Advisory Task Force on the History of Jewish Admissions and Experience at Stanford University

Charge:

The Advisory Task Force on the History of Jewish Admissions and Experience at Stanford University is charged with: (1) researching the history of admission policies and practices for Jewish students at Stanford in the 1950s, including the allegations in a recent blog posting How I Discovered Stanford's Jewish Quota - by Charles Petersen and (2) making recommendations about how to enhance Jewish life on campus, including how best to address any findings resulting from the research on admissions practices.

The task force will conduct this work under the sponsorship of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and the Vice Provost for Institutional Equity, Access and Community. The findings and recommendations of the task force will be presented to the President and Provost. The President and Provost may ask for additional information or that the task force conduct such other work as they deem appropriate.

All task force members will serve with an objective to represent the best interests of the entire university and need to be open to multiple perspectives. Task force members are not intended to represent any particular constituencies, but rather to consider issues impartially. It is possible that committee members have heard, or even participated in, discussions on the issues at hand. However, the role of the task force is to ascertain the relevant facts through the fact-finding process and consider applicable principles with an open mind. Advocacy groups and stakeholder perspectives may provide input on the issue through other methods, as determined by the chair of the task force.

Committee Recommendations:

We recommend a committee of ten that includes the following:

- 1 faculty chair
- 3 faculty members
- 2 staff members
- 1 trustee
- 1 alum
- 2 students: 1 graduate, 1 undergraduate
We think it is important to have a clear representation of Jewish Stanford community members with a significant balance of those who are not active in the Jewish community on campus. We suggest 60% from the Jewish community and 40% from outside the community.
Faculty Chair Recommendations:

Ari Kelman – Professor Kelman sits in the Graduate School of Education and holds the Jim Joseph Professor of Education and Jewish Studies. He also serves as Associate Professor, by courtesy, of Religious Studies. He is the University’s leading expert on Jewish life in America. Trained as a sociologist, his work explores the lived experience of American Jews and the role more broadly of religious education in society. He served on the Jordan committee and therefore would bring to bear his experience and expertise on working in these committees. This would provide consistency across committees ensuring they utilize similar criteria, process, and practices.

Anthony Lising Antonio: Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education. Dr. Anthony Lising Antonio's research focuses on equity issues in American higher education. As admission spots into higher education institutions become more competitive and more acute, he seeks to achieve a better understanding of how college-going cultures are developed and maintained in schools. He is also interested in network approaches to conceptualizing and studying college student development, particularly among racial, ethnic and religious minorities.

Kathryn Gin Lum – Professor Gin Lum Associate Professor in the Religious Studies Department, in collaboration with the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity at Stanford. She is also Associate Professor, by courtesy, of History in affiliation with American Studies and Asian American Studies. Her teaching and research focus on the lived ramifications of religious beliefs; she specializes in the history of religion and race in America. Her area of expertise in religion and race would benefit the committee as they think through the complicated identity of being Jewish at Stanford.

Committee Member Recommendations:

Faculty:

Tomas Jimenez: Professor of Sociology and Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity. He is also Director of the Undergraduate Program on Urban Studies. His research and writing focus on immigration, assimilation, social mobility, and ethnic and racial identity. His research uses survey data and in-depth interviews to understand how state-level immigration policies shape belonging among Latino immigrants, US-born Latinos, and US-born whites in Arizona and New Mexico. His scholarly area of expertise would suit him well to sit on the second committee to analyze current campus climate.

Shelly Fisher Fishkin: Joseph S. Atha Professor in Humanities. Professor Fishkin is a well-respected and involved member of the Stanford Jewish community. Much of her work has focused on issues of race and racism in America, and on recovering and
interpreting voices that were silenced, marginalized, or ignored in America's past. She would be an asset in analyzing both the historical and current lived experience of the Jewish community at Stanford.

Emily Levine: Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education Dr. Levine received her PhD in History and the Humanities at Stanford. She is the author of the forthcoming book Allies and Rivals: German-American Exchange and the Rise of the Modern Research University. She would bring insight into the history of Jewish admission and inclusion in higher education as it relates to the rise of the modern university and the admission trends among elite institutions. She would be an expert in thinking through quotas in higher education.

Mitchell Stevens: Mitchell Stevens is an organizational sociologist with longstanding interests in educational sequences, lifelong learning, alternative educational forms, and the formal organization of knowledge. He has written an ethnography ("Creating a Class") of a college admissions office and has published widely on the sociology of higher education, the organization of universities, and is among the nation's leading thinkers about the future of higher education.

Steven Zipperstein: Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History at Stanford University. As a respected scholar of Jewish history, Professor Zipperstein would be able to research and assess the way in which the historic experience of the Jewish community at Stanford has impacted and shaped the current climate. He also served as the Director of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies.

Sam Wineburg: Margaret Jacks Professor of Education and, by courtesy, of History & American Studies. Sam’s work in the psychology of education and his long career in research in education would be an asset. He would be suited to do the historical research, as well as analyze how the current climate impacts students today. He may not want to serve at this point in his career, but would appreciate being asked. He has been active in the Stanford Jewish community.

Charlotte Fonrobert: Associate Professor of Religious Studies. Charlotte’s area of expertise is in talmudic literature and culture which is not the area of primary research. However, she is an active member of the Stanford Jewish community and has a son currently at Stanford who is active in Jewish life. She sat on the search committee for the Dean for Religious Life.

David Sklansky: Recommended by Jenny Martinez Sklansky’s past scholarship has addressed the law, sociology, and political science of policing; the relationship between criminal justice and democracy, the proper exercise and constraint of prosecutorial power; the interpretation and application of the Fourth Amendment; fairness and
accuracy in criminal adjudication; the relationship between criminal justice and immigration laws; and the role of race, gender, and sexual orientation in law enforcement. He serves as faculty co-director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center and is a faculty affiliate of Stanford’s Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity and a member of the American Law Institute. He would bring insight into the ways in which the concerns about Jewish life are similar and different from those facing other historically marginalized communities on campus.

Larry Marshall: Recommended by Jenny Martinez Professor Marshall is a recognized expert in Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility. Although much of his work is in criminal law, he was recommended by Dean Martinez as someone who could provide insight to issues of equity and inclusion. Professor Marshall is an active member of the broader Jewish faculty community. Recommended for the first committee.

Trustee:

Jeffrey E. Stone, Chairman Emeritus and Senior Partner, McDermott Will & Emery LLP, Chicago IL

Staff:

Rabbi Laurie Hahn Tapper, Stanford Class of 1998, serves as Associate Dean for Religious and Spiritual Life and Campus Rabbi. She would represent ORSL and the University’s interests in fostering and facilitating religious life on campus. She works closely with students, staff, and faculty in this role and would bring the perspectives and experiences of many in the community. She also brings to bear her expertise in education as formation and the role of spiritual life in education.

Stacey Bent: As Vice Provost for Graduate Education & Postdoctoral Affairs and Jagdeep & Roshni Singh Professor in the School of Engineering, Senior Fellow at Precourt and Professor, by courtesy, of Materials Science & Eng, of Electrical Eng and of Chemistry, she would bring insight as both an administrator and a faculty member in STEM. She is active in the Jewish community at Stanford.

Matt Snipp: As Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Engagement it would be helpful to have him serve on the committee to think through the implications for Jewish faculty and their experience at Stanford.

Alumni:

Elizabeth Dumanian ’85, Los Altos, CA. Elizabeth served on the trustees from 9/1/95-8/31/00. She is a license clinical social worker in private practice. Elizabeth is the daughter of former Law School Dean, Tom Ehrlich and married to a Stanford alumnus.
She participated in the interviews of the rabbi finalists. She identifies as Jewish both religiously and culturally.

Isaac Stein '72 JD/MBA, Atherton, CA. Isaac served on the Stanford Board of Trustees from 1994 - 2016, including four years as the Chair of the Board.

Students:

Undergraduate:

Jonathan Lippman, student leader for Stanford Votes, Honors in Ethics, active in student Jewish community

Nadav Ziv, Student Research Assistant Stanford History Education Group, former Interfaith and Intercultural Chair for Jewish Students Association

Zohar Levy, received the Dr. Bernard Kaufman Undergraduate Research Award in Jewish Studies in 2020 for her proposal on studying the migration of Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors to Mexico. Active in JSA and serves as a student representative on the board of Hillel.

Fede Zalcberg, Vice President of Community for Jewish Student Association and Hillel International Student Cabinet

Graduate:

Jonathan Goodman: Orthodox Jewish student who has been active in ORSL for many years. He has also been part of the Buddhist student association while being active in the Jewish community. He is thoughtful, measured, and committed to Stanford University. PhD in Biophysics, admitted Autumn 2016, expected graduation 2022

Melanie Ambler: First year medical student who has been active in Hillel and ORSL. She is a cellist and has played for high holiday services and University memorials. She is committed to being part of a vibrant Jewish community on campus and just beginning her time at Stanford. She may not have as much context as Jonathan, but she offers a fresh perspective and a deep commitment to community, in and out of the Jewish community.
Daniel Scott Smith in the Graduate School of Education. Not active in the Jewish community but a skilled researcher in education. Would be good to hire as a research assistant.

Graduate Students active in Hillel and the broader Jewish Community:
   Brad Ross, Economics
   Emily Greenwald, Genetics
   Sigalit Perelson, GSB

*There are several members of the Jewish faculty who hold the respect of the community and who would like to be asked to serve….whether or not they have the time is a separate question. However, politically, it might be important to keep this in mind as invitations are extended.

The faculty who hold the respect of the community and who would appreciate an invitation to serve in some capacity include:

   ·  Charlotte Fonrobert
   ·  Sam Wineburg
   ·  Steven Zipperstein