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RICHARD F. DUNN
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OF COUNSEL
RICHARD T. DUNN
LOUIS F. ULBRICH

March 17, 2005

Mr. Greg Lukianoff, Esq.
Director of Legal and Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
210 West Washington Street, Suite 303
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Lukianoff,

Thank you for your letter of March 8, 2005 addressed to Dr. Salme H. Steinberg, President of Northeastern Illinois University. Your letter has been referred to me for a response. The university does not have in-house legal counsel. Litigated matters are referred by the university to the Illinois Attorney General for defense. However, I do provide legal advice to the university when requested. You may know that NEIU is a very diverse institution that serves a primarily urban constituency in an urban setting.

It is my understanding that the factual circumstances are not as described in your letter, but the matter is still being reviewed on that score. In the meantime, the Dean of Students has met with representatives of the NEIU College Republicans and they have had positive exchanges about the message that club is trying to convey, the misunderstandings that some others had about the intended message, and several ways that the intended message might be communicated – including the original idea. The intent is to encourage expression of a wide range of opinions and foster more, rather than less debate and discussion on campus.

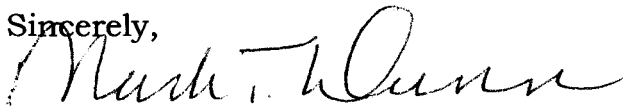
For example, as an alternative to the original proposal there has been discussion about having the NEIU College Republicans invite Illinois state legislators who are on opposite sides of the political spectrum to debate affirmative action in an open forum to create a dialogue on the topic. There has also been discussion of having the NEIU College Republicans send a letter outlining their position on affirmative action to

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the university's student newspaper as another technique to generate discussion. I understand that the NEIU College Republicans were most accepting and appreciative of this input. While you may be getting a different message, it appears to me that NEIU is continuing to communicate with the NEIU College Republicans and that they are mutually reaching a satisfactory outcome – at least that is what we hope will happen.

I also hope that this letter provides you clarification on this matter. I am aware of the hard work the FIRE does in many areas related to the First Amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark T. Dunn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Mark T. Dunn