To: Michael J. O’Brien, Dean of the College of Arts and Science  
Garnett S. Stokes, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Hank Foley, Interim Chancellor  
Michael A. Middleton, Interim System President  
Ben Trachtenberg, Chair of Faculty Council

We, the undersigned faculty of the University of Missouri, are writing in support of our colleague Melissa Click, who is currently under fire for her actions during the protests in early November that led to the resignation of Timothy Wolfe. On November 9, the day of Wolfe’s resignation, Click was part of a group of faculty, staff, and students who temporarily sought to block journalists’ access to the students who had been protesting the administration’s handling of racial incidents on campus. Click subsequently issued a statement apologizing for her role in the incident, saying, “I regret the language and strategies I used, and sincerely apologize to the MU campus community, and journalists at large, for my behavior, and also for the way my actions have shifted attention away from the students’ campaign for justice.”

However, this did not end the controversy over Click’s actions. Some of the coverage has focused on the issues raised by the tension between the rights of the press and those of the protesters, and we welcome discussion of these issues, believing that fostering such discussion is one of the roles of a public research university such as the University of Missouri. However, much of the commentary in the press and on social media has gone beyond legitimate debate to ad hominem attacks on, and harassment of, Click personally, and has even included calls for her dismissal from the University. In many cases, we believe, this commentary has been driven by outside groups with agendas external to that of the University.

We wish to state in no uncertain terms our support for Click as a member of the University of Missouri faculty who has earned her position through an outstanding record of teaching and research. We believe that her actions on November 9 constitute at most a regrettable mistake, one that came, moreover, at the end of several weeks during which Click served alongside other faculty and staff as an ally to students who were protesting what they saw as their exclusion from and isolation at the University.

We believe that Click has been wronged in the media by those who have attacked her personally and have called for her dismissal. We affirm our support of her as a colleague, a teacher, and a scholar, and we call upon the University to defend her first amendment rights of protest and her freedom to act as a private citizen.

Signed,  
David Kofi Amponsah, Department of Religious Studies  
Demetrio Anzaldo, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures  
Aliki Barnstone, Department of English  
Cheryl Black, Department of Theater
Jenny Bossaller, School of Information Science & Learning Technologies
Wayne Brekhus, Department of Sociology
Richard J. Callahan, Jr., Department of Religious Studies
Nicole Campione-Barr, Department of Psychological Sciences
Heather Carver, Department of Theater
Elizabeth Chang, Department of English
Nancy Cheak-Zamora, Department of Health Sciences
Samuel Cohen, Department of English
Signe Cohen, Department of Religious Studies
Roger F. Cook, Department of German & Russian Studies
Amalia Dache-Gerbino, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis
[signature added 12/16/15]
Frances Dickey, Department of English
Rebecca Dingo, Departments of English and Women’s & Gender Studies
Daniel B. Domingues da Silva, Department of History
Carrie Elaine Duncan, Department of Religious Studies
Daive Dunkley, Department of Black Studies
Cornelius Eady, Department of English
Julie Passanaante Elman, Department of Women’s & Gender Studies [signature added 12/15/15]
John Evelev, Department of English
Matthew C. Farmer, Department of Classical Studies
Monika Fischer, Department of German & Russian Studies
Bob Flanagan, Department of Religious Studies
Sean Franzel, Department of German & Russian Studies
Cynthia M. Frisby, School of Journalism [signature added 12/15/15]
Gabriel Fried, Department of English
Scott Garson, Department of English
Kent S. Gates, Department of Chemistry
Maya Gibson, School of Music
Elisa Glick, Departments of English and Women's & Gender Studies
Sean P. Goggins, School of Information Science & Learning Technologies
Matt Gordon, Department of English
Rabia Gregory, Department of Religious Studies
Jaber F. Gubrium, Department of Sociology
Lily Gurton-Wachter, Department of English
Sheri-Marie Harrison, Department of English
Joanna Hearne, Department of English
Cheryl Heesch, Department of Biomedical Sciences
Noah Heringman, Department of English
Joan Hermsen, Departments of Sociology and Women’s & Gender Studies
Andrew Hoberek, Department of English
Nathan Hofer, Department of Religious Studies
Elizabeth Hornbeck, Department of Art History & Archaeology
Seth Howes, Department of German & Russian Studies
Clenora Hudson-Weems, Department of English
Lois Huneycutt, Department of History
Robert N. Johnson, Department of Philosophy
Stephen Karian, Department of English
Ilyana Karthas, Department of History
Valerie Kaussen, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Dennis Kelley, Department of Religious Studies
Martha Kelly, Department of German & Russian Studies
Bill Kerwin, Department of English
Cheehyung Harrison Kim, Department of History
Theodore Koditschek, Department of History
Kristin Kopp, Department of German & Russian Studies
Johanna Kramer, Department of English
Tim Langen, Department of German & Russian Studies
Mark Langeneckert, Department of Art
April Langley, Departments of English and Black Studies
Elaine Lawless, Department of English
Trudy Lewis, Department of English
Emma Lipton, Department of English
Farrah Littlepage, Center for English Language Learning
Monica Marcos-Llinas, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Michael R. Marlo, Department of English
Rebecca G. Martinez, Department of Women’s & Gender Studies
Rebecca Meisenbach, Department of Communication
Cristina Mislán, School of Journalism
Nicole Monnier, Department of German & Russian Studies
Megan Moore, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Christopher Morrey, Department of Art
Virginia Muller, Department of English
Anne Myers, Department of English
Christopher Okonkwo, Department of English
Tola Olu Pearce, Departments of Sociology and Women's & Gender Studies
Guadalupe Pérez-Anzaldo, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Karen Piper, Department of English
Michael Porter, Department of Communication
Brad Prager, Department of German & Russian Studies
Anand Prahald, Department of English
Amit Prasad, Department of Sociology
Srirupa Prasad, Departments of Sociology and Women’s & Gender Studies
Jill Raitt, Department of Religious Studies
David Read, Department of English
Linda Reeder, Department of History
Sandy Rikoon, Department of Rural Sociology
Leah A. Rosenberg, Department of Religious Studies
LuAnne Roth, Department of English
Jeff Rouder, Department of Psychological Sciences
Michael Russo, Department of Communication
Catherine Rymph, Department of History
Jacquelyn Sandone, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Gordon Sauer, Department of English [signature added 12/15/15]
Enid Schatz, Departments of Health Sciences and Women's & Gender Studies
David J. Schenker, Department of Classical Studies
Kristin Schwain, Department of Art History and Archaeology
Rebecca R. Scott, Department of Sociology
Stephanie Shonekan, Department of Black Studies and School of Music
Alexandra Socarides, Department of English
Angela Speck, Department of Physics & Astronomy
Anne Stanton, Department of Art History & Archaeology
Carsten Strathausen, Departments of English and German & Russian Studies
Donna Strickland, Department of English
Julija Šukys, Department of English
Michael Ugarte, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Michael A. Urban, Department of Geography
James A. van Dyke, Department of Art History & Archaeology [signature added 12/15/15]
Barbara P. Wallach, Department of Classical Studies
Christina E. Wells, School of Law
Nancy West, Department of English
Annice Wetzel, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures
Flore Zephir, Department of Romance Languages & Literatures