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Public Statement in Support of Naim Reece

Dear Cal State LA Students,

Executive Officers are writing this letter to express our support for Naim Reece, a current student of Pan African Studies. Reece has been profiled and targeted for standing up for his beliefs during two campus events; the Ben Shapiro event on February 25, 2016, as well as a student march and protest, held on November 10, 2016, opposing the election of Donald Trump. As a result of these events, Reece is currently facing charges. We uphold and fully support Reece's right to protest and exercise his First Amendment rights.

With a student body consisting of over 28,000 students coming from diverse backgrounds, we believe that every student should have the right to express their political views. We also believe that every student should have the right to protest those views in order to protect the communities, which feel attacked. Although we encourage an environment, which inspires a marketplace of ideas and thorough dialogue between differing opinions, we cannot support positions which are meant to divide and antagonize marginalized communities. Criminalizing students, like Reece, shows a censoring of political thought and freedom.

The Executive Officers call upon California State University, Los Angeles to ensure the safety of our campus community members. We urge the university administration to not only stand with Reece in his right to protest but also offer financial support to cover the legal costs set upon him. We, as a public institution, cannot stand idle while our students are singled out and attacked. Please stand with Naim Reece.

Respectfully,

David Zitser
President