



December 13, 2011

Peter Bonilla
Assistant Director, Individual Rights Defense Program
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Bonilla:

I am responding on behalf of Dr. Gogue to your letter dated December 9, 2011 regarding Auburn University student, Eric Philips, and a banner that was displayed in his residence hall window. The following policy, noted in your letter is listed in Auburn University's Guide to Residential Living:

1.4 Decorations

- 1.4.1 Hanging Items: The use of products (nails, screws, glue, duct tape, double sided tape, etc.) which will damage walls (i.e. create holes, peel off paint or leave behind residue) is prohibited.
- 1.4.2 Painting: Painting of university property is prohibited.
- 1.4.3 Shelf Paper: The use of adhesive-backed shelf paper is prohibited.
- 1.4.4 Doors: The removal or cutting of doors for any purpose is prohibited.
- 1.4.5 Windows: Hanging or displaying items such as flags, banners, decals, or signs out of or obstructing residence hall windows is prohibited.
- 1.4.6 Alcoholic Beverage Containers: The use of alcohol beverage containers (any type) as displays is prohibited.
- 1.4.7 Holiday Decorations: The use of natural cut trees, branches, or greens is prohibited. Failure to disconnect all electrified decorations prior to leaving for semester break is prohibited.

The policy adopting a total ban was implemented this academic year and enforcement is ongoing. We are committed to the consistent and nondiscriminatory enforcement of this policy and will address this matter directly with Mr. Philips along with all residents when school resumes this spring.

Sincerely,

Amy Hecht
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
Auburn University

Cc: Ainsley Carry, Vice President for Student Affairs
Becky Bell, Director, Residence Life
Kim Trupp, Director, Housing