



Your Future is on the Rise

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE

A Campus of the San Bernardino Community College District

July 8, 2015

Peter Bonilla
Director, Individual Rights Defense Program
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)
170 S. Independence Mall W, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Bonilla,

I want to affirm that Crafton Hills College did recently receive a complaint from a student about the content of a graphic novels class. In our concern for the student and wishing to address her complaints, we initially agreed to include a disclaimer on the syllabus. This was a joint decision made by the faculty member and administration with no mandate from administration. As I said in my original statement, [posted on the College website](#), I fully support our policy on academic freedom. I also support our faculty and respect their rights to choose their course materials and how they teach to achieve their course goals.

Upon further reflection, we have all agreed that including a disclaimer on any course syllabus is not a solution. As you stated, it sets an unhealthy precedent and does not encourage free expression of views and speech, particularly in an educational institution. We strive to equip our students with the critical thinking skills to reason through difficult issues that challenge their values and beliefs. I'm proud of our faculty for creating an open learning environment that supports freedom of inquiry and expression.

I hope this letter assuages your concerns that our faculty do not have full control over their teaching.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cheryl Marshall
President

cc: Ryan Bartlett