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By E-Mail (adam@thefire.org)

Adam B. Steinbaugh, Director
Individual Rights Defense Program
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
510 Walnut Street, Suite 1250
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

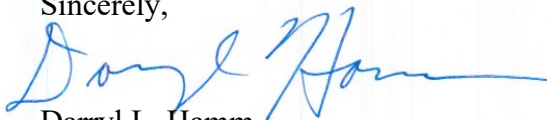
Dear Mr. Steinbaugh:

Thank you for your letter from yesterday. I would just like to confirm that the University has no plan to pursue an investigation or discipline for the social media comments from the Fresno State College Republicans described in your letter. Fresno State fully recognizes the free speech rights of our student organizations and has no intent to compromise those rights.

I will note that when the University provided its comment regarding a review of the incident, we did not intend to convey a plan for a disciplinary investigation. In your letter, you quote from some of the social media posts between the disabled veteran and the College Republicans, but at the time of the University's comment, our administrators were not certain whether there was any other conduct that could have changed the nature of the incident. If there had been additional social media posts that conveyed threats or severe harassment, we may have needed to take an alternative course of action. Fortunately, we confirmed there were no other pertinent facts impacting our actions. The speech in question, while offensive and certainly not a part of the University's core values, was nevertheless fully protected free speech.

The University considers this matter to be closed. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,



Darryl L. Hamm
University Counsel

ec: Saul Jimenez-Sandoval, President, California State University, Fresno
(sjimenez@csufresno.edu)

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