



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 5, 2020

Mr. Adam Steinbaugh  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education  
510 Walnut Street; Suite 1250  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Steinbaugh:

I acknowledge receipt of your August 3, 2020 letter regarding Dr. Jesse Goldberg and your concerns for the protection of his First Amendment rights. I am pleased to respond in order to confirm Auburn's commitment to the Constitution.

Your letter specifically requests that Auburn "publicly disclaim the possibility of disciplinary sanctions" against Dr. Goldberg. Dr. Goldberg, in expressing his thoughts, was not authorized to and did not purport to speak on behalf of Auburn University. Auburn affirms that it will not take adverse action against Dr. Goldberg or any member of the Auburn community based on that person's engagement in individual speech or conduct protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States or the State of Alabama. That is true even when such speech is deemed by many to be offensive, indecent, of little value, and of great cost to the institution. Indeed, even when a message may be viewed as disrespectful and abhorrent, Auburn will not violate the law or Auburn policy.

Sincerely,

Jay Gogue  
President