



San Francisco
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January 29, 2007

Ms. Tara E. Sweeney
Senior Program Officer
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms. Sweeney:

I am responding to your letter to SF State President Robert Corrigan concerning the complaint lodged by a student (not a student group, as your letter states) against the College Republicans. I would also note that the "actions of incivility" language you cite as a University prohibition was, rather, the language of the complainant.

We deeply value free expression and our history demonstrates that we are an exceedingly free-spoken campus. Further, as you yourself note, our policies "protect students' right to engage in expressive activity."

The merit – or lack thereof – of the complaint's allegations in this case will be determined through a process designed to give all parties the confidence that they will be heard and fairly treated by a panel that includes representatives of all the University's key constituencies: faculty, staff, and fellow students. The alternative to such a process would be an individual's summary judgment. We feel that the Student Organization Hearing Panel (SOHP) process is a far better way to address and respond constructively – and educationally -- to issues involving student organizations, always proceeding with full recognition of the law.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia B. Bartscher".

Patricia B. Bartscher
University Counsel