

Committee on Education & the Workforce
Questions for the Record in the April 17, 2024, Hearing

Dr. Minouche Shafik, President, Columbia University

Representative Bob Good (R-VA)

1. *Over 100 student groups are part of the Columbia University Apartheid Divest that organized the “Resistance 101” Event. This event virtually hosted known terrorist affiliates to speak with students who were gathered in on-campus housing.*
 - a. *Will any of those groups be suspended from campus because of their support for terrorists? Please indicate in your response the status of each of the 94 student groups.*
 - b. *Have there been any actions to punish the professors who are members of Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine who helped promote this event through social media?*

Columbia University neither permitted nor approved the “Resistance 101” event. When Columbia became aware that the event had taken place, the University contacted law enforcement, banned the speakers who appeared at the event from accessing Columbia’s campus, engaged an outside investigative firm to conduct a security assessment, and required that students involved in the event cooperate with the assessment or face disciplinary action. The University immediately suspended several students in connection with the event and resulting investigation. The University’s President and its Chief Operating Officer also issued public statements condemning the event.

In response to the “Resistance 101” event, Columbia also contacted identified leaders of student groups known or believed to be associated with the unapproved organization “Columbia University Apartheid Divest” to inform them of the requirement to cooperate with the investigation and to reiterate the University’s event policies. Pursuant to those policies, Columbia communicated that promotion, advertisement, or participation in an unregistered event could subject the students and student groups to disciplinary action.

2. *Title 18, Section 2339B of the US Code says it is unlawful to provide material support or resources to designated foreign terrorist organizations.*
 - a. *Are you certain that university funds are not going to support terrorism?*
 - b. *Can you say without any doubt that your students are not providing material support to Hamas?*

Columbia complies with these requirements, including by maintaining comprehensive policies and procedures concerning applicable federal, state, and local laws governing the appropriate use of University funds.

With respect to student groups, only officially recognized student groups in good standing have the ability to seek and access University funds. University funds are apportioned through a process in which student groups submit budgets requesting funding for specific purposes. Approved University funding is then placed in an “allocation account” for each

student group, which is subject to University financial policies for use of funds including, for instance, transaction limits, vendor registration, and requirements for purchase orders.