



November 13, 2025

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Dear Chancellor David A. Reingold and Provost Rahul Shrivastav,

We are writing as the Executive Committee of the Association for Jewish Studies, the world's largest professional society for Jewish Studies, regarding the decision to replace the director of Indiana University's Jewish Studies program without input and governance from the faculty in the program.

We are concerned that the unilateral decision violates standard operating procedures on campus and diminishes the healthy role of faculty governance in making academic-related decisions. Reporting has indicated that the deposed director was blindsided and not notified of the rationale. As a professional society committed to advancing the field of Jewish studies, the AJS believes it is essential for scholars to work in transparent and supportive institutions that prioritize faculty governance.

Jewish studies programs across the country are under intense pressure at this moment. Instead of using these programs as political tools or to satisfy the interests of external interests, the AJS stands by the importance of protecting their scholarly integrity. Singling Jewish Studies programs out in this way only erodes their academic freedom and makes them less able to fulfill their essential function in a university.

As such, we urge the chancellor to consult with the faculty in Jewish studies about how leadership decisions will be made moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Laura Leibman, President, Association for Jewish Studies.
Helen Kim, VP of Program, Association for Jewish Studies
Laura Lieber, VP of Publications, Association for Jewish Studies
Hartley Lachter, VP of Membership and Outreach, Association for Jewish Studies
Lila Corwin Berman, Secretary/Treasurer, Association for Jewish Studies
Robin Judd, Past President, Association for Jewish Studies