



Karen Painter <kpainter@umn.edu>

Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

1 message

Karen Painter <kpainter@umn.edu>

Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 7:55 PM

To: [Redacted]
Bcc: [Redacted]

Dear Provost Croson:

In light of news announced this afternoon (see below), I have resigned from the board of the University of Minnesota Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Dr Segal has positioned himself on an extreme end of the political and ideological spectrum with his publications on Israel and Gaza, including an essay in which he accused Israel of genocide a week after the October 7 terrorist attacks. The CHGS director is ideally a scholar whose principal area of research and public commentary is the Holocaust itself, and certainly should not be an individual publicly identified with extremist positions on the present Middle East war. We need a center director who will bring our community together to understand how the Holocaust and other genocides occurred, not someone who blames Israel for the rape and murder of 1200 civilians, and kidnapping of hundreds more.

Educating the current generation of students about the Holocaust is critically important. Instead, an interim dean of CLA, despite substantial opposition from faculty and others, has offered the Holocaust center directorship to someone who will accomplish nothing of the kind.

[Redacted]

Given

Waltner's handling of anti-Israel unit statements this year, it would be unsurprising if she saw such this search as a way to leave her mark politically. Predictably, the university's Holocaust experts have resigned from the board. My heart goes out to the family of the center's founder, Stephen Feinstein, since his name and posthumous reputation will be tarnished by association with the next holder of the Feinstein Chair, Raz Segal; political extremism is a terrible way to respond to a generous donor and the family of the man whom the donor wished to honor by creating an endowed professorship. As you see from my remarks submitted to the Google Form feedback request, this political extremist is not even a strong scholar.

[Redacted]

Thank you in advance for allowing me to write candidly and informally to you about my concerns. Now in my 16th year teaching a freshman seminar on Music in Nazi Germany, I have strong views about the need to consider students and community first, not act on the (dangerous) political whims of certain faculty: separating myself and my courses from the activities of the CGHS will be a sad chapter in my career at the University.

Sincerely yours, Karen Painter

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe Eggers** <[Redacted]>
Date: Fri, Jun 7, 2024 at 4:48 PM
Subject: CHGS Directorship

[Redacted]

Good afternoon,

We've received confirmation that Dean Waltner has extended an offer to Raz Segal (currently Associate Professor of Holocaust & Genocide Studies at Stockton University in New Jersey) for the Center's Directorship and the Feinsein chair position. The offer also includes a faculty position in the History Department.

Thank you to Evelyn for chairing the search process and those who served on it.

If you'd like to reach out to Raz, his email is [REDACTED]

I will share any news as I hear it.

Enjoy your weekend,
Joe

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Joe Eggers
Interim Director
[Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies](#)
University of Minnesota
[CHGS Blog](#) - [CHGS on Facebook](#) - [CHGS on Twitter](#)

I [acknowledge](#) that the University of Minnesota stands on *Miní Sóta Makhóche*, the homelands of the *Dakhóta Oyáte*.

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The University of Minnesota Twin Cities stands on [Miní Sóta Makhóche, the homelands of the Dakhóta Oyáte](#)

Please note that I respect all boundaries around personal time, well-being, self-care, self-love and rest. If you receive correspondence during a time that you're engaging in any of those activities, please know, you can protect your time and wait to respond when ready.