



Bucknell
UNIVERSITY

Office of the General Counsel
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June 11, 2009

Mr. Adam Kissel
Director, Individual Rights Defense Program
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Bucknell University
Your letter of May 21, 2009

Dear Mr. Kissel:

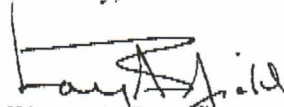
We received your letter dated May 21, 2009. Although we understand the fervor with which your organization polices suspected violations of constitutional protections, we believe it is misplaced in the instances you cite. Neither instance is a matter of free speech. To the contrary, they are matters of campus safety and fairness. Given the range of views explored freely and openly at Bucknell from the classroom to the performance hall, it is self-evident that Bucknell is committed to the free exchange of ideas.

In the first instance – distribution of handbills at the primary entrance to the cafeteria for students – all organizations are required to register and be approved for use of that campus space. Registration prevents cross-scheduling; ensures management of traffic flow in a highly trafficked area; helps the University prepare to manage any possible reactions to these events that might require preparation, including for the safety of those involved; and ensures that such distributions are limited to campus groups or Bucknell students. BUCC is aware of these long-standing requirements, having availed themselves of them for previous uses of the space.

The second instance – disparate racial pricing for doughnut sales – was prohibited because we cannot and do not permit facially discriminatory practices. If students wish to engage other students in related discussions, there are opportunities for doing so that do not require us to sanction disparate treatment of our students, faculty, staff or visitors based on ethnic, racial, gender, religious, or other demographic distinctions. We have communicated to BUCC on several occasions in this instance alone that it may discuss these issues in several University venues.

Please note that we do not agree with your recitation of the facts and this response should not be taken as such, but rather than debate specifics we hope this response will clarify our position sufficiently.

Sincerely,



Wayne A. Bronfield
General Counsel