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Congress of the United States
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December 11, 2024

Interim President J. Larry Jameson
University of Pennsylvania
Office of the President
3451 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear President Jameson,

I am writing to express my profound concern regarding the recent actions of Assistant Professor Julia Alekseyeva, a member of the English Department at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Alekseyeva's various social media posts, which appear to celebrate the alleged actions of Luigi Mangione, the suspect in the tragic murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, are deeply troubling and incompatible with the values and mission of an institution of higher education. This incident is sadly another example of a deeply troubling pattern of students and faculty at the University of Pennsylvania promoting violent rhetoric and acting in a manner that endangers the wellbeing of students and the greater community.

The posts by Professor Alekseyeva glorified Mangione's actions and expressed pride in his association with the university. In two separate posts, she labeled Mangione as the "icon we all need and deserve" as well as stating that she "has never been prouder to be a professor at the University of Pennsylvania." This public pronouncement of support is outrageous and violates the basic ideals of a civilized society. Professor Alekseyeva should be fired for her social media posts which are harmful, divisive, and inappropriate for an educator. It is evident by her actions that she cannot be entrusted with guiding and mentoring students at any institution of higher education.

Earlier this year, the University of Pennsylvania was host to antisemitic protest that endangered students. Now, this incident involving Professor Alekseyeva has understandably sparked outrage and concern among the University's students, alumni, and the broader community. It forces Congress to question whether safeguards are in place to ensure that faculty conduct reflects the ethical and professional standards in line with the University's reputation as a center of excellence and thought leadership.

Considering the seriousness of this matter, I respectfully request information regarding the University's response and the measures being taken to address Professor Alekseyeva's actions. The Congress and the American taxpayer have the right to know the answers to these questions Specifically:

1. Has the University initiated a formal review of the allegations against Professor Alekseyeva?
2. Was Professor Alekseyeva on campus while crafting her posts?
3. Did Professor Alekseyeva create her social posts utilizing University property?
4. Has the University reviewed the courses taught by Professor Alekseyeva for any additional evidence of blatant violent rhetoric?
5. Is the University aware of any similarly troubling comments made by additional members of the faculty praising Luigi Mangione?
6. What steps are being taken to ensure that the conduct of this nature by faculty members is neither condoned nor repeated?
7. How does the University plan to reaffirm its commitment to fostering an environment of professionalism, mutual respect, and ethical responsibility?

This matter calls for decisive and transparent action to preserve the University's reputation amidst a second incident that has troubled the nation. The University of Pennsylvania bears a responsibility to uphold the highest standards of integrity and accountability amongst its students and faculty.

I am requesting an answer to my questions by December 31, 2024. While I am a fan of the University of Pennsylvania, I expect answers as a pattern of radical behavior continues on campus. Your response will dictate how my colleagues and I support allocating future federal funding for research at the University of Pennsylvania. As you are aware, the University received \$936 million in federal research grants last year and these funds should only be awarded to institutions of excellence that do not tolerate these types of heinous actions from an assistant professor. This is an outrage and your silence is deafening. I expect decisive action.

Thank you for your attention to this serious issue.

Sincerely,



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress