



December 4, 2019

Robert W. Davis, Jr., Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Life  
The University of Scranton  
Scranton Hall  
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18510

*Sent via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail (robert.davis@scranton.edu)*

Dear Dr. Davis:

Thank you for your November 26, 2019 response to our letter of November 13, 2019.

You assert that our letter inaccurately described the actions of the Student Government. But FIRE explicitly noted that prior to the October 4 meeting, both the Student Government and the members of the proposed TPUSA Scranton chapter erroneously believed that a simple majority vote was all that was required to become a chartered student group.

Further, given the viewpoint discrimination evident in the transcript of the October 4 meeting, as detailed in our letter, it is irrelevant whether the threshold vote required is a simple or a two-thirds majority. The two-thirds majority requirement simply allows a smaller faction to refuse recognition based on viewpoint. In either event, the result is impermissible at an institution that promises its students freedom of expression.

We ask again that you identify a viewpoint-neutral reason for the rejection or, in the alternative, a substantive explanation as to how viewpoint discrimination is compatible with the promises Scranton makes to its students. We request a response by December 17, 2019.

Sincerely,

*Katlyn A. Patton*

Katlyn A. Patton

Program Officer, Individual Rights Defense Program and Public Records

Cc:

Scott R. Pilarz, President