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Home

News

[Today's news](#)

[Current issue](#)

[Special issues & data](#)

[The Faculty](#)

[Research & Books](#)

[Government & Politics](#)

[Money & Management](#)

[Information Technology](#)

[Students](#)

[Athletics](#)

[International](#)

[Community Colleges](#)

[Short Subjects](#)

[Gazette](#)

[Corrections](#)

Opinion & Forums

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January 29, 2008

College in Missouri Lifts Disciplinary Charges Against Defecting Student

St. Louis Community College at Meramec has lifted hazing and disorderly-conduct charges against a student who disrupted classes and invited his classmates to join him in enrolling at another institution, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education [announced](#) today.

That group and the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri had backed the student, Jun Xiao, whose free-speech and due-process rights they said the college had violated. Mr. Xiao and the college reached an [agreement](#) before he took legal action.

In publicizing the case, the group, known as FIRE, emphasized two e-mail messages Mr. Xiao sent in October to his classmates in Organic Chemistry I. The messages informed them that he was withdrawing from the course and invited them to take Organic Chemistry II with him at the nearby St. Charles Community College, another public institution.

Three days after Mr. Xiao sent the second message, the St. Louis college placed him on disciplinary probation, which barred him from contacting other students through institutional e-mail but allowed him to remain in his courses — as long as he refrained from further misconduct.

The [initial letter](#) from the college does not spell out Mr. Xiao's offenses, saying only that the probation is "based upon information provided by a dean, a faculty member, and multiple e-mails from students." But a [second letter](#), in January, says Mr. Xiao repeatedly delayed class with inappropriate questions and verbally abused a secretary in the chemistry department. —*Sara Lipka*

Posted on Tuesday January 29, 2008 | [Permalink](#) |

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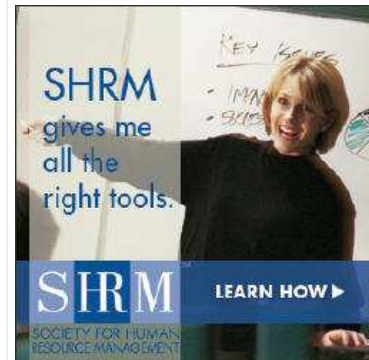
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"As an enrollment counselor I can tell you straight up I have NEVER received a single thing, monetarily or otherwise, to enroll a student, NEVER! Not ONCE! And I have not been paid based on the enrollments I have. I just don't understand why a voice is given to these disgruntled employees and treated like their word is gospel ... it's not, and those of you who are buying into this crap are wrong."

—Tina

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[College in Missouri Lifts Disciplinary Charges Against Defecting Student](#)

St. Louis Community College at Meramec reached a settlement with Jun Xiao, who had encouraged his classmates to enroll elsewhere.

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[Students](#)
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- [January 2008 \(145\)](#)
- [December 2007 \(151\)](#)
- [November 2007 \(184\)](#)
- [October 2007 \(186\)](#)
- [September 2007 \(189\)](#)

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