

BASH speech at the UCLA #J20 MARCH

Hello Bruin Activists!

We are UCLA BASH, that's Bruins Against Sexual Harassment, and we are here today to hold the UC administration accountable for its **inadequate, ineffective, unequal, and frankly unacceptable** anti-sexual harassment policies and procedures.

As you may know, Professor Gabriel Piterberg, who has been accused of **serial sexual harassment** by two of his students, is back on campus and teaching again.

Instead of protecting his victims by conducting a fair investigation and trial, **UCLA quietly settled with Piterberg** and agreed to halt the Title IX investigation in order to "avoid the cost, uncertainty, and inconvenience of an administrative procedure."

That's right, UCLA's official stance is that NOT investigating professors accused of criminal acts is an **effective money-saving strategy**. But we know this is not true, because our tuition dollars are being used to pay for a full police escort for Piterberg, to protect **him** from **our** peaceful protest. **Where was the victims' protection?** How about **our** right to be protected from sexual predators on campus and in the classroom?

And that whole bit about uncertainty? UCLA settled **privately** with Piterberg and did not release information about the settlement for over TWO years. That's right, **for over two years**, the victims had **NO** information about their fate. Piterberg was never brought to trial and his victims were given neither justice nor reparation. **We demand justice. We demand Piterberg's immediate resignation.**

UCLA's mission statement champions open access to information, yet Title IX sexual harassment investigations are couched in secrecy. These investigation procedures **can never** be fair or just if they are held in secret by **the same university that employs the accused party**. We demand **fair investigations** for all sexual harassment cases, and that these investigations be held OFF CAMPUS. We demand **TRANSPARENCY**, not secrecy for the benefit of the harasser.

And we demand that these changes be made ACROSS ALL UC campuses, not just our own, because **we are better than this. We expect and demand more.**

Our core values specify that harassment violates UCLA's principles of community, but the administration is **more concerned with the financial bottom line** than standing for the safety and equality of that community. So we must demand that UCLA be a **safe place for students, NOT a refuge for their harassers.**

We must demand protector **FROM** abusers, not **FOR** them.

So **please join our protest**. The Regents and this administration have shown no concern for the victims' rights, and have done all they can to suppress our protest. **We must hold them to their commitments, and ensure the safety of all students.**

SAFETY FOR STUDENTS, NOT ABUSERS!