



March 3, 2021

Mark C. Reed, Ed.D., MBA  
Office of the President  
Saint Joseph's University  
5600 City Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131

*Sent via Electronic Mail (mark.reed@sju.edu)*

Dear President Reed:

FIRE is disappointed that we did not receive a response to our letter of February 23 regarding the investigation into and suspension of Saint Joseph University (SJU) Professor Gregory Manco. We write to reiterate our concern with SJU's response to Manco's posts on his personal Twitter account: SJU's response to Manco's extramural speech violates the university's stated commitments to its faculty that it respects their right to freedom of expression and academic freedom.

Our concerns are compounded by the effects of Manco's interim suspension, which will have a chilling effect, even if Manco is—as SJU's policies require—ultimately vindicated. SJU has informed Manco that he will not return to the classroom for the remainder of the semester regardless of the results of the investigation in order to maintain “continuity” in teaching. This decision appears pretextual and untethered to any legitimate concern that would justify an interim suspension, such as a threat to safety or security. If SJU was legitimately concerned with maintaining continuity in the classroom, it would not have removed Manco from his teaching responsibilities in the first place.

We trust that SJU has had ample opportunity to review our letter of February 23 and determine a proper response. We request receipt of a response by March 8, 2021.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Conza  
Program Analyst, Individual Rights Defense Program