

From: Sean W. Daly
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 8:20 PM
To: Julie Marianne Wong
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request Regarding CU Police security fee Waiver

Dear Vice-Chancellor Wong,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Forbidden Education: The Rise of Neo-McCarthyism event scheduled for March 5th at 7pm in the Glenn Miller Ballroom. This letter is in regard to the SAFE meeting which occurred on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at 4pm in UMC 305, UCB. Specifically, I am writing in reference to the extra costs required by the SAFE meeting as necessary for confirmation of this event. We find the requirements for a full patrol police security somewhat excessive and potentially impairing to our financial ability to host the event. At an average of \$65.00 per hour, for 6 officers, for 6 hours, it comes to \$2,340.00. It is my understanding that there may have been some resolution of this issue since the February 17, 2009 meeting. However, given that the University has not provided us with any documentation on this issue, we would like our position to be on record. Furthermore, we received an email which seems to indicate that the CU Police plan to bill our group for the event immediately afterwards.

We will not be making money from this event. The primary reason for introducing ticket sales is to reimburse the sponsoring referendum student groups for a small fraction of the costs associated with the event. As of 4pm March 3rd only 84 tickets have sold. The excessive security (CU Police) costs would not only prevent us from covering some of our event costs, it also would require our groups to pay considerably more than we have currently budgeted for event security, which is less than \$700.00. Our original budget estimate is on-file with the Student Organization Finance Office. The additional police costs alone will almost certainly count against any money we save from ticket sales, and likely push the whole event over our current budget. While our student groups have not heard anything directly from the top of the CU administration regarding this event, and can only guess how their motives would affect policy, it would seem to only help the case of CU lawyers in the upcoming lawsuit if our student groups were to cancel the event due to costs associated with unreasonably high security requirements, resulting in less public attention to the issue. Furthermore, the somewhat excessive costs for security is hindering our ability to advertise for and put on the event, which we see possibly as punishment and also threatening the event's budget in such a way that could be construed as a restraint of our speech, as we discuss below.

Derrick Jensen spoke on campus without any CU security staff for the Student Environmental Action Coalition February 29th, of 2008. Dr. William Ayers spoke on campus without any CU security staff December 14th 2006 for the 180 Degree Shift at the 11th Hour. Ward Churchill has spoken in the Glenn Miller Ballroom several times, in addition to other areas on-campus, sometimes without any CU security. At least on one occasion, on February 8th 2005, the Administration security was provided by City of Boulder Police without any fee. We do not believe that the University should change the fee this time because it regards the speaker as "controversial" or because all three are in the same room at once.

Our reason for choosing the Glenn Miller Ballroom was partially based on the fact that the University Memorial Center has a security team that is effective, yet more affordable and less intimidating to the public than regular CU police. We believe the presence of the UMC security staff will be sufficient for the performance of necessary security tasks such as checking bags and monitoring doors. We also have 8 volunteers who will be escorting our guests and providing a function similar to security for the speakers themselves. For example, with one security concern, our position, as was Ward Churchill's in 2005, is that our personnel have the capacity to escort our speakers to and from their vehicles safely. We originally planned to have the Event in Glenn Miller Ballroom to avoid CU Police security rates, by using UMC security. Now, it seems, we will have both. Would we have been required to have 14 CU Police (to make up for the lost 8-11 members of the UMC security team) if this were held in a smaller venue (like Chem. 140) that does not have a local security team on campus?

We welcome free speech and a diversity of opinions. This comports with the UMC's Mission and Diversity Statement which states that "[a]s the heart of campus, the UMC provides an atmosphere of inclusiveness that allows for free and open exchange of ideas, as well as the development of significant relationships and understanding between all cultures in the university and the community at large." The appearance of this event to the media and the attendees is important not only to the cause of academic freedom and critical thinking, but to the image of CU as well. I am confused by the comments in Mark Heyart's previous email that the current projection of security cost, "does not include what would ultimately be needed if protesters are anticipated...". I should think that leafleting and holding signs should be encouraged, and not penalized, as it would contradict our encouragement of and belief in free speech. We would like to avoid a repeat of the media criticism from events at Florida State University where protesters who were leafleting were escorted from the premises.

The removal of non- and minimally disruptive protesters would reflect badly on the University of Colorado, portraying it as intolerant and biased toward the left. Having additional security guards to handle additional non-disruptive protesters seems to be meant to intimidate, and not necessarily provide security, as those who would mean disrupt the event would probably try to get into the event secretly and without open criticism at first.

In a later email, Mark Heyart contradicts his early comments by mentioning that his security allotment decision is also not based upon the number of attendees present, and that the security was mainly necessary for question and answer sessions, not outside protests in the protest area.

Therefore, we believe that the presence of an entire patrol of CU Police (in addition to the UMC security) would be expensive, intimidating, and bad for public relations. First, we respectfully ask that the number of CU Police be lessened, perhaps replaced by just a couple of free City of Boulder Police if necessary. If full CU Police presence is mandatory, contrary to the wishes of the student group sponsors, organizers, and the speakers themselves, then it would be only right that the CU Police cover their own costs from their own budget or that the costs be covered by some other administrative budget source.

From what we gather, On April 29, 2008 former terrorists (Walid Shoebat and Kamel Saleem) brought to CU by the College Republicans were part of an event which did pay a CU Police fee. (I don't know exactly how much or how many CU Police that they had.) Now, they were funded under the well-endowed Cultural Events Board (run by our student government), but we are funded solely by student group money. Our student groups have received our money from victorious referenda campaigns and furthermore, because of various student-fee funding rules, we are not allowed to use the Cultural Events Board to get money. Furthermore, rather than a counter-example to our argument, the case proves the point. The CU Security fees were increased according to the level of controversy, which has no legal justification. Since student groups are hosting the event, using student fees to cover all expenses, the CU Police are actually charging on top of the normal fees that are taken from student tuition, parking fees, and tax dollars, to cover police protection for every other day of the year that they are on duty.

We would appreciate a response to this letter at your earliest convenience, and look forward to further discussing this issue and planning a safe and constructive event together.

With Respect,
Yours Earnestly,
- Sean Daly

Senior History Major, Undergraduate

Students for True Academic Freedom
The 180 Degree Shift at the 11th Hour
Student Environmental Action Coalition

<http://www.180degreeshift.org>