

June 17, 2010

Mr. William Creeley
Director of Legal and Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Creeley:

I write in reply to your letter of June 7, 2010. In it you cited certain provisions in the college's student handbook and asserted that they trespassed on rights secured to persons—our students in this case—by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

I have made enquiries about the matter and, on the basis of those, now understand that the provisions in question are susceptible of being interpreted and applied to speech that enjoys Constitutional protections. I have therefore instructed the responsible persons at the college to remove those provisions from both the on-line and hard-copy versions of the student handbook. The required changes in the handbook are being made as I write.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,



Carlton Pickron
Dean, Diversity and Affirmative Action

Cc: Evan S. Dobbelle, President
Barry Maloney, V.P. Student Affairs
Susan LaMontagne, Dean of Students

Office of the President (413) 572-5272
333 Western Avenue (413) 572-4843 (f)
Westfield, MA www.wsc.ma.edu
01086-1630