



SACRAMENTO COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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March 5, 2019

Sent Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail

Dwaine B. Duckett, Vice President
University of California
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607
E-Mail: Dwaine.Duckett@ucop.edu

Re: UC Davis Professor Joshua Clover's Unacceptable Statements Regarding "Cops Need To Be Killed"

Dear Mr. Duckett:

I represent approximately 1700 sworn and non-sworn personnel from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office. The Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association (SCDSA) and the rest of the nation, recently learned that UC Davis professor Joshua Clover has made the following unacceptable, vile, and repugnant statements regarding police officers:

"I am thankful that every living cop will one day be dead, some by their own hand, some by others, too many of old age #letsnotmakemore" – tweeted on Nov. 27, 2014.

"I mean, it's easier to shoot cops when their backs are turned, no?" – tweeted on Dec. 27, 2014.

"People think that cops need to be reformed. They need to be killed." – published in an interview on Jan. 31, 2016.

UC Davis professor Joshua Clover has left nothing to the imagination. Not only does he lament the fact that **"too many [cops] will die of old age"**, he goes on to articulate that cops **"need to be killed"** and describes how **"it's easier to shoot cops when their backs are turned."** This latter statement begs the question, did the killer of Davis PD Officer Natalie Corona know of professor Clover's statements and did those statements serve as a catalyst in the killing of Officer Corona? Shockingly and unbelievably, Clover is still employed as a professor by UC Davis.

Police officers throughout the nation have been targeted by callous murderers who share Clover's mentality. As recently as January 10, 2019, Davis Police Officer Natalie Corona was shot and killed in the line of duty while she was assisting motorists who were involved in a traffic collision. In fact, Officer Corona's memorial service was held at University of California's Davis campus. The University of California



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must make a decision – does the University of California condemn acts of violence against police officers or does the University of California support one of its employees who publicly advocates the murder of police officers?

It is inconceivable that any University of California employee can still be employed after having made the statements above. University of California students and staff members should not have to be on the same campus, let alone the same classroom, with anyone who advocates the murder of police officers and then provides his opinion on the easier way to accomplish the murder. Imagine for a brief moment if any other University of California employee had stated, “[insert members of any profession] need to be killed and here’s the easiest way to do it.” The mere thought that anyone would advocate the murder of *any* group of people should shock the conscience and cause the University of California to disassociate itself from that individual as quickly as possible. It is troubling that I am forced to consider the following question: would Clover still be employed if he had focused his statements about murder towards any other group of people *rather than* on police officers?

There is no valid excuse for UC Davis professor Joshua Clover’s statements and he should not continue to be employed by the University of California. The UC Davis Administration’s position that it cannot discipline Clover for statements made outside of the university is not supported by law. Under *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, 547 U.S. 410 (2006), public employees speaking as citizens may face speech restrictions that are necessary for their employers to operate efficiently and effectively. Professor Clover’s statements are so egregious that it is highly likely they will affect the University of California’s ability to operate efficiently and effectively.

SCDSA is demanding that the University of California reconsider its decision to support UC Davis professor Clover based on an ill-conceived theory that his statements are protected by the First Amendment. SCDSA is also demanding a thorough investigation into Clover’s activities at UC Davis to determine if he has made similar statements concerning police officers needing to be killed while teaching at UC Davis.

Sincerely,

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY
DEPUTY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION**


Sergeant Kevin Mickelson
President

