



December 19, 2017

President Wayne A.I. Frederick, M.D., MBA
Howard University
2400 Sixth Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20059

Sent via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail (HUPresident@howard.edu)

Dear President Frederick:

As you know, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to defending liberty, freedom of speech, due process, academic freedom, legal equality, and freedom of conscience on America's college campuses.

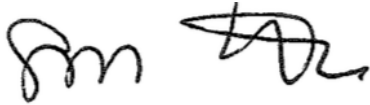
We are disappointed not to have received a reply to our June 16 letter to you, in which we expressed deep concern about the state of freedom of expression and academic freedom at Howard University following the university's finding that School of Law professor Reginald Robinson violated Howard's Title IX policy by including on a test a hypothetical scenario involving an individual undergoing a Brazilian wax. As we explained in that letter, Howard's finding is at odds with the plain language of several written university policies and could chill professors' teaching of basic legal principles. As a result, it puts at risk both faculty rights and the sufficiency of law students' education.

In July, after FIRE publicized our letter and your failure to respond by our June 30 deadline, Robinson and his then-attorney, Gaillard T. Hunt, informed us that a tentative agreement with the university had been reached.

Robinson has now informed us that no agreement was finalized. Accordingly, as he plans to return to teaching next semester, his and other Howard professors' free speech rights remain threatened. To our knowledge, the unjust sanctions against Robinson remain in place, including the threat of termination for protected expression simply because someone may find it offensive.

FIRE therefore renews our demand that Howard immediately remove the finding of responsibility from Robinson's file and rescind its sanctions against him. FIRE is committed to using all of the resources at our disposal to see this matter through to a just conclusion. We request a response to this letter by January 5, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK' followed by a stylized flourish.

Susan Kruth
Staff Attorney, Stand Up For Speech Litigation Project

cc:

Stacey J. Mobley, Chairman, Howard University Board of Trustees
Candi N. Smiley, Title IX Coordinator
Vanessa C. Love, Title IX Investigator
Anthony K. Wutoh, Provost & Chief Academic Officer
Florence Prioleau, General Counsel
Danielle Holley-Walker, Dean, Howard University School of Law