



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS
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September 12, 2016

Ari Z. Cohn
Senior Program Officer, Legal and Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
510 Walnut Street, Suite 1250
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Cohn,

DePaul received your letter of September 8th, which raised concerns about two recent decisions regarding speakers on our campus and requested that we respond by September 22nd to your inquiry. We took your letter seriously, as we did the previous letters that you have written us, and were in the process of responding in order to correct a number of key details and provide needed context for others.

However, rather than engage in a good faith dialogue, the very next day we noticed that you released a public letter, dated September 9th, condemning DePaul and repeating the story as you knew it. We can only conclude that you were not interested in waiting for a response to your letter before taking action. We are sorry that is the case, for we have taken your organization most seriously in the past. In the future, we would request more than 24 hours to provide you with further information.

For your future information, DePaul continues its longtime practice of providing students with opportunities to share political messages, even if we do not permit them to chalk our sidewalks. The university also continues to have hundreds of speakers each year on campus on a broad range of topics and opinions. We are committed in this coming academic year to revisiting our Guiding Principles on Speech & Expression and various other related policies and procedures to see that they address the issues that were raised in the aftermath of last spring's concerns. Please understand, however, we will not minimize nor ignore our obligation to do all we can to insure the safety of each member of the DePaul community.

Respectfully,

Linda Blakley
Vice President, Public Relations and Communications

Cc: Greg Lukianoff