



OHIO
UNIVERSITY
Legal Affairs

Office of Legal Affairs
West Union Street Office Center 150
1 Ohio University
Athens OH 45701-2979

T: 740.593.2626
F: 740.593.0200

November 22, 2019

Via U.S. Mail and Email - zach.greenberg@thefire.org

Mr. Zachary Greenburg
Program Officer, Individual Rights Defense Program
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
510 Walnut Street, Suite 1250
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Greenburg:

Thank you for your letter of November 12, 2019 addressed to President Nellis at Ohio University ("University"). We appreciate your interest in Ohio University and share your commitment to safeguarding the freedoms set forth in the constitutions of both Ohio and United States. Likewise, we appreciate the obvious effort put in your November 12 correspondence.

This fall, Ohio University received, in a very short period, an unprecedented number of allegations of hazing – 32 reports of hazing against 17 organizations. With student safety concerns paramount, the University placed temporary restrictions on all Interfraternity Council members and on a few other organizations accused of hazing so that the situation could be assessed.

In short order, the University assessed the allegations and either lifted or significantly modified the restrictions for most of the organizations within a few weeks. Further, the university removed the previously posted FAQs from its website and clarified with all the organizations that any limited restriction on communication previously imposed had been lifted.

While not agreeing with your premise that the original directives were constitutionally infirm, we believe that the remaining restrictions are both appropriate and lawful.

We, again, appreciate your interest in Ohio University and will continue to take under advisement the concerns you have raised in your letter.

Best regards,

Barbara U. Nalazek

cc: Dr. M. Duane Nellis
Dr. Jason Pina
Dr. Jenny Hall-Jones
Mr. Taylor Tackett
Mr. Adam Loukx