# Violent Clash at UCLA Pro-Palestinian Encampment Raises Concerns over Chancellor's Leadership



On April 30, 2024, a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) was confronted by counterprotesters who dismantled the setup and used violence against the demonstrators. The incident, which took place on the university campus, involved the use of pepper spray, fireworks, and metal pipes by counterprotesters. This violence occurred without timely intervention from the police who were present.

Following the clash, on May 10, UCLA's Academic Senate held a virtual meeting to discuss potential actions against Chancellor Gene Block, citing his failure to adequately protect students during the incident. The Senate considered both a no-confidence vote and a censure resolution but concluded the meeting without a vote. Another meeting to address these resolutions is scheduled for May 16.

Chancellor Block, who has been in his position since 2007, announced his plans to step down in July 2024. Despite the unresolved voting on the resolutions, there has been significant criticism of his handling of the event, including his eventual call on April 30 for the police to clear the encampment. This authorization came on the sixth day of the protest and followed instances of violence and obstruction on campus.

The incident and the subsequent management by the university administration drew substantial responses from various university stakeholders, including medical faculty who treated injured protesters and other faculty members who expressed their disappointment in Block’s leadership. The situation at UCLA occurred in a broader context of international and statewide responses to pro-Palestinian demonstrations at various universities, reflecting diverse administrative approaches to handling such protests.