



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Vice President and Chief of Staff

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June 30, 2004

Mr. Greg Lukianoff
Director of Legal and Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
210 West Washington Square, Suite 303
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Lukianoff:

I am writing on behalf of Father David O'Connell, President of The Catholic University of America. Father O'Connell is away from the office and it is our routine practice to respond to correspondence in a timely fashion. In order to provide you with a timely response, I am quoting from a letter that Father O'Connell wrote prior to his departure for travel.

The university has been put in a very difficult position. I believe that the request made by our student was made in good faith and with sincerity. I also believe that the decision of the university's Division of Student life was also made in good faith and with sincerity, contrary to the way it has been portrayed externally.

Our desire at CUA is to bring the petitioning students together along with the membership of other groups sharing common concerns and interests as soon as possible after the new school year begins. At that time the decision will be reviewed and re-evaluated with those whom it directly affects and not, simply, "in the court of public opinion" or as a knee jerk reaction to pressure or threats from those who have little or no experience of or little or no regard for The Catholic University of America and its mission. I believe that is the reasonable and appropriate thing to do for all concerned.

As you can see, Father O'Connell has pledged to our students that he will, indeed, meet with them to review and re-evaluate the decision once they return in the fall. Personally, I thank you for your concern and the time it took for you to write. You can rest assured that the students at CUA are the number one priority for Father O'Connell and that he will most definitely honor his pledge to meet with them on this important matter. Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Frank G. Persico

Vice President and Chief of Staff