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March 29, 2005

Dr. David French, President  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education  
210 West Washington Square, Suite 303  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Your Letter of March 25, 2005

Dear President French:

Thank you for you letter of March 25, 2005.

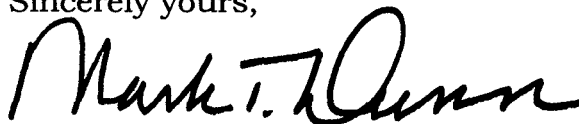
You and others in the leadership of FIRE may be interested in knowing that NEIU is an extraordinarily diverse urban university. NEIU's diversity is reflected in the make-up of its administration, faculty, staff and student body. Many NEIU students are the first members of their families attending an institution of higher education. Many NEIU students can complete their education only by working part-time, taking partial class loads each term, and obtaining a degree after years of effort. The diversity of the university's student body brings with it a broad range of political viewpoints that are vigorously expressed. Among other things, NEIU has an active student newspaper, an active student government, a student trustee, and a widely utilized internet website where a wide variety of viewpoints are vigorously exchanged.

NEIU is not a heavily funded public institution and it does not have extensive resources at its disposal. The general revenue funding for NEIU has been cut over 17% during the last three years, and the administration is doing its very best to service all the needs of its faculty and students. As previously mentioned, NEIU does not have in-house legal counsel and litigated matters are handled by the Illinois Attorney General.

I reiterate that the factual circumstances are not as described in Mr. Lukianoff's letter of March 8, 2005. You state that FIRE would like to know how the factual circumstances might be "materially different" from those described in Mr. Lukianoff's letter. You have also set out what you describe as the "material facts in this case". However, your own presentation of the facts appears to be different from the factual presentation proffered in Mr. Lukianoff's letter. To the best of my knowledge there is no "case" and it serves no purpose to continue this line of discussion. I am sure you understand that others may disagree about what facts are properly considered "material" to the issues that FIRE has raised.

As FIRE seems to know, NEIU has proposed alternative methods for the College Republican club to communicate its message. The bake sale that the club has asked to hold would be scheduled at this time, however, the Dean has been away. I am sure you understand that this is the time of year that most universities are on their Spring break. NEIU will continue to explore other more effective ways of presenting the various viewpoints related to the issue of affirmative action.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark T. Dunn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "D".

Mark T. Dunn,  
University Counsel