



MARQUETTE  
UNIVERSITY

November 20, 2006

Robert L. Shibley  
Vice President  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education  
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Shibley:

Your letter arrived when Marquette President Robert A. Wild was out of town, and he subsequently went on a previously planned retreat. Therefore, I am responding to your Nov. 7 letter on behalf of the university.

As Father Wild indicated in his previous letter, we do not view the removal of a posting from the door of an office shared by graduate students as an issue of academic freedom. The university has guidelines in place to protect the academic freedom of faculty, and grievance and complaint procedures available for both students and faculty. To date, the graduate student involved has not been in contact with anyone beyond the department level. Nor have other members of the Philosophy Department, to my knowledge, voiced objection to Dr. South's decision.

Clearly, many faculty and student offices, at Marquette and other institutions, post a variety of messages and materials. It is only within the context of a complaint that this was questioned.

Let me once again assure you that Marquette views academic freedom as an essential principle. Without clear evidence to the contrary, the case in question does not appear to have been a violation of academic freedom.

Sincerely,



Madeline Wake, Ph.D.  
Provost

c: Rev. Robert Wild, S.J.  
Mr. Greg Kliebhan  
Mr. Art Scheuber  
Dr. James South