



BUTLER UNIVERSITY

A MESSAGE *from* STUDENT AFFAIRS

The program *Joint Struggle and Collective Liberation: A conversation with Angela Davis*, scheduled for April 1, has been postponed. Contrary to misinformation that has been widely shared, the program, a one-hour Q&A with Ms. Davis via Zoom, has not been canceled. We are working with Ms. Davis through her agency to reschedule this event for a later date.

Allegations that the event was canceled due to pressure from students who had concerns about the speaker and the content of the program are completely false.

The decision to postpone the event was made by the Student Government Association (SGA) leaders, in consultation with their staff advisors. SGA leaders were concerned that established processes for securing outside speakers were not followed; in particular student organizers did not notify SGA senate about the event details. Additionally, funding for the program (a significant five-figure fee) was neither discussed nor authorized by the SGA student senate. When these facts were discovered, the SGA leaders made the decision Monday to postpone the event, the last day to do so without financial obligation. This was a decision made by student leaders.

Butler University is committed to working with SGA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Board to fulfill its goal of hosting speakers who educate the campus on important social issues. As stated in our [Free Speech Protection Policy](#), Butler University understands that the exchange of ideas and the opportunity to critically analyze and express different viewpoints is essential to a free and vigorous academic environment. The University wholeheartedly supports academic presentation, performance and speakers that engage and challenge through authentic intellectual dialogue and debate.

Sincerely,

Frank E. Ross III, PhD

Vice President for Student Affairs

(pronouns: he, him, his)