

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA

270 WASHINGTON STREET, S.W.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334-1450

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

October 24, 2007

Mr. Will Creeley
Senior Program Officer
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. Creeley:

Thank you for your letter, dated October 23, 2007, to Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., regarding T. Hayden Barnes, a student at Valdosta State University. Please allow me to respond on Chancellor Davis' behalf.

In your letter (page 9), you ask Chancellor Davis to "immediately drop [his] opposition to Mr. Barnes' appeal" to the Board of Regents and to so notify you by October 29, 2007. Notwithstanding the student newspaper articles which you cite in your letter, I can assure you that Chancellor Davis has never opposed any student's appeal to the Board of Regents. To the extent that any publication has reported otherwise, it has done so in error.

With specific reference to Mr. Barnes, I am confident that an organization as devoted to individual rights as you state yours is will understand that the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act prevents us from disclosing the contents of the educational record of any University System student to unauthorized third parties. As such, neither the Chancellor nor members of his staff are at liberty to discuss with your organization the specifics of any student's appeal to the Board of Regents.

We appreciate your interest in the welfare of the students of the University System of Georgia.

Sincerely,



J. Burns Newsome
Associate Vice Chancellor

Cc: Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr.
Chief Academic Officer Lisa Rossbacher
Chief Operating Officer Rob Watts
Senior Vice Chancellor Thomas Daniel
Associate Vice Chancellor John Millsaps
President Ronald M. Zaccari
University Attorney Laverne L. Gaskins
Assistant Attorney General DeBrae Kennedy
Ms. Angie Allison, Office of the Governor