



January 28, 2020

President David A. Armstrong
St. Thomas University
16401 NW 37th Avenue
Miami Gardens, FL 33054

Sent via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail (darmstrong@stu.edu)

President Armstrong:

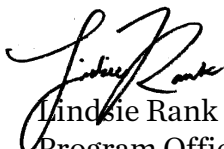
FIRE is in receipt of your response of January 24, 2020. Unfortunately, that response avers that our letter of January 16, 2020, contains “several misstatements of fact” without identifying those misstatements. While your response takes issue with whether or not the underlying facts reflect fairness on the part of the university’s administration, it does not identify any facts that would establish whether or not the process it used was or was not fair.

Respectfully, FIRE is not in the practice of placing undue faith in administrators’ opinions about whether their conduct is fair. Instead, we look to facts.

Our letter requested specific records that would help establish that St. Thomas University did, in fact, follow its process and acted in a fair manner. To these ends, our letter was accompanied by a request pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) and its applicable regulations (particularly 34 CFR § 99.30), which require educational institutions to provide copies of records in some circumstances. 34 CFR § 99.10(d)(1). Given that Natalia Garceau is prohibited from visiting St. Thomas University’s campus under threat of arrest, this is one such circumstance.

Accordingly, we look forward to receipt of the requested records within the timeframe established by federal law.

Sincerely,



Lindsey Rank
Program Officer, Individual Rights Defense Program