

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield

Office of University Counsel
258 Henry Administration Building
506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

September 13, 2011

Mr. Azhar Majeed
Associate Director of Legal & Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dr. Cary Nelson, President
American Association of University Professors
1133 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

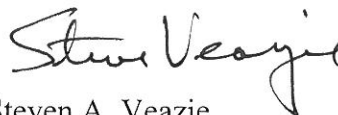
RE: Draft Provisional Electronic Communication Policy Document

Dear Mr. Majeed and Dr. Nelson:

Your September 9, 2011 letter to Chancellor Easter has been referred to me for response. I have conferred with Dr. Easter and others who have been considering the draft Provisional Electronic Communications Policy Document, and they have decided to slow down the review and approval process until the important issues which you raise can be examined. There are complexities in defining University-owned computing resources. While the University has a legitimate interest in defining and regulating the appropriate use of University-owned resources, members of the University community must not be intimidated or confused in the exercise of their First Amendment rights.

First Amendment considerations need to be front and center in any articulation of University policies on computer use, to ensure that constitutionally protected speech is fully protected. I think your letter raises a number of important points, and we will take those into account in making appropriate revisions. Thank you for taking the time to bring these issues forward.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Veazie
Deputy University Counsel

Copy: Robert Easter
Joyce Tolliver
Matthew B. Wheeler
Senate Executive Committee
Michael Corn

Urbana • (217) 333-0560 • Fax (217) 244-2370

Chicago • 1737 West Polk, Suite 405, Chicago, IL 60612 • (312) 996-7762 • Fax (312) 996-6455
Springfield • 578 PAC • One University Plaza • Springfield, IL 62703 • (217) 206-7796 • Fax (217) 206-6511