

## **The University's Extension of Amnesty to Garland Hall Protesters, May 7, 2019**

Dear Student Protesters,

We were disappointed to receive your message last evening and wish to again request that you work with us to bring an immediate end to the occupation of Garland Hall.

Forcible occupation of a University building is not merely a disruption, it is a violation of criminal trespass law and University policy which presents health and safety risks, and takes a toll on the entire community. Among many other impacts of this now 34-day occupation are the dislocation of services that are truly critical to your fellow students – including disability services, financial aid, academic advising and international student visas.

We fully recognize the strength of your conviction on issues that are important to you, but believe that repeatedly restating an entrenched position on the occupation makes forward movement virtually impossible. We made an open-ended offer to meet over the three-day weekend, and have been engaging in significant efforts to reach each of you directly and through family, friends, or mentors. We are worried that the current state leaves little opportunity for coming together.

Despite the fact that you did not respond to our meeting invitation for yesterday morning, we came to the meeting and waited for you to join us in the hopes that you would take the opportunity to engage in constructive discussion. We offered a meeting with no conditions, and included an explicit commitment to discuss not only the issues of concern to you but also the question of amnesty, in an entirely open, livestreamed forum and with the student News-Letter present.

On the issue of amnesty, we are taking the extraordinary step of extending amnesty to protesters who are willing to end the occupation and leave Garland Hall. To that end, we are attaching a document laying out the specific terms of the University's extension of amnesty in this circumstance. We extend this in good faith with the aim of urgently ending the occupation of Garland Hall.

Let us repeat: we remain committed to continuing conversation with you and our entire campus community about critical issues, but our immediate priority must be the unsafe conditions in and around Garland Hall. We implore you to vacate Garland Hall and rejoin the university community.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Daniels  
President

Sunil Kumar  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

### The University's Extension of Amnesty to Garland Hall Protesters

During the course of the occupation of Garland Hall, protesters have committed serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct, University policy, and the law. Those violations include trespass, conduct that raises significant safety concerns, undue risk to others, prolonged disruption of university functions, including vital student services, and intimidation and harassment.

Under our student conduct process, students engaging in these behaviors could face charges and interim measures (including suspension) pending resolution of an investigation. Students found responsible could receive sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University and/or bans from all or portions of campus.

**In order to facilitate the end of the occupation and to prevent further health and safety risks to the protesters and others, the University is taking the extraordinary step of extending amnesty, subject to the terms below, to any protester who departs and does not return to Garland Hall, and does not interfere with University operations or violate University policies through the end of the occupation and related activities**

For student protesters, this means that no disciplinary action or conduct charges will be brought with respect to Garland Hall protest-related activities, subject to the terms outlined here.

For all protesters (including those not affiliated with the University), the University will neither request nor pursue trespass or similar charges based on the current occupation of Garland Hall, subject to the terms outlined here.

Further, for all protesters, we will not grant amnesty for the following:

- Actions that cause bodily harm or substantial property damage (e.g., breaking of windows or vandalism);
- Violations of the Sexual Misconduct Policy, the Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment, or other violations of policy that might involve allegations of protesters harming other protesters;
- Serious other actions that the University learns about only after accessing the building (e.g., breaking into offices in Garland Hall after the forced evacuation of the building and the covering of security cameras).
- Any other criminal charges brought by law enforcement;

This extension of amnesty is for protest-related activities about which the University currently has knowledge, and it assumes that occupation of the building did not extend into non-public areas (other than the financial aid conference room, which was overtaken by protesters prior to

the building lockdown). This amnesty is for non-academic misconduct, and does not apply to academic ethics processes or other academic issues and does not excuse any students' failure to meet academic obligations/expectations. Also, if similar conduct or violations occur in the future, this offer of amnesty does not preclude the University from taking these violations into account.

**Protesters who remain in the building or interfere with University operations or violate University policies through the end of the occupation and related activities will not be eligible for amnesty, and could be subject to criminal trespassing charges and/or student code of conduct charges that could result in sanctions up to and including suspension and expulsion.**