



October 2, 2015

Peter Bonilla, Director,
Individual Rights Defense Program
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
170 South Independence Mall W, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Ari Cohn, Senior Program Officer
Legal and Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
170 South Independence Mall W, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

VIA US Mail and email to peter@thefire.org

RE: ***Response to September 18, 2015 Letter***

Dear Messrs. Bonilla and Cohn:

I am in receipt of your letter to Dr. Scott L. Scarborough dated September 18, 2015 concerning a student's interaction with an administrator on the University of Akron's (the "University") campus. Dr. Scarborough has asked me to respond to your letter. In that same letter, you raised concerns about the University's policy and procedures related to public assembly and free speech. Your letter requested a response by October 2, 2015. This letter provides that response.

The University is in the process of reviewing the concerns raised in your letter and has met with Mr. Palumbo regarding the incident described in your letter. It is the University's hope that it can address Mr. Palumbo and your concerns in a proactive and educational manner.

We also want to inform you that the University has been working to amend its existing public assembly and free speech policies and procedures in response to a recent Sixth Circuit and related federal district court decisions regarding free assembly and public expression on public college campuses. The amended policy, when adopted, will remove registration requirements for University students, faculty and other administrators seeking to engage in expressive activities on campus.

The amended policy will permit students and other University community members to reserve public spaces to engage in expressive activities. However, the University will no longer require preregistration unless there is a significant concern for campus safety or a need for significant crowd control, noise amplification, or other characteristics which have a strong likelihood of disrupting the educational activities of the University.

Until the University's new policy has been formally adopted, the University will suspend the current registration requirements for students and other University community members to allow expressive activities that do not require crowd control, material support or other activities that may impact the educational activities of the University. It is the University's hope that this

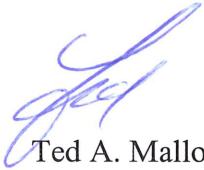
Office of the Vice President and General Counsel

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interim measure will permit students like Mr. Palumbo to exercise their rights consistent with the current case law while the amended policy is finalized and adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,



Ted A. Mallo
Vice President & General Counsel

cc: Dr. Scott L. Scarborough

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