

DOWN WITH FREE SPEECH ZONES! UP WITH FREE SPEECH EVERYWHERE!

Thursday, February 14, 2002: In response to President Hardesty's personal assurances that peaceful protests will not be subject to police action, the Students for Economic Justice return to issues of economic justice with a demonstration against Disney, who will be recruiting on campus the night of Valentine's Day. It is especially ironic that this is the first protest since the free speech meeting, since it was at a Disney protest last semester that free speech issues at WVU came to a head.

**For a news release on the Hardesty meeting and on tonight's protest,
[click here.](#)**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2002: Over 50 students, faculty, and community members defended Constitutional freedom on campus.

This morning, SEJ member Mike Bomford received a call from President Hardesty's staff. President Hardesty met with 5 members of Students for Economic Justice at 1:30 this afternoon. He apologized for not responding to our letter, and assured us that we were on the same page regarding the need to "liberalize" the free speech zone policy. He further assured us that his office would speak to campus police, and that in the interim time before the new policy is implemented, no one on campus would be harassed by police simply for peacefully exercising constitutional rights.

We are cautiously optimistic about the President's statement. We are encouraged that the administration recognizes the present policy as deficient, and we hope that a new policy, respectful of our legal rights, will replace it in short order. We will be monitoring the administration's response carefully in the coming weeks.

[Letter of Support from FIRE](#)

Mike Bomford's [statement](#) on 2/12/02 meeting with President Hardesty

[Nathan Moore's statement](#) on the meeting

For the original news release on the demonstration, click [here](#).

"I really am going to decline to respond to that at this point. Certainly this is not an issue that I think that needs to be in the press, as the Constitutionality of the policy itself, as I am aware, currently there is no challenge legally, that has been made to that..."

-University Associate General Counsel Beverly Kerr, responding to a question about the Constitutionality of the free speech zone policy. [WVPR Interview, 2/12/02](#)