

SACUA Response to Political Violence

On behalf of the University of Michigan faculty and the state we serve, we urge all members of our community to work together to affirm and promote civil, non-violent public discourse. Such discourse must be based on demonstrable truth. Difference of opinion is the hallmark of a free society; it is by seeking to understand each other that we can reach beyond the present to a future in which violence is banished from public life.

As faculty members, we are devoted to the search for truth, even when that truth is uncomfortable. We recognize our responsibility to provide leadership in shaping public debate that distinguishes fact from fiction, that calms the passions fed by falsehood, that combats the stereotyping that leads to violence. The events of the past year, including racial violence, threats to the welfare of our elected leaders, and wide dissemination of falsehoods about our democratic processes have called into question the viability of our democracy. We are committed to ensuring the fact-based discourse upon which that democracy must rely continues to prevail.