



M A L C S

mujeres activas en letras y cambio social

April 15, 2019

Dear President Robbins and UA Community,

As a national academic organization committed to social justice, Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social (MALCS) stands in solidarity with University of Arizona students Denisse Moreno Melchor, Mariel Alexandra Bustamante, and Marianna Ariel Coles-Curtis who have been singled out and cited for engaging in their First Amendment right to free speech.

In this particular moment in history, we are seeing an escalation of hate speech and hate acts toward Latinx persons. Latinx students on campuses nationwide are vulnerable and it is our responsibility to protect them. That UA students engaging in free speech would be escalated to UAPD involvement and citation of the students, which has resulted in death threats aimed at one of the students, is unconscionable and antithetical to providing a safe educational experience for students in general and the most vulnerable of students, in particular.

We are concerned with your public statements indicating that the students who engaged in their First Amendment rights was a “dramatic departure” for expectations of behavior.” Yet, you did not denounce the death threats and general threats that have been aimed at one of the students cited and MAS students, staff, and faculty, respectively. To not denounce the threats toward UA community members suggests your administration is normalizing violence and placing numerous persons at risk.

As such, we call for charges to be dropped and for attention to be focused on investigating the death threats directed at one of the students being investigated. Furthermore, we call for an investigation of the threats aimed at the faculty, staff, and students associated with Mexican American Studies on the UA campus. To do otherwise would be a failure in your leadership and a promotion of UA as an unsafe campus for the Latinx community.

We stand in solidarity with Denisse Moreno Melchor, Mariel Alexandra Bustamante, Marianna Ariel Coles-Curtis, and the students, staff, and faculty of the Department of Mexican American Studies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DDB', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Dolores Delgado Bernal, Chair of MALCS
On Behalf of the Executive Committee of MALCS