



February 9, 2024

Statement on Indiana University's Sanctioning of Professor Abdulkader Sinno

On behalf of the American Political Science Association (APSA), we express serious concerns with Indiana University's decision to suspend and sanction Dr. Abdulkader Sinno, a tenured Associate Professor of Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies at Indiana University. Dr. Sinno is accused of professional misconduct for failing to properly secure a room reservation for an event for a registered student group, who had invited an Israeli peace activist to speak. The university administration appears to have failed to comply with their own standards of review for allegations of misconduct, in a way that violates academic freedom and procedures for faculty governance.

We are concerned that the university administration's disciplinary response was disproportionate and heavy-handed compared to the alleged violation. The sanctions for this alleged misconduct, which included a two-semester suspension from teaching or advising student groups, were imposed unilaterally by the Vice Provost without due process by an independent review committee as required by university policy. To be clear, Indiana University and institutions of higher education should retain the right to investigate faculty suspected of wrongdoing; however, these investigations must be carried out with an adherence to due process, disciplinary actions be imposed proportionately to the violation, and performed without unilateral interference from administration personnel.

APSA calls for an immediate reversal of these disciplinary actions against Professor Sinno, pending proper adherence to Indiana University's faculty governance procedures, as well as assurance that the University will, in the future, follow processes that underwrite the principles of academic freedom.

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Founded in 1903, the American Political Science Association is the leading professional organization for the study of political science and serves more than 11,000 members in more than 80 countries. With a range of programs and services for individuals, departments, and institutions, APSA brings together political scientists from all fields of inquiry, regions, and occupational endeavors within and outside academe to deepen our understanding of politics, democracy, and citizenship throughout the world.



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