

From: **Nadia Hijab**

Date: Thu, Jun 1, 2017 at 3:27 AM

Subject: A Call to Reinstate the Edward Said Professorship of ME Studies

To: josephcastro@csufresno.edu

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President Joseph Castro

Dear President Castro,

I recently learned of the sudden, unexpected cancellation of the Edward Said Professorship of Middle East Studies at the very end of the process after four finalists had been selected.

Although the official explanation is that the position itself has been cancelled “due to unforeseen administrative issues” this cannot help but be seen as an attack on academic freedom of people of ME origin, and a stain on CSU’s reputation.

I know of many highly scholars and academics who share with me the belief that the position should be reinstated and the hire completed. I urge you to do so without further delay.

Sincerely yours

Nadia Hijab

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Past President, Association of Arab American University Graduates

Author of *Womanpower: The Arab Debate on Women at Work*, Cambridge University Press

cc.

Timothy White, Chancellor of CSU

Provost Lynnette Zelezny

Associate VP for Academic Affairs, Rudy Sanchez

Dean of Arts and Humanities, CSU Fresno, Saul Jimenez-Sandoval

Vida Samiian, Director of Middle East Studies Program