

September 9, 2005

Richard Shibley, Program Manager  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)  
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Shibley:

President V. Lane Rawlins has asked that I address your September 6, 2005 letter in my role as the lead administrator in the College of Education. First, we both thank you for your thoughtful attention to WSU's College of Education evaluation procedures outlined in your September 6, 2005 letter. Rest assured that the Professional Dispositions Evaluation (PDE) criteria will be applied to evaluate only Mr. Swan's teaching skills, which will include his demonstrated understanding of how students differ in their approaches to learning and his ability to create instructional opportunities adapted to diverse learners. We will not evaluate him based upon his political beliefs. However, he may not display prejudice in the classroom setting and expect to successfully complete this program.

Items 6 and 7 on the PDE were intended to reflect the state mandated pedagogy assessment criteria created by the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. As such, we believe that the PDE allows us to appropriately judge student performance using expert professional judgment. However, we are sensitive to the concerns that have been expressed. College of Education Faculty continuously review the practices, policy and pedagogy used in the college. We will use your comments in our regular review process, including the review of the PDE form.

Sincerely,

  
Judy N. Mitchell  
Dean and Professor

Cc: V. Lane Rawlins, President  
Robert C. Bates, Provost and Executive Vice President  
Cori Mantle-Bromley, Chair