

Jewish Experience Working Group

Update as of October 15, 2024

The Jewish Experience Working Group was established in February 2024. As stated in its charter, it seeks to “advise, offer input and collect feedback relevant to the Jewish experience and antisemitism on campus, in order to inform administrative efforts to address concerns and enhance climate for Jewish and Israeli students, faculty and staff members. In this capacity, it will consider strategies for data collection and analysis, educational programming and professional development, communication and information sharing, and other matters that may arise. Its activities will provide input for institutional decisions by the relevant offices.”

The Working Group includes senior leaders from the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity; Campus Life; the Graduate School; the Offices of the Dean of the Faculty, and Communications; and four faculty members. The Rabbi and Executive Director of the Center for Jewish Life is an ex officio member. A staff member from the Office of the General Counsel advises the Working Group.

The Working Group’s activities have included:

- Conducting focus groups with Jewish undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, postdoctoral fellows and staff members to gather information that the university leadership can use in responding to the needs of the campus Jewish community;
- Providing feedback related to the introduction of new questions to assist with assessment of climate for all populations and identities on campus climate surveys;
- Reviewing and offering feedback regarding confidential aggregated climate survey data to guide the university leadership in considering approaches and policies that reflect the concerns of the Jewish community;
- Reviewing and offering feedback related to professional development and other educational opportunities related to Jewish identity and antisemitism;
- Reviewing aggregated data and offering feedback related to bias incidents on campus to enable the university to most effectively take action in support of the Jewish community; and
- Offering suggestions to support intergroup dialogue and transparency of bias, discrimination and harassment procedures for all campus populations and identities.

During the 2024-25 academic year, the working group will continue to explore ways to support the Jewish experience on campus, increase the quality of learning opportunities and communications, and improve accountability through assessment of campus climate.