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July 23, 2025

TO: Regents of the University of Michigan

Dear Regent:

We write to bring to your attention an unfortunate situation that occurred this past weekend. On X (formerly called Twitter), Sequoia Capital partner Shaun Maguire claimed that Zohran Mamdani, the Democratic nominee for the upcoming New York City mayor's race, "comes from a culture that lies about everything" and further stated that it "is literally a virtue to lie if it advances his Islamist agenda." Maguire ended his tirade by claiming that the West "will learn this lesson the hard way." These are racist, repugnant statements for anyone to make. Maguire has deleted these tweets, but he has doubled down on the sentiment and refused to apologize for his remarks.

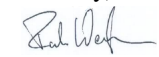
We write to you in particular, because the University of Michigan Endowment has long been an investor in Sequoia Capital, which employs Maguire. According to the private markets data firm Preqin, the University of Michigan's endowment has invested in 26 Sequoia funds, putting the endowment nearly at the top of known investors by number of Sequoia funds invested. Michigan has the highest proportion of Arab Americans of any state in the nation, and the university has a proud history of welcoming scholars from across the globe, including those from Arab nations.

Across the country—and on college campuses in particular—there has been heightened protest activity related to the conflict in Gaza. We want to be clear that Maguire's statements are not directly related to this conflict. Acting on his own biases, and referencing reporting which suggested that Mamdani (who was born in Uganda) self-reported as black and Asian on his college application, Maguire chose to use hateful and racist language.


We suggest that you consider contacting Roelof Botha, the managing partner of Sequoia Capital, and voice your objections to Maguire's statements. Additionally, when Sequoia next solicits investments from the university's endowment, we ask that you consider whether investing in a company which believes that 2 percent of Michiganders are irredeemable liars is an appropriate use of public assets. Should you be interested in doing so, you can contact Botha by email at [botha@sequoiacap.com](mailto:botha@sequoiacap.com).

Thank you for your attention to this message, and please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Randi Weingarten  
President, AFT



Todd Wolfson  
President, AAUP

*Terrence Martin*  
Terrence Martin  
President, Michigan Federation of Teachers