

From: **Donald Wagner**

Date: Tue, Jun 6, 2017 at 1:27 PM

Subject: revive the search for the Edward Said Professorship

To: [presidentjic@csufresno.edu](mailto:presidentjic@csufresno.edu)

Cc: [csera@csufresno.edu](mailto:csera@csufresno.edu), [rjsanchez@csufresno.edu](mailto:rjsanchez@csufresno.edu), [lynette@csufresno.edu](mailto:lynette@csufresno.edu)

Dear President Castro and Dean Jimenez-Sandoval:

As an academic in the field of Middle East Studies, I am deeply disturbed by the cancellation of your search for the interdisciplinary Edward Said Professorship at the last stages of the search process. I have seen this strange and utterly unethical procedure before, and am quite familiar with the pressures and reasoning, or better, manipulative maneuvers that drive it. I am quite aware that the finalists were well-qualified and happened to be of Middle Eastern ethnicity. I also know that in some cases racist and anti-democratic Canary Mission website and similar extremist pressures were active in shutting down the search. Not only are violations of First Amendment rights involved alongside Equal Employment Opportunity procedures, but you have caved into outside pressures and intimidation that will inevitably involve your institution in costly legal procedures and ugly public relations campaigns as this process goes public. I urge you to rectify this breach of justice immediately by reinstating the search immediately. Such an action will be the honorable and legal step you can take to avoid the damaging outcry that is likely to follow.

In justice and peace,

Rev. Dr. Donald Wagner, retired professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, North Park University, Chicago, Illinois