

Cairo, August 4, 2019

Sarah McLaughlin
Senior Program Officer, Legal and Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
510 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Ms. McLaughlin,

President Francis J. Ricciardone has shared with me your letter dated July 24, 2019 regarding academic freedom at The American University of Cairo (“AUC”) and concerns you have raised on behalf of Dr. Adam Duker.

We respect FIRE’s commitment to freedom of expression for students and faculty, and we share that dedication. The university is committed to advancing academic freedom with respect to teaching and scholarship. The defense of academic freedom is a core principle of AUC, and it is a matter which we approach with the utmost seriousness. AUC is proud of its robust policies on freedom of expression and, as noted in our Freedom of Expression policy, we recognize that freedom of expression “must be at once fiercely guarded and genuinely embraced.” These principles are vital to enhancing our core educational and intellectual mission on our cross-cultural campus.

AUC does not comment publicly on employment-related matters, and we do not intend to respond to the specific allegations made in your letter and in your press release dated July 24, 2019 (<https://www.thefire.org/u-s-accredited-american-university-in-cairo-promises-academic-freedom-to-professor-but-sells-out-to-highest-bidder/>). However, several university officials have carefully considered this case and I can assure you that academic freedom was not infringed in any way in this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Ehab Abdel-Rahman
Provost