



Office of the President

October 8, 2010

Mr. Will Creeley
Director of Legal and Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Ste. 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Creeley:

I will attempt to respond to and clarify several issues in regard to your letter of October 1, 2010, but note that many are based in legal arguments more appropriately discussed with counsel.

The original email was sent as a reminder to state employees of state laws which prohibit the use of any State resources in campaign and election activities during election periods. Students were inadvertently included. The limitation did not apply to any email outside of gram.edu and applied solely to the employees, but was not clearly stated.

Grambling State University is a public university within the University of Louisiana System, which is an agency of the State of Louisiana and a public educational system. The email in question is gram.edu which is an internal mail system.

As President at Grambling State University (GSU), I have initiated a comprehensive review of all university policies to ensure that the policies are clear, that they are fair, and that the community understands what is expected of them. The policy on the use of email is one of those policies under review. Once the policies have been reviewed and evaluated internally, they will be reviewed by University of Louisiana System staff and legal counsel to identify any matters that need to be added, removed or clarified.

These policies impact faculty, staff, students and visitors on our campus. GSU has a long history of fostering free expression of ideas within our educational environment as well as speaking up on many issues critical to the university and to the world at large. That is an important role within our university and fostering that environment is critical.

Once the policies have been completed, they will be shared widely with the campus community and all interested parties.


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As I noted, much of your correspondence presents legal issues more properly addressed to our counsel who is, in fact, reviewing our email policy and has been provided a copy of your letters. Her contact information is as follows:

Mrs. Linda L. Clark
DeCuir, Clark & Adams, L.L.P.
Attorneys at Law
732 North Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
(225) 346-8716

Our goal is to ensure that we have an email policy which fosters the open and free expression of ideas, while at the same time determining the parameters of use of our internal email system to ensure that there are no violations of State or Federal law in the process.

Sincerely,



Frank G. Pogue, Ph.D.
President

FGP:jj