



**M. Brian Blake, PhD**  
*Provost*  
*Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
*Distinguished University Professor*

June 5, 2017

VIA EMAIL

Adam Steinbaugh  
Sr. Program Officer and Investigative Reporter  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)  
510 Walnut Street  
Suite 1250  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Steinbaugh,

Thank you for your June 2 letter regarding FIRE's concern for "the freedom of expression at Drexel University" with respect to the actions of Professor George Ciccariello-Maher. Because you seem to imply in your letter that the University is not abiding adequately by our policies including principles of academic freedom and freedom of expression, I am writing to clarify the current situation and correct what I suspect is a misunderstanding on your part because you do not have complete information.

First and foremost, it is important that you and FIRE's staff understand that this advisory committee is composed of five senior faculty members, including members that the Faculty Senate has appointed. The Committee is reviewing University policies and Professor Ciccariello-Maher's conduct and will make factual findings and recommendations to the administration.

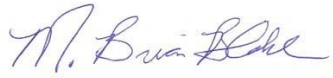
At this point, the University has taken no position on whether Professor Ciccariello-Maher is fit for continuing service as a faculty member or has violated any policies. Nor has the University taken any official action other than establishing this faculty advisory committee to conduct its review and make recommendations.

You can be assured that any potential official action that the University might take with respect to Professor Ciccariello-Maher or any other faculty member will accord with relevant AAUP guidelines and standards (including academic freedom and freedom of expression) as well as applicable University policies and procedures.

There are many important and potentially competing interests and concerns at issue here. These include preserving the rights and values that we all hold dear, including academic freedom and the associated obligations and responsibilities, which affect our entire University community. At the same time, all universities have an important interest in preserving and protecting the safety, freedom and rights of all members of its community, including students, faculty and professional staff. The faculty committee will be assessing and considering all of these interests and concerns.

I sincerely appreciate this communication. Let me know if you have further questions.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Brian Bell".