# House Committee Grills College Leaders on Campus Antisemitism Amid Protests



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**Washington, May 23, 2024** — University leaders from UCLA, Northwestern, and Rutgers faced intense scrutiny during a hearing by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, addressed allegations of antisemitism linked to recent pro-Palestinian protests on U.S. campuses.

**Key Figures and Witnesses:**
- **Gene Block**, Chancellor of UCLA
- **Michael Schill**, President of Northwestern University
- **Jonathan Holloway**, President of Rutgers University

**Background:**
The committee, led by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.), has been probing how universities handle antisemitism, particularly following the Israel-Hamas conflict that sparked numerous campus protests. This session focused primarily on encampments established by pro-Palestinian protesters at various universities.

**Key Points:**
1. **UCLA:**
 - Gene Block admitted that, in hindsight, the university should have acted sooner to dismantle a pro-Palestinian encampment, especially when community safety was jeopardized.
 - Following violent clashes on April 28, the encampment was cleared on May 2, resulting in over 200 arrests. Block highlighted the dual legal mandate of upholding free speech while protecting against harassment.

He faced questions about specific antisemitic incidents on campus, which Schill stated were under investigation.

**Rutgers:**

**Committee Dynamics:**
- **Republicans** accused university leaders of being too lenient with protestors and failing to prevent antisemitic incidents.
- **Democrats** critiqued the hearings as politically motivated, asserting that addressing antisemitism requires more thoughtful solutions beyond these hearings.

**Additional Developments:**
- Disciplinary actions varied across institutions, with Northwestern yet to suspend or expel any students but having terminated some staff. Rutgers reported suspensions and other sanctions, while UCLA is evaluating over 100 cases related to both antisemitism and Islamophobia.

The hearing reflects ongoing tensions and differing approaches to handling campus protests and safeguarding students from hate speech and discrimination.