

From: **Matthew Bennett** <[mattbennett@american.edu](mailto:mattbennett@american.edu)>

Date: Wed, Feb 8, 2023 at 7:04 PM

Subject: Re: Letter from the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, December 19, 2022

To: Anne Marie Tamburro <[annemarie.tamburro@thefire.org](mailto:annemarie.tamburro@thefire.org)>

Dear Ms. Tamburro,

In response to your follow up letter, let me reiterate that student media regularly interact with faculty and staff. Faculty and staff can choose to speak to student media in their personal capacity at their own discretion. Individual faculty and staff do not speak on behalf of the university unless authorized. As noted in our response, many faculty and staff refer inquiries from student media to UCM for coordination, as those faculty and staff have full-time responsibilities supporting our students and our entire community. In these instances, UCM facilitates responses and helps to provide information sought by the student media. UCM provides thorough responses to all inquiries, which can and do include interviews and briefings with university officials. While there may be a variety of personal views about the content of a response, American University is committed to ongoing and transparent engagement with student journalists and all community members.

Sincerely,  
Matt Bennett