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July 17, 2012

Mr. Robert Shibley, Senior Vice President
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Shibley:

I have received and read your letter of July 13 and want you to know we are treating this issue with the urgency and seriousness it deserves.

With my full support, UC Davis Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Ralph Hexter, who is the campus' chief academic officer, has assembled a small team of independent subject-matter experts to assist him as he conducts a thorough assessment of the circumstances concerning Dr. Wilkes. In addition to fact-finding, Provost Hexter will develop concrete recommendations on steps we should take to ensure that academic freedom is never compromised at UC Davis. It is not only crucial that we clearly re-articulate this as policy; it is equally important that each and every member of our faculty, staff and students, as well as the public and our peers, has full confidence in our campus's unequivocal commitment to academic freedom and our tireless efforts to protect it.

I am grateful for the diligence and thoughtfulness exercised by the Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, and I have commended the Senate for acting deliberately on a matter of such importance. I have urged the Provost to complete this review and to report findings as soon as possible. We anticipate completing this process by August 31 and will have more to say at that time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Katehi".

Linda P.B. Katehi
Chancellor

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