

Statement from Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman:

During the illegal encampments at our universities, I condemned the violation of law while expressing full support for the First Amendment. Our universities must be committed to providing an environment where issues can be vigorously and passionately debated, but students must be free from harassment and intimidation.

We understand that the current situation is challenging, complex, and not subject to easy resolution. Our public universities have a responsibility to focus on the educational mission in support of all of our students and the state of Wisconsin. Maintaining viewpoint neutrality on challenging public issues is critically important, especially in situations where students and other university stakeholders on multiple sides of an issue are in vehement disagreement. We also need to ensure that there is accountability and responsibility for actions taken on our campuses.

I am disappointed by the course taken by UW-Milwaukee, and I am continuing to assess the decision-making process that led to this result.