



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS

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January 3, 2024

Via Electronic Mail (zach.greenberg@thefire.org)

Mr. Zachary Greenberg
Senior Program Officer, Campus Rights Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression

Dear Mr. Greenberg:

UT Austin holds fast to its commitment to the First Amendment and our faculty's academic freedom. At a time when some are becoming suspicious of higher education institutions, it seems important to stress that free speech and academic freedom are not just casual concepts at our University. These are essential principles guiding us every day.

Your letter, sent to University leadership and simultaneously posted on X, asserts that we've missed this mark with two teaching assistants. But your letter is based on a version of events that is both incomplete and inaccurate. Of course, no teaching assistant was reassigned for sharing information about mental health resources. And neither was dismissed.

As an institution, we maintain fidelity to the law and our policies. This is true regardless of external pressures like those present in this circumstance. As I'm sure you are aware, this matter is proceeding under university policy. I'm confident that process will allow the complaints of the teaching assistants to be carefully considered.

With your letter, you included two releases signed by the teaching assistants. Presuming you'd like to make a request for public information from the University, you may do so through our Public Information Portal at the following URL:
<https://utexas.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/rs/supporthome.aspx>. I'm also happy to connect you with our Chief Public Information Coordinator if you have questions about that process.

We hold a shared interest in protecting First Amendment rights. The University does not shy away from discussions about the contours of the law in practical everyday situations like our classrooms. I welcome future conversations with FIRE and its leadership about this shared interest and commitment.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amanda Cochran-McCall".

Amanda Cochran-McCall
Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel

cc: Will Creeley, Legal Director
Ronnie London, General Counsel