



**INDIANA UNIVERSITY
KOKOMO**

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Friedman,

Thank you for your letters of October 22 and December 20, 2018.

Indiana University and IU Kokomo are fully committed to academic freedom and freedom of expression. These values were in no way compromised by circumstances surrounding the installation of the works of student artists Mary Ade and Jonathon Reshkus. Professor Steel's selections of student works for exhibition were honored, and the student sculptures were installed promptly upon the acquisition of approvals which were not premised in any way on content. This situation has illuminated issues related to communications about the approval process associated with public art works, which we are committed to improving in the future.

To briefly summarize the facts, at the end of Summer Session 2018, Dr. Steel chose the sculptures by Ms. Ade and Mr. Reshkus for public exhibition, and they were placed on concrete pads designed to display outdoor art. After the sculptures were installed, we discovered that neither installation had been approved as required by a long-standing policy of the IU Board of Trustees, which requires consultation between the campus and the Office of the Vice President of Capital Projects and Facilities. Indiana University has had a formal policy governing public art since 1999, which was updated by a Board Resolution in 2014: <https://trustees.iu.edu/about-the-board/policies-resolutions/resolutions/public-art.html>. Both sculptures were then temporarily removed, pending the completion of that approval process. As soon as the sculptures were approved in accordance with this Board Resolution, both were reinstalled. Neither sculpture was installed or removed based on its content.

By the time IU Kokomo received your October 22 letter, the sculptures had already been back on exhibition for several days. Approval for the installation was received on October 11, and both sculptures were reinstalled that day. I have also confirmed with the Office of the Vice President and General Counsel that all records responsive to your October 22, 2018, request were produced in accordance with the university's obligations under the Indiana Access to Public Records Act.

I have met personally with Dr. Steel to discuss this situation, and I regret that he remains unhappy, but I feel it is important to note his response to my outreach on August 15, 2018. After learning that the sculptures had been taken down, I sent Dr. Steel an email letting him know that I "wanted to make sure [he was] ok." He responded:

Yes, it's fine only wish we knew we had to do it [get approval from university administration] before we put them up. The students were very excited: even brought their families with them. Maybe we can streamline this in the future. Thanks for checking with us.



This email exchange was one of the documents that was produced in response to your APRA request.

Like Dr. Steel, I am sorry that the students were disappointed that their artworks were not fully on display in August. The Board resolution calls for the exhibition of student art works for a period of less than six months. However, given that these two sculptures were not on display at the beginning of fall semester, the campus will continue this exhibition of both sculptures until the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Sciame-Giesecke". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Susan Sciame-Giesecke
Chancellor, IU Kokomo