lawrence; Tyndall, Jack David; Lane, John Henry; Yeaqer, Drew Daniel; Conley, Elizabeth; Farajollah, Justin; Sanders, Shane Alan

Wed 12/13/2023 8:32 PM

Cc: Raji, Aaliyah A; Koda, Marsha Noxenia

Dear Members of the Congressional Committee on Oversight and Finance.

I trust this message finds you well. On behalf of the Ignite administration, I'd like to extend my gratitude for your diligent efforts in conducting the investigation into President Raji and Vice President Koda. I am writing to propose a timeline for the release of the investigation's findings to the general public.

Our primary concern, underpinning these requests, is the imperative of speaking with our cabinet before the findings are made public. The absence of this crucial discussion may lead to uncertainties among cabinet members, potentially affecting their commitment to IUSG and thus the ability of the executive branch to fulfill our constitutional duties. Our previous request for a 48-hour advance provision of the committee's report aimed to facilitate an emergency cabinet session, and it is for the same critical reason that we reiterate these requests below.

If the committee concludes its deliberations post-winter break (after Sunday, January 7), we kindly request the committee to share the report with us 48 hours prior to its public release. However, if a decision is reached during winter break, we propose a public release date of Wednesday, January 10, affording us the opportunity to discuss with our cabinet during our regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 9.

In addition, we kindly request that the committee consider disseminating the findings on the IUSG website and/or as an Instagram story, as opposed to a traditional post, as we remain mindful of the potential dilution of the impact of our future statements if we continue with multiple consecutive statements posted on Instagram.

Your cooperation in this matter is highly valued, and we believe that this collaborative approach will contribute to the overall transparency of the process while ensuring the continued effectiveness of the executive branch in serving our constituents.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely.

Cooper Tinsley Acting Chief of Staff, IUSG



To: Raii, Aalivah A: Tinsley, Cooper: Koda, Marsha Noxenia



Cc: Tyndall, Jack David; Chism, Aidan Lawrence; Yeager, Drew Daniel; Farajollah, Justin; Conley, Elizabeth; Sanders, Shane Alan

Firstly, I'd like to wish you and yours happy holidays and a happy new year. This winter break has been much needed for, I'm sure, everyone involved in IUSG, and I hope all of your travels and endeavors have been and will be smooth and calming during these precious few weeks.

Our current timeline has us completing the report on Wednesday, January 3, with a first release to the Steering Committee on the following Sunday. The report will then be released to all members of Congress at the beginning of the first meeting of the semester, with a public release following shortly after the adjournment of January 8's meeting. This current plan still allows the Executive cabinet to discuss the report within 24 hours of its public release, but also fulfills our commitment to our fellow Congress members and makes sure that our investigation is completed with as little bias toward any outside parties as is possible.

The target audience for this report has always been the members of Congress. Therefore, we feel it would be unfair to our fellow representatives if they were unable to view the report before any other interested parties.

In regards to Mr. Tinsley's request about the method of releasing the report, the final report will be disseminated in multiple ways, including the website, but in order to remain consistent with the release of the previous letters and statements, the report will also be released as an Instagram post.

We understand your concern that the release of the report might cause rumbles among the members of the Executive cabinet. However, much of the information in our report, as it is written so far, has also already been publicly available, whether it be unsealed evidence or from testimony brought up during our public hearings.

As our investigation comes to a close over the next couple weeks, I would like to extend my thanks, as the Chair of the Oversight and Finance Committee, for your extended cooperation throughout the last two months. The task put before us all has been challenging, to say the least, and the decorum and levelheadedness brought to the table by everyone involved has been extremely helpful in creating a fine-tuned environment to conduct these proceedings in.

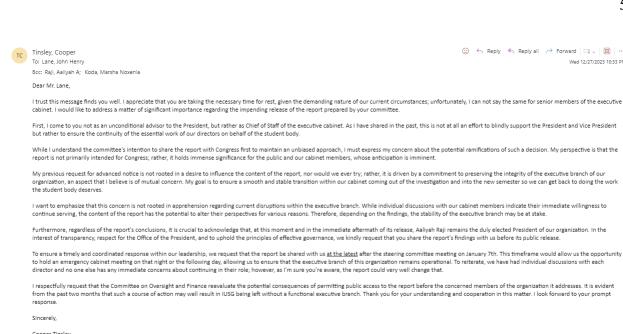
John Lane

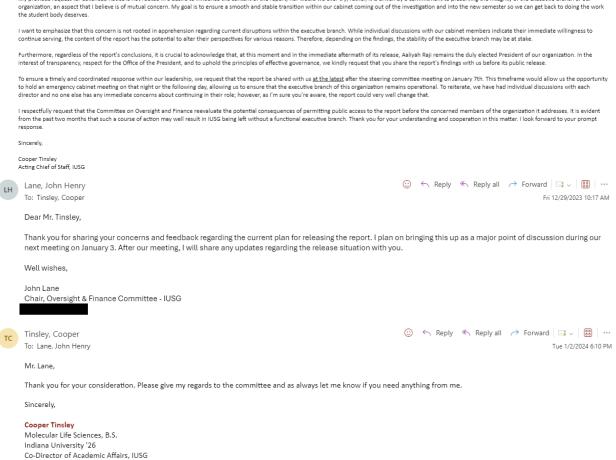
hair. Oversight & Finance Committee - IUSG

Wed 12/27/2023 10:33 PM

⊕ ← Reply ← Reply all → Forward □ ↓ □ ···

Thu 1/4/2024 1:03 PM





Mr. Lane.

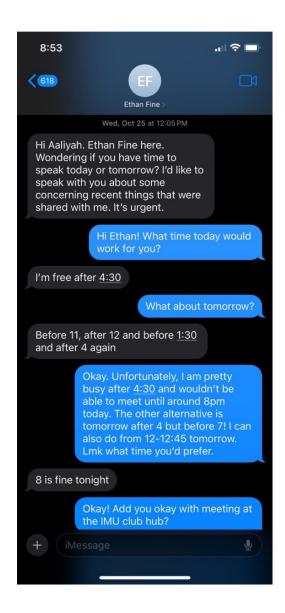
Tinsley, Cooper To: Lane, John Henry

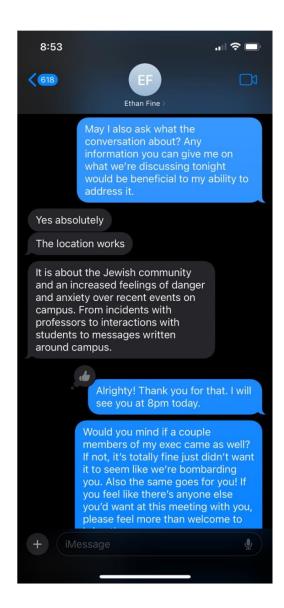
Good afternoon. Since I haven't heard from you, I wanted to take a moment to reach out and ask you if the committee had time to discuss our request at the meeting last night and if so, what you all have decided. Thank you again for your consideration.

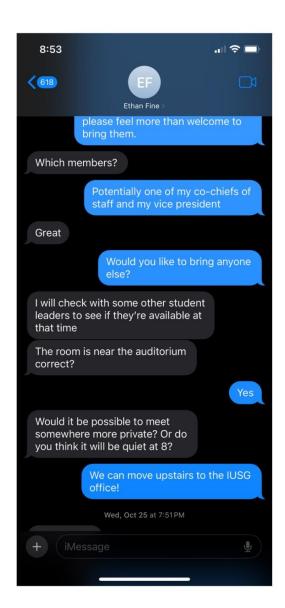
Sincerely.

Cooper Tinsley Acting Chief of Staff, IUSG

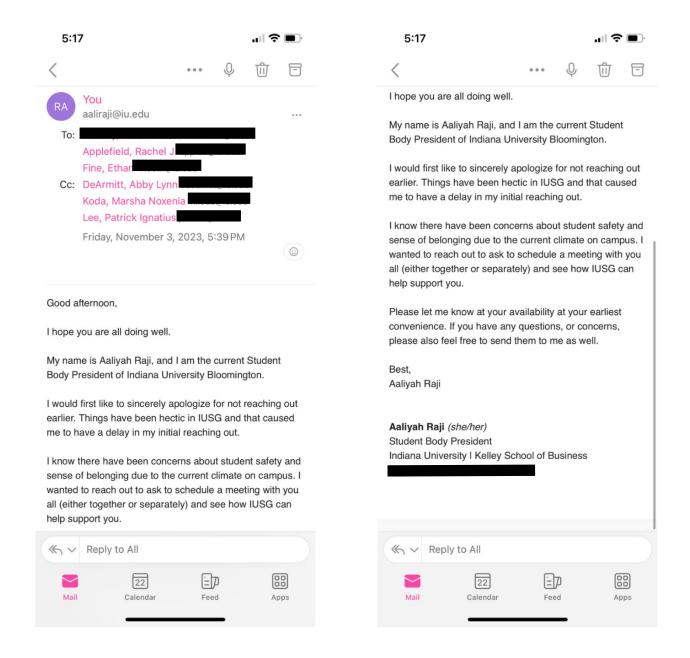
# APPENDIX 7: Text messages between Mr. Fine and the President in which she asks for Mr. Fine's permission to bring her then External Chief of Staff to their 10/25/2023 meeting.







# APPENDIX 8: An email sent on 11/03/2023 by the President to Jewish student leaders requesting a meeting.



APPENDIX 9: "Raised concerns response" text messages between the President, Vice President, and former upper-level Executive Officers. The president's messages are in blue.

