

S. Res. 2

A Resolution Expressing No Confidence in Emerson College President Jay Bernhardt

Offered by: Angus J.B. Abercrombie (for himself, Nandan Nair, Charlize Silvestrino)

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Emerson College Student Government Association;

Whereas, the Student Government Association of Emerson College firmly supports the rights of students to freely assemble, organize, and speak on issues important to them;

Whereas, the Student Government Association is responsible for advising the College and its administration on how best to serve students and uphold community values;

Whereas, for four days, Emerson College Students occupied Boylston Place to express solidarity with students at other schools and, more importantly, with the people of Gaza, and to make demands of the College;

Whereas, this protest action was broadly nonviolent and did not create a significant disruption to the college learning environment;

Whereas, President Bernhardt and other administrators threatened the students organizing and participating in this protest action, while delaying and slowing the negotiation process with organizers;

Whereas, 118 Emerson College Students, in exercising their right to peacefully assemble, were violently arrested by the Boston Police Force in the early hours of the morning of April 25, 2024;

Whereas, President Bernhardt's recent email failed to acknowledge the violence administered by Boston Police and Massachusetts State Police against the protestors and failed to adequately acknowledge the damage these events have caused to the arrested students as well as the Emerson community;

Whereas, President Bernhardt has since failed to follow up with a stronger statement acknowledging the aforementioned violence, condemning the escalated and excessive force imposed by the Boston Police and Massachusetts State Police as well as the deployment of the Massachusetts Police Gang Unit; and

Whereas, the Student Government Association seeks to fulfill President Bernhardt's call for a united College Community.

NOW THEREFORE,

The Emerson College Student Government Association has no confidence in the administrative leadership of President Jay Bernhardt, and formally recommends that the best course of action to heal our community and support student educational needs is for him to submit his immediate resignation from the post of President of Emerson College.