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SU dismissed from lawsuit

By [Tatiana Zarnowski](#) , August 26, 2003

Shippensburg University was dismissed Monday as the defendant in a lawsuit brought by two students who claimed the school's code of conduct restricted their right to free speech.

Shippensburg University was dismissed Monday as the defendant in a lawsuit brought by two students who claimed the school's code of conduct restricted their right to free speech.

University President Anthony Ceddia remains as the sole defendant in the suit, which junior Walter Bair and recent graduate Ellen Wray brought in April.

University spokesman Pete Gigliotti said this morning the ruling was purely technical. "We expected that was going to happen."

Ceddia stands with the university to uphold free speech, Gigliotti said. "As president of the university, he is responsible for the university operation."

The State System of Higher Education is paying for Ceddia's defense, Gigliotti says.

The Philadelphia-based non-profit organization Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) filed the lawsuit in April while Wray, originally of Shermans Dale, was a senior and Bair of Doylestown was a junior at Shippensburg.

Both students say they were involved in political organizations on campus and got into class discussions where they expressed conservative views they feared other students would consider racist, sexist or homophobic.

Bair, a resident adviser on campus, said in an affidavit the resident director of his dormitory ordered students to remove flyers showing Osama bin Laden "in the crosshairs" from their doors shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 because those flyers violated the code of conduct.

The university has maintained that directive was never given.

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