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November 12, 2021

Emerson College Turning Point USA
c/o Sammi [REDACTED] President
KJ [REDACTED] Vice President
Sent electronically to:
[REDACTED]

Dear Sam & KJ,

This letter is in response to the appeal you submitted on behalf of the leadership of the Emerson chapter of Turning Point USA. The organization has been found responsible for violation of college policy, and as a result of has received a formal warning. As noted in the Student Handbook, the grounds for appeal are: (a) a lack of fairness in the procedures or process that may alter the outcome; or (b) significant new information (previously unknown) that has been revealed or discovered which materially alter the facts of the matter and may alter the outcome.

The appeal notes two areas where you feel procedures were not followed in a fair manner. The first is the denial of your request to have an individual removed as a member of the conduct panel. From the record, I see that the organization filed requests to disqualify every member of the college pool of panelists, resulting in the college's decision to hire a third party to determine this case. The organization then filed requests to have one of the three external panelists disqualified, which was granted. The organization then requested the replacement panelist, be disqualified. The request to disqualify this last panelist was denied. Your request to disqualify the last panelist was based on their previous role as a board member of a private school. As you stated in your appeal, there is no evidence of this panelist demonstrating bias, but more an assumption based on their association with a private school. Based on the lack of direct information to signal the panelist as biased I am not able to grant this aspect of your appeal.

The second point was that you were not permitted to directly address the reporting party during the process. College procedures do not allow for this type cross examination between reporting and responding parties. Your organization was allowed to submit questions to be asked of the reporting party, and my understanding is that every question you submitted was asked. I would note that the sanction letter noted "Although the board found that members of the Emerson chapter did not intend to target anyone other than China's government..." This would indicate to me that the board members did consider this aspect and took it into account when making their decision.

Based on the information above I do not see grounds to grant your appeal. My review indicates prescribed procedures were followed appropriately. As a result, the sanction of a formal warning will remain in place.

Thank you for outlining your concerns. I wish you the best as we continue the fall semester.

Sincerely,

Jim Hoppe
Vice President & Dean for Campus Life

cc. Julie Rothhaar-Sanders
File