<<Back

WALB NEWS 10 Leading The Way For South Georgia

Board of Regents reverses VSU expulsion

Posted: Jan 17, 2008 04:46 PM

Updated: Jan 17, 2008 04:47 PM

January 17, 2008

Valdosta - A Valdosta State University student says he was expelled for voicing his opinion. Now, he can return to school.

Foundation for Individual Rights in Education says the board of regents reversed President Ronald Zaccari's decision to expel sophomore Hayden Barnes.

Barnes says he was expelled for peacefully protesting the construction of two new $30 million parking decks on campus and that Zaccari felt threatened by his actions.

The decision was reversed in a hearing held in Atlanta Wednesday.

They hope the decision will now help Barnes win a lawsuit he filed against the University.

"I think the board's decision clearly indicated that they recognized that Hayden's first amendment rights were trampled. I think it's a pretty good indicator that Hayden's lawsuit has considerable merit if the board of regents is backing down," says Will Creeley, a spokesman from FIRE.

Barnes is currently attending Kennesaw State and it is unclear if he will choose to return to VSU.

The University says they are not able to comment since the case is still a pending legal matter.

Feedback: news@walb.com?subject=VSUdecision

WorldNow

All content © Copyright 2000 - 2008 WorldNow and WALB, a Raycom Media Station.
All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our Privacy Policy and Terms of Service.