

# Is Chancellor Grossman serious about addressing climate change?

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It is ironic that Chancellor Divina Grossman's guest opinion about colleges and universities leading the way on climate change appeared in my inbox at virtually the same time as a climate change article from The Nation. Why ironic?

Grossman wrote about meeting other campus leaders this week, in the wake of the U.N. summit, "to galvanize action on sustainability and climate change." She omitted the fact that her meeting is really in the wake of the People's Climate March, since the U.N. summit didn't create even a tiny ripple, let alone a wake. The Nation article by Todd Gitlin emphasized that "Future Generations will ask where you were on Sept. 21, 2014," because the march indicated to him that this mass movement has real substance.

Although Grossman recited a lengthy summary of scientific research and sustainability programs on campus, there was no mention of history, sociology or journalism courses exploring people's movements in the U.S., nor the decadelong failure of corporate media to cover climate change, nor the rise of social media, Internet and blogs to provide easy access to information and help grow the movement. What about psychology courses on climate denial or on reasons why personal narratives communicate climate change information better than lengthy technical summaries? How about the role of religion, religious leaders or music in mass movements?

When will her university plan regular trips to Washington so students and faculty can lobby Congress for carbon tax legislation? Where was her awareness that scientific research and campus greening are inadequate to slow global warming if Congress doesn't legislate?

Where was Grossman on Sept. 21?

*Rabbi Judy Weiss, Brookline*

*The writer is a volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby, an organization of volunteers creating the political will for national legislation to stabilize the climate.*

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