



Office of The General Counsel

November 17, 2006

Ms. Tara Sweeney
Senior Program Officer
FIRE
601 Walnut Street, Ste. 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Letter dated November 1, 2006

Dear FIRE:

The university is in receipt of your letter dated November 1, 2006. Your letter was forwarded to the Office of the General Counsel for review and response, given the legal nature of the discussion contained in it. Your letter appears to accuse the university of violating the U.S. Constitution, demands that the university “revise its illegal and immoral ‘free speech zone’ policies,” and suggests that FIRE is prepared to “us[e] all of [y]our resources” to “abolish” the university’s practices.

It is not necessary that we go point by point through all of our areas of disagreement with you letter, but the university feels compelled to note the most conspicuous items of disagreement. You misquote the student handbook and one regulation, you improperly conflate the legal concepts of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, and you are mistaken about the University of Central Florida’s policies and practices. In fact, the university does not have “free speech zones.” The entire university is available for free speech, and that is outlined in our regulations. What is restricted, however, is the assembly of groups, use of amplification, hazardous activities, solicitation on campus, and commercial activities, all of which enjoy different and/or lower levels of protection under the law than freedom of speech.

Your letter reveals that you have reviewed the mission statement of the university and one regulation, but suggests that you have researched little or nothing beyond that. A cursory review of the university’s regulations would have led you to all of the regulations governing expressive activities on campus instead of just the one from which you are misquoting. From those regulations you would have noticed that your accusations are simply not supported by the regulatory structure or the practices of the university.

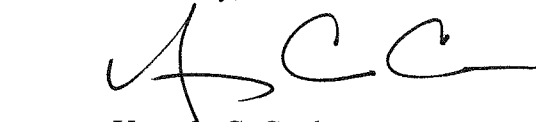
President’s Division

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I trust this additional research will resolve your concerns. We thank you for your interest in the University of Central Florida.

Sincerely,



Youndy C. Cook
Associate General Counsel

Cc: Dr. John C. Hitt
Dr. Beth Barnes
Dr. Maribeth Ehasz
Dr. Patricia J. Bishop
W. Scott Cole