# Sonoma State University President Placed on Leave Over Pro-Palestinian Announcement



**University President Placed on Leave Following Pro-Palestinian Agreement Announcement**

Sonoma State University President Ming-Tung “Mike” Lee was placed on administrative leave by California State University System Chancellor Mildred García on November 2, 2022. This action came after Lee announced an agreement to support pro-Palestinian efforts, including an academic boycott of Israeli institutions and a review of university investments. García stated Lee lacked the proper approvals to make such announcements, describing his actions as "insubordination." In response, Lee apologized for not consulting with higher authorities and acknowledged the unintended consequences of his message.

The decision followed students' protests, which began on April 26, 2022, at Sonoma State's Rohnert Park campus, focusing on demands such as divestment from institutions supportive of Israel, and recognition of Palestinian identity in curricula. The encampment remained peaceful, though it included controversial messages some deemed antisemitic. The status of the university's negotiations with the protesters is currently unclear.

In a related development, UCLA has come under scrutiny from a congressional education committee for its handling of a violent pro-Palestinian encampment protest. Rep. Virginia Foxx criticized UCLA's response to alleged antisemitic incidents and inadequate protection for Jewish students. The committee has requested extensive documentation on these incidents and the university’s actions. UCLA Chancellor Gene Block is expected to testify at a hearing on May 23, 2024. The incident has led to calls for greater accountability and protection for Jewish students at universities nationwide.