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**From:** Perdue, Troy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 26, 2022 1:54 PM  
**To:** [will@thfire.org](mailto:will@thfire.org)  
**Cc:** [alex@thfire.org](mailto:alex@thfire.org)  
**Subject:** False Statements and Name-calling

Good afternoon, Will.

It's been a few years, but I hope all is well with you. It's good to see FIRE expanding its services and increasing its presence in higher ed and beyond. Sadly, that probably means that there is an increase in the need for FIRE's services, but at least FIRE is attempting to meet that need.

I have worked with a number of folks from FIRE over the past 10 years – Samantha Harris, Joe Cohn, Robert Shibley, to name a few – and each has been firm, thoughtful and helpful to my institution. You (and they) have historically emphasized a collaborative approach with universities, for the higher purpose of protecting student and faculty speech. Yet, this approach has not been my experience in the past year or so, on multiple occasions.

I suppose I am writing to ask if FIRE's approach has changed. Most recently, I have had multiple instances of aggressive, untrue assertions stated as fact and literal name-calling by a FIRE employee. I understand that the university and FIRE may have different views on difficult matters, but I haven't expected the sensationalism, mischaracterizations, and invective that I have seen, with no seeming interest in basic truth.

In this impassioned time where free speech does seem to be a questioned "good," maybe this is FIRE's new approach? If that is so, I understand, as FIRE may believe more aggressive efforts are necessary. In which case, I will realign my understanding of FIRE's mission and approach. If that is not, though, I would ask for another FIRE interlocutor to engage with on behalf of my institution.

Thanks for the time, and I hope your family is well.

Regards,

Troy

P.S. I attempted to call you at the office, but was directed to Alex Morey's voicemail. I've cc'd her in case you prefer to have her respond. Thanks, again.

Troy J. Perdue

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