



7 September 2005

Mr. Robert L. Shibley
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. Shibley,

I am writing in response to your letter dated August 18, 2005 to me and Professor Charles Tobey, Chairman of the Brooklyn College Faculty Council. The concern about academic freedom at Brooklyn College expressed in that letter is based on an incorrect premise regarding Professor Robert David Johnson and is therefore unwarranted. The Committee on College Integrity of the Faculty Council has never undertaken any investigation of Professor Johnson. Nor has any other official body of Brooklyn College taken any action or commenced any investigation against Professor Johnson. In sum, Professor Johnson's constitutionally protected expression of his opinions of colleagues and of dispositions theory has not been subject to any administrative review or investigation, and thus there is no basis for your concern about a possible infringement of his right to academic freedom. Rather, what has occurred is a vigorous debate among members of the faculty on an important issue. As I am sure you would agree, such a debate is exactly what academic freedom, as well as freedom of speech and of the press, is intended to protect.

Truly yours,

Christoph M. Kimmich
President

Office of the President

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