

**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
UNIVERSITY**Office of the Vice President and General Counsel**

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December 6, 2006

Ms. Samantha K. Harris  
Director of Legal and Public Advocacy  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education  
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms. Harris:

I am responding on behalf of President Brody to your letter of November 28, 2006.

We do not think it is proper for us to discuss a student disciplinary matter with your organization. I understand you have provided us with a signed FERPA waiver, but we do not think we should debate an individual's disciplinary matter with a third party, particularly when an appeal is pending.

With respect to your recitation of facts and conclusions, we respectfully disagree with much of what your letter asserts. To clear up at least some of these misperceptions, I refer you to the University press release and the findings of the University Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Programs. I have enclosed copies of those documents for your information.

As a general matter, the University's vision includes an academic community where the exchange of ideas thrives, where activities are open and non-discriminatory, and where individuals respect the rights of others and are treated with dignity and respect. To achieve these goals we have policies and procedures in place, including relating to student conduct and fraternities.

Our policies and procedures are administered by faculty, staff and students within our academic community. In this case, the matter was heard by a Student Conduct Board composed of three students and two staff members, with an appeal to the Dean of Student Life. The University's Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action consulted in the process and made certain findings, which we have provided to you.

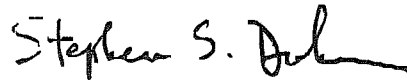
Just to note a couple of points that differ with your letter, the social chair of a recognized fraternity, governed by University policies, issued an invitation to a fraternity event open to University students. The University Greek Life Coordinator (in his capacity as a university official and not, as you suggest, at the request or urging of any

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student group) directed the fraternity to remove the invitation. The social chair of the fraternity then reposted a second version of the invitation which, based on the evidence presented, the Student Conduct Board found to be in direct violation of an instruction from an authorized university official and in specific violation of University regulations on student conduct.

Contrary to your conclusions, nothing about the University's policies and procedures or the specific findings that were made violate anyone's free speech. The University has a right to seek to establish an educational environment that is free of harassment, that includes open debate and the free expression of ideas, that ensures full and equal access to the University's learning environment and activities, and that embraces and furthers individuality, diversity and mutual respect. Our policies and enforcement of our student conduct rules support these goals and principles.

Very truly yours,



Stephen S. Dunham  
Vice President and General Counsel