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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 13, 2007

Mr. Greg Lukianoff
President
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Lukianoff:

I write in response to your letter of March 7, 2007 concerning the SF State College Republicans and the Student Organization Hearing Panel (SOHP) process. Let me first note that I object strongly to the letter's hostile tone and threatening statements about possible legal action against individuals participating in the SOHP process – threats that I and others read as an attempt to intimidate members of the university community into substituting FIRE's judgment for their own.

I think the most appropriate response to your letter is a referral to a statement that I have posted on the university's Web site under the title "On Avoiding a Rush to Judgment." The statement was prompted by an increasingly common – and troubling -- pattern of communications from beyond the campus. We are finding that as we respond to campus incidents, this one included, a wide and distant public starts to weigh in – often judging the situation and reacting to a possible outcome before any decision has been made. Members of this public are often misinformed, unaware of the university's procedures and the reasons for them. My message speaks in general terms to our approach to dealing with issues that arise as we seek to maintain both openness and order. (The message can be found in full at <http://www.sfsu.edu/~news/announce/108.htm>)

I feel that the following points, drawn from that message, are relevant to your consideration of the October 2006 incident involving the College Republicans:

- Our students can be confident that we stand not only for free speech but for due process.
- Policies covering such matters as public events, demonstrations, and conduct toward other members of our community are clear and public.
- We also have clear processes on which all students can depend that guide the university's handling of cases where policy may have been violated.
- We take student complaints seriously. Through the Student Organization Hearing Panel (SOHP) process we create a committee of students, faculty and staff to hear and resolve complaints against recognized student groups.

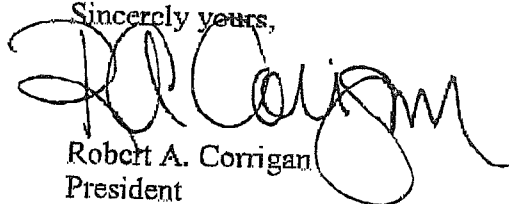
THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY: Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Maritime Academy, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma, Stanislaus

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- In all matters involving student organizations we make a clear distinction between content and process – between the opinions that may be expressed (in all but the rarest cases protected as free speech) and the policies that student groups must follow during their events.
- Our policies represent our best response to our values. We continually review, and as necessary, revise policies to ensure that they protect and advance our key goals of free speech, a safe and open campus, and academic freedom.
- While some would prefer that the university act summarily on occasion, foregoing its processes, we recognize the value of engaging members of the community in upholding the principles of that community.

As we await the outcome of the SOHP process, let me assure you that the university understands and upholds the constitutional protections of the First Amendment. I would remind you that SOPH is only reviewing a student's complaint that a recognized student organization took actions that violated the student code of conduct regarding responsible behavior and civility.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Corrigan
President