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July 3, 2024

Mr. Michael Schill
President, Northwestern University
2-130 Rebecca Crown Center, 633 Clark Street
Evanston, Illinois 60208

Dear President Schill,

Thank you again for testifying at the May 23 Committee on Education and the Workforce hearing titled "Calling for Accountability: Stopping Antisemitic College Chaos." Enclosed are additional questions submitted by Committee members following the hearing. Please provide a written response no later than July 24, 2024, for inclusion in the hearing record. Responses should be sent to Isaiah Knox (isaiah.knox@mail.house.gov) of the Committee staff; he can also be contacted at (202) 226-9425. We appreciate your contribution to the work of the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia Foxx".

VIRGINIA FOXX
Chairwoman

Representative Burgess Owens (R-UT)

1. President Schill, in your testimony, regarding funding received by Northwestern University from the Qatar Foundation “to fund our campus in Qatar,” you stated that “every dollar has gone to the operation of the campus or the management of the campus.”
 - a) Have any Qatari funds been used for programming in the United States?
 - b) Are Qatari funds used for faculty and student exchange programs between NU-Q and Northwestern’s campus in Evanston?
 - c) Have any of Qatari funds gone to Northwestern University faculty or staff in the United States?

2. Has Northwestern accurately and in a timely manner reported all funding from Qatari sources since the inception of the partnership in accordance with Section 117 of the *Higher Education Act*?
 - a) Since the beginning of Northwestern University’s partnership with Qatar, how much money has Northwestern University received from Qatari sources, including Qatar-connected entities such as the Qatar Foundation?
 - b) Does Northwestern have a process to vet funds from and contracts with foreign entities?
 - c) The Department of Education requires that institutions conduct “reasonable due diligence” when determining if a gift or contract is from a foreign source. What steps does Northwestern take to fulfill such due diligence?¹
 - d) Does Northwestern classify the Qatar Foundation as a foreign source for purposes of Section 117 reporting?
 - e) Does Northwestern report NU-Q revenue paid by a foreign source (such as management and administrative fees) under Section 117?
 - i. Please provide descriptions and use of such fees.
 - f) Section 117 makes no distinction between funds given to a university for use in the United States or abroad. Does Northwestern believe that foreign funds given for international use still must be reported under Section 117?
 - g) Northwestern has a “Qatar Support Office (QSO)” which “serves as the Evanston campus administrative resource for Northwestern University in Qatar’s faculty, staff, and students.” According to Northwestern’s website, “The QSO promotes strong academic, operational, and other connections between Qatar and the Evanston campus and supports NU-Q’s strategic initiatives and programs.”
 - i. Is the QSO, including its employees and functions, funded by the Qatar Foundation, and if not, how is the QSO funded?

3. Northwestern’s Medill School of Journalism has a formal partnership with the Qatari media outlet Al-Jazeera. In your testimony, you said you were only recently made aware of the relationship between Northwestern Qatar and Al Jazeera a week prior to the

¹ <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/topics/section-117-foreign-gift-and-contract-reporting/resources/frequently-asked-questions#FCO>

hearing. You also stated that you were “concerned” regarding the agreement with Al Jazeera.

- a) What elements of the agreement between Northwestern Qatar and Al Jazeera do you find concerning?
 - b) Does Northwestern have complete autonomy to begin or terminate relationships between Northwestern Qatar and outside entities?
 - c) Does the government of Qatar have control over what entities can partner with Northwestern Qatar?
 - d) Are you aware of Northwestern’s other international partnerships? If not, do you intend to review such partnerships? How are such partnerships evaluated?
 - e) Please provide copies of all contracts/agreements/MOUs that Northwestern University has with Qatar, Qatar Foundation, and any other Qatar entities. Also, please provide copies of any agreements that Northwestern University has with any branch of Al Jazeera.
4. Northwestern University in Qatar requires all Journalism majors to complete a 10-week professional residency. The website states that “Students have the opportunity to indicate their preferred track and location, but the final decision of JR site is made by the Journalism Residency Director.” According to [the Journalism Residency Policies and Procedures](#), which was available on the NU-Q website as recently as November 29, 2023, there are “many approved sites.”
- a) Will Northwestern provide the Committee with the list of “approved sites?”
 - b) The document also mentions that students may propose a new site by submitting a New Site Request Form. What sites have been denied by Northwestern, and under what criteria have they been denied?
5. Governance at NU-Q
- a) Northwestern Qatar recently made the switch from “need-blind” to “need-aware” admissions.
 - i. What was the rationale behind this decision?
 - ii. How is each admission (need-blind and need-aware) defined?
 - b) All faculty at NU-Q are required to attend a “faculty orientation program.” Who leads this program and what is the content of the orientation?
 - c) On the NU-Q website, under the “Sanctions, Outcomes, and Interventions” section of the Student Code of Conduct Policy, it states “other outcomes of an educational, developmental, restorative, supportive, and sustaining nature that may be imposed in conjunction with disciplinary or housing sanctions include the following: ...University or community service: Completion of a project or period of service to NU-Q or Qatar Foundation or with an organization providing services to the community.”
 - i. What organizations has NU-Q approved, besides the Qatar Foundation, for students to “complete a project or period of service.”
 - d) How many times has Northwestern’s ombudsperson visited the NU-Q campus since the beginning of 2018?

- e) Does Northwestern have complete autonomy over the following at NU-Q?:
 - i. Policies regarding student conduct and academic expression;
 - ii. Curriculum;
 - iii. Student admission;
 - iv. Campus leadership selection (Deans, etc.);
 - v. Research created at NU-Q or by NU-Q faculty.
 - f) Are male and female students separated for any classes at NU-Q?
 - g) Have NU-Q students or faculty been arrested or threatened by the Qatari government?
 - h) The NU-Q website states, “University-enacted policies are found in several sources, including but not limited to the Northwestern University in Qatar Catalog, the University’s website, the Office of Student Conduct, and notices disseminated from time to time by the University or its schools and departments, and – of course – the myNUQ website.”
 - i. Please provide the Committee with a full list of all “University enacted policies,” including but not limited to those from these sources?
6. Contract Management at NU-Q
- a) Does Northwestern evaluate partnerships like NU-Q on a regular basis? If so, what is the process?
 - b) Who approves any proposed modifications to the contract regarding NU-Q?

Representative Erin Houchin (R-IN)

1. There is a student at Northwestern University, in your Sociology 220: Health Biomedicine, Culture and Society taught by Northwestern professor Dr. Santiago Molina. According to this student's testimony, Dr. Molina ends every lecture by asking students to sign a petition titled, "The Peoples Resolution Against Israel and for Palestine."
 - a) Is it within the University's code of conduct for a professor to use his or her position of authority to advocate for political causes, such as requesting students to sign petitions at the end of class?
 - b) What are Northwestern's policies or procedures for handling complaints related to academic freedom, political bias, or discrimination within the classroom, and how are these policies enforced?
 - c) Considering the importance of fostering critical thinking and independent thought among students, how does the university ensure that course materials and classroom discussions are presented in a balanced and intellectually rigorous manner, regardless of the instructor's personal beliefs or biases?

2. In this same class Dr. Santiago Molina assigned as mandatory reading the article, "[Israel's war on Gaza is a health justice issue, too.](#)" This article was later proven to be misleading, although that information was never provided to his students.
 - a) How does Northwestern ensure that course materials, such as articles assigned for reading, are vetted for accuracy and objectivity, especially when they pertain to sensitive geopolitical issues?

3. According to this student's testimony, another student in this same class had to miss a lecture due to a bar mitzvah celebration. This student lied about the cause of the absence, fearing retribution from Dr. Molina if he found out this student was Jewish.
 - a) What does it say about the classroom environment when a student feels compelled to fabricate the reason for his or her absence from a lecture due to him or her being Jewish?
 - b) How can the university ensure that instances like this do not perpetuate a culture of fear or discrimination among students?
 - c) How are you holding Northwestern professors accountable so that Jewish students feel safe to express their views without fear of bias or discrimination?

Representative Susan Wild (D-PA)

1. As we look to the summer, and preparation for the fall semester, the potential for similar challenges with respect to campus protests, encampments, and potential violence is a distinct possibility. What is your administration doing now or planning to do over the summer to prepare for the next school year?