

ROBERT M. MYERS CAMPUS COUNSEL e-mail: myers_robert@smc.edu

March 6, 2024

By email to ida.namazi@thefire.org

Ida Namazi Program Officer, Campus Rights Advocacy Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) 700 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 340 Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Namazi:

I am responding to your letter dated February 23, 2024.

Both FIRE and Santa Monica College share a common objective of ensuring that the Constitution is faithfully observed. As I indicated in my November 13, 2023, letter, all Santa Monica College faculty, including those who select plays for theatrical performances, have the right "to select the materials, determine the approach to the subject, make the assignments, and assess student academic performance in teaching activities for which faculty members are individually responsible, without having their decisions subject to the veto of a department chair, dean, or other administrative officer."

Although we have different interpretations of the facts, we do agree that ongoing training is important to ensure that the College community is aware of their free speech rights and obligations. To this end, I have participated in several trainings for College managers and student leaders and will continue to do so in the future.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT M. MYERS

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