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COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

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June 2, 2025

Dr. Safa R. Zaki
President
Bowdoin College
600 College Station
Brunswick, ME 04011

Mr. Scott B. Perper
Chair, Board of Trustees
Bowdoin College
600 College Station
Brunswick, ME 04011

Dear Dr. Zaki and Mr. Perper:

The Committee on Education and Workforce (Committee) continues to investigate and gather information about the rise of antisemitism on college campuses, including reported antisemitic incidents at Bowdoin College (Bowdoin), specifically those associated with the encampment on Bowdoin's campus from February 10-14, 2025. This investigation, including the documents requested below, will inform the Committee's consideration of whether there is a need for legislative reforms to protect Jewish students on college campuses and, if so, what those reforms should be.

On March 27, 2025, the Committee requested that Bowdoin produce "[a]ll documents related to the disciplinary action taken against students or faculty involved in the [e]ncampment," "[a] detailed description of the understanding reached between Bowdoin and encampment participants which resulted in the [e]ncampment disbanding as well as all related documents," and "[a] list of all student disciplinary or conduct cases relating to alleged antisemitic incidents (footnote in original) or any unauthorized encampment since October 7, 2023."¹ Despite repeated follow-up requests by Committee staff, Bowdoin has failed to meaningfully comply with these requests.

On April 10, in response to the Committee's March 27 letter, Bowdoin provided a narrative response that briefly summarized the administration's conversations with the encampment participants, but it did not provide documents related to any disciplinary action, documents related to any understanding it reached to disband the encampment, or a list of student disciplinary or conduct cases relating to alleged antisemitic incidents or encampments since

¹ Letter from Rep. Tim Walberg, Chairman, H. Comm. on Education and Workforce, et al. to Dr. Safa R. Zaki, President, Bowdoin Coll., et al. (Mar. 27, 2025) (emphases added), https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ltr_to_bowdoin_coll_3.27.2025.pdf.

October 7, 2023. On April 14, the Committee communicated by telephone its dissatisfaction with Bowdoin's failure to provide documents, requested a proposed schedule for the production of documents, reiterated the request for "[a] list of all student disciplinary or conduct cases related to alleged antisemitic incidents,"² and underscored the urgency of the Committee's requests. On April 24, Bowdoin's counsel emailed a brief summary of Bowdoin's actions addressing the encampment and noted that the College revoked the charter of Students for Justice in Palestine for the remainder of the 2024-2025 academic year and the next academic year.

On May 2, Bowdoin provided the Committee with a letter and 225 pages of documents.³ The letter included a brief narrative summary of Bowdoin's response to the encampment, a generalized summary of disciplinary measures taken against 66 students, and a summary of actions taken against Students for Justice in Palestine. Of the 225 pages produced, 214 pages (Bates 0011-0225) appear to be publicly available policies and procedures, none of which are directly responsive to the Committee's requests.⁴ Two pages (Bates 0002-0003) are an abbreviated table or "list" that lacks the individualized detail requested.⁵ Seven pages (Bates 0004-0010) are "group" emails from administrators to the campus community or segments of the community describing the encampment at various stages.⁶ Finally, one page (Bates 0001) constitutes Bowdoin's narrative description of the production.

In sum, although Bowdoin produced some documents "related to" the "disciplinary action taken," it has failed to produce "[a]ll documents related to the disciplinary action taken against students or faculty involved in the [e]ncampment."⁷ It has also failed to produce actual disciplinary records for 66 students or any faculty involved in the encampment, "all related documents" associated with the understanding reached between Bowdoin and encampment participants, and an individualized "list of all student disciplinary or conduct cases relating to alleged antisemitic incidents . . . since October 7, 2023."⁸

Bowdoin's failure to produce these documents in a timely manner is unacceptable. If Bowdoin should continue to refuse to fully comply with the Committee's requests, the Committee will proceed with issuing compulsory process. Accordingly, please provide the documents requested by the Committee in its March 27, 2025, letter by no later than June 16, 2025.

Congress's oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court. Under House Rule X, the Committee's legislative and oversight jurisdiction is broad, extending to "education . . . generally" and "laws, programs, and Government activities relating to domestic educational programs and institutions and programs of student assistance within the jurisdiction of other committees."⁹ This includes

² Letter to Bowdoin Coll., *supra* note 1.

³ Letter and Doc. from Bowdoin College Outside Couns., to Comm. Chairman Tim Walberg and Higher Educ. Subcomm. Chairman Burgess Owens (May 2, 2025) (on file with the Committee).

⁴ Letter to Bowdoin Coll, *supra* note 1.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Letter to Bowdoin Coll., *supra* note 1.

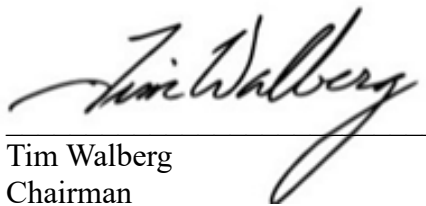
⁸ *Id.*

⁹ RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 119th Cong. at 7, 10 (Jan. 16, 2025), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/rules.house.gov/files/documents/houserules119thupdated.pdf>.

enforcement of Title VI of the *Civil Rights Act of 1964* (Title VI) and other antidiscrimination laws by the Department of Education. As you know, postsecondary institutions that receive federal funds must maintain a safe learning environment and fulfill all obligations under Title VI and its accompanying regulations. This includes the obligation to promptly address discrimination, harassment, and any hostile environment, wherever such circumstances may be found to exist.

When producing documents, do not alter them in any way, including but not limited to, the application of redactions or watermarks. Additionally, digital copies should be provided in a format that enables their printing and copying.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tim Walberg", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and
the Workforce

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Burgess Owens", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Burgess Owens
Chairman
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Development