

**HAMLIN
UNIVERSITY***Office of the President*

June 11, 2007

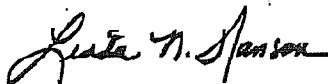
Tara Sweeney
Senior Program Officer
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 51
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

Thank you for contacting us and giving us the opportunity to clarify the facts concerning the interim suspension of Mr. Scheffler. The decision to place Mr. Scheffler on interim suspension, pending a psychological examination, was determined not only by the two emails he sent on April 17 and 19 and his subsequent silence in the face of our invitation to meet, but with additional, critical input from various members of the Hamline community who had interaction with him. This includes individuals who came forward on their own prior to the April emails, expressing their concerns about Mr. Scheffler. While Mr. Scheffler may have waived his rights to privacy protection under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, we have an obligation to protect the privacy rights and interests of these other individuals. Therefore, unfortunately, I cannot go into great detail regarding the events that led to Mr. Scheffler's interim suspension.

We are committed to our students' right to individual expression. We do not suppress our students' voices. Nor are students suspended for disagreeing with our policies. We get emails every day disagreeing with something the university administration is doing, and we certainly do not place these students on any type of suspension for simply expressing their views. Further, Hamline's practice to seek external professional guidance to determine whether a student constitutes a threat, protects that student's rights. Information from an independent professional helps to avoid a scenario, as your letter suggests, in which a serious decision would be driven by differences of opinion.

Hamline University acted carefully, considering many factors, before placing Mr. Scheffler on interim suspension. We feel our decision was in the best interest of the safety of all Hamline students, faculty, and staff. Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with us.



Linda N. Hanson
President

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