



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

October 16, 2006

Ms. Tara E. Sweeney
Senior Program Officer
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

I have received your letter dated September 27, 2006, regarding an incident that occurred in Marquette's Philosophy Department.

I believe this matter has now been resolved within the academic department, as properly it should be, and that the original difficulty arose out of misunderstanding. However, I do want to correct a few points in your letter. Specifically, when the quotation cited was posted, it was without attribution; therefore, someone reading the quotation may not have understood the humor/satire of Dave Barry. Second, the e-mail from Dr. James South, Chair of the Philosophy Department, was sent not only to Mr. Stuart Ditsler but to all four students who occupied the shared graduate student office. At the time, Dr. South was unaware of who had posted the flier.

As you correctly point out in your letter, Marquette is a private, Catholic institution. That does not in any way diminish the importance we place on the principles of academic freedom. Marquette's Faculty Handbook states, "academic freedom is prized as essential to Marquette University and to its living growth as a university."

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Wild, S.J." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert A. Wild, S.J.

RW:pl

c: Dr. Madeline Wake
Mr. Greg Kliebhan
Mr. Art Scheuber
Dr. James South

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