

LE MOYNE

*Quality in the
Jesuit tradition*

*Provost and Vice President
for Academic Affairs*

Le Moyne College
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March 30, 2005

Mr. Scott McConnell
107 Bent Tree Lane
Baldwinsville, New York 13027

Dear Mr. McConnell:

This is in response to your letter of March 14, 2005. In your letter you state that you "wish to appeal the decision to expel me from the Masters of Science for Teaching Program."

As you are well aware, Le Moyne did not "expel" you from the Program. You had been conditionally accepted into the Program. In other words, you were allowed to register for courses while your application was still pending. Dr. Leogrande advised you of the College's final action on your application in her letter dated January 13, 2005. Nothing in the letter indicates that you were being "expelled." Rather, the letter refers to your previous conditional admission.

Dr. Leogrande's January 13, 2005, letter constituted the College's final action on your admission application.

I would note that your letter of March 14, 2005, requested that I respond within 24 hours, i.e., by March 15, 2005. You have been in possession of the College's final action in this matter for two months, and have been pursuing publicity of this matter since that time. However, you have made no effort to pursue this matter with the College in that time period. I am at a loss to understand on what basis you now ask that the College respond in 24 hours.

As stated, Dr. Leogrande's letter constituted the College's final action. The College Handbook does not provide for further review of admissions decisions. Nevertheless, this matter has been reviewed by President Beirne and myself. We see no basis in your letter to set aside the final action taken by the College through Dr. Leogrande.¹

¹ You also asked for a hearing on your appeal both in your letter and in calls to my office following the letter. I agreed to meet with you to discuss your admission application, and we agreed to meet on March 24, 2005. Thereafter, I understand that an attorney contacted the College's legal counsel and requested to represent you at the meeting. The College agreed to this request. The College also agreed to that attorney's request to participate by telephone. However, thereafter the attorney advised that you did not want to proceed with the meeting and demanded that the College provide "a statement setting forth the nature and purpose of the meeting." The purpose of the meeting from the College's perspective was to accommodate your request to be heard with respect to the decision on your application for admission.



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Nor does your letter provide any reasons why the College should rescind its action. To the contrary, your letter shows no understanding of the College's action in that you insist you have been expelled from the College.

In its admissions decisions, the College takes into account the educational philosophy of both the College and the Graduate Education Program. As is set forth in the Catalog,

Le Moyne's graduate programs in education are value-driven and rooted in the following beliefs about students and teachers:

First, every student must accept appropriate responsibility for his or her own education. It is the teacher's responsibility to create learning opportunities to meet the needs of each student.

Secondly, every student deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. It is the teacher's responsibility to create a supportive learning environment that nurtures self-confidence and affirms diversity.

2004-05 Catalog, at 320.

You were conditionally accepted because your application (your application, undergraduate record, test scores, recommendations and statement of purpose) did not fully confirm that you were an appropriate candidate for the graduate program. After reviewing your course work, the Department Chair concluded that you should not be accepted as a fully matriculated student. As a private college, Le Moyne believes that the decision to admit or not admit a student is a matter within its discretion. As a general matter, the College takes many factors into account in its admission decision. One of the factors is whether the student is open to the goals of the Le Moyne graduate programs. Dr. Leogrande's decision took into account the fact that you appear to reject the values of the program. This decision was based not just on the one paper you have released to the media, but on the total body of your work. One example is your Text Journals paper dated December 7, 2004, in which, among other statements, you state that your philosophy is: "My views and beliefs about students is [*sic*] that they are inherently bad and need to be taught how to be good."

You have every right to express your views. Le Moyne, likewise has the right to determine whether you are likely to succeed in and benefit from Le Moyne's program and in the teaching field thereafter in considering your application. Le Moyne believes that students

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who reject Le Moyne's values are unlikely to succeed in and benefit from Le Moyne's program. Your appeal letter does not address these issues.

For these reasons, Le Moyne sees no reason to set aside the final action taken on your application on January 14, 2005.

It would appear best if you pursue your academic goals at another institution.

Sincerely,



John Smarrelli, Jr., Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Cc: Rev. Charles J. Beirne, S.J., President