



Office of the Vice President for Legal Affairs,
General Counsel and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

203 Wilson Hall
Rochester, Michigan 48309-4401
(248) 370-3112 Fax: (248) 370-4474

December 23, 2011

Mr. Adam Kissel
Vice President of Programs
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street
Suite 510
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

RE: Joseph M. Corlett

Dear Mr. Kissel,

Oakland University's President Gary D. Russi has asked that I respond to you regarding your December 16, 2011 letter on behalf of Joseph Corlett.

Oakland University denies violating Mr. Corlett's right to free expression. While your letter and the cases you cite provide a partial and general overview of the legal framework applicable to determining issues relating to free speech and sexual harassment, your conclusions of fact and law are based only upon partial evidence; what you have been told by Mr. Corlett and your reading and interpretation of a few emails.

Mr. Corlett is not being prosecuted and he has not been punished; he is simply subject to a student conduct hearing based upon Professor Mitzefeld's complaint. The student conduct hearing procedure is neither criminal nor civil in nature, but does afford due process for all parties to bring forth and defend against allegations with whatever evidence they deem appropriate and relevant.

We are confident that the student conduct hearing procedure will resolve the matter within the university community, as it is designed to do, and as it has in the past.

Very truly yours,

Boyd C. Farnam
Assistant General Counsel