



DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

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By First Class Mail and Fax (215-717-3440)

David French
President
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
210 West Washington Square, Suite 303
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. French:

Thank you for your letter of April 19 to President Wright. On behalf of Dartmouth College, I am pleased to respond to your inquiry.

We appreciate your positive comments regarding Dartmouth's freedom of expression policy. I can confirm that neither President Wright's May 10, 2001 letter nor Dean Larimore's May 11, 2001 letter represents a binding statement of Dartmouth College policy or can be relied upon to support a complaint based on the content or viewpoint of controversial speech. The student handbook statement that you reference does constitute our policy and has since its adoption many years ago. The two letters represented President Wright's and Dean Larimore's views on a matter of controversy, and each stands by the sentiments expressed in his letter. The decision last year to remove the two letters from the College's web site was taken to end confusion about their role.

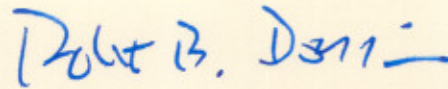
It is also important to note that neither of the other two events cited in your letter - President Wright's September 2004 convocation address and my recent guest column in *The Dartmouth* -- represents a change in College policy. Rather, these events reaffirm the College's longstanding commitment to the values of respect for others and the free exchange of ideas.

As indicated by his September, 2004 convocation address, which you quote, President Wright holds strong beliefs about his responsibility to speak out on issues

affecting our own campus as well as higher education issues of national importance such as affirmative action, freedom of expression, the role of athletics and other matters. For example, President Wright recently joined 15 other college presidents and higher education leaders in a statement supporting the Ford Foundation's "Difficult Dialogues" initiative, which is aimed at promoting academic freedom and open discourse on college campuses. He and Dean Larimore look forward to continuing discussion of these and other issues with students, faculty, alumni/ae, and other educators in the coming months.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours very truly,



Robert B. Donin

cc: James Wright
James Larimore
William Neukom
T.J. Rodgers