



Sabrina Conza <sabrina.conza@thefire.org>

Response to FIRE Letter and Article

Andrew Morse <andrew.morse@uni.edu>

Wed, Mar 23, 2022 at 2:39 PM

To: sabrina.conza@thefire.org

Dear Ms. Conza,

Thank you for sharing your letter regarding the recent NI report related to resident assistants at UNI. We wish to provide the following response to the letter and recent article published by FIRE.

The University of Northern Iowa strongly values the First Amendment rights of our students and employees. University Housing & Dining does not restrict Resident Assistants from speaking to media in their personal capacities, a practice we upheld with the survey and accompanying story run by the *Northern Iowan (NI)*. As Resident Assistants considered their responses to the NI survey, the intent of our communication was to assure students were aware of their rights to speak to the media on a personal basis while not conveying a position on behalf of University Housing & Dining. Our communication with Resident Assistants was not to prohibit a response to the NI inquiry.

Based on FIRE's recent article on this matter, we would like to respectfully clarify that University Housing & Dining does not have policies on free speech and expression beyond the University of Northern Iowa's Freedom of Speech and Expression / First Amendment Policy, which enjoys a [green light rating](#) by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. As our University continues offering training on the First Amendment rights and responsibilities of our students and employees, we appreciate the opportunity to enhance our campus community's awareness of the protections we hold to free speech and expression.

I manage public relations for UNI, and would be happy to continue as your point of contact.

Respectfully,

Andrew

--

Andrew Morse, Ph.D.

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