

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

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

Dear Mr. Kissel:

I write in response to your correspondence to President Simon dated November 26, 2008. Given that this matter is still going through the University's judicial process, responding to the specifics of your inquiry would be premature.

With respect to your general assertions that free expression is threatened at MSU, you are mistaken. MSU strongly believes that the rights guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution must be protected. Indeed, the University has a long history of protecting these rights for all of its community members. President Simon has reaffirmed this commitment on multiple occasions, including in her statement on free speech rights and responsibilities, located at [http://president.msu.edu/dissent\\_vs\\_disruption.php?statement\\_free](http://president.msu.edu/dissent_vs_disruption.php?statement_free).

The University's policies that govern computing at MSU do not punish citizens for engaging in protected expression as you allege. Faculty, staff, and students are free to criticize University policies and to engage in campus debate. There are multiple forums available for doing so. Members of the University community, however, may not send bulk ("spam") email over the University's electronic network, regardless of the sender's viewpoint, if such a transmission would violate policy. The University's electronic network is a resource provided to faculty, staff, and students in connection with the academic, research, and business functions of the University. The University's regulations restricting the posting of unwanted spam email on its network are not only reasonable and content/viewpoint neutral, but they are necessary to safeguard the time and interests of those pursuing excellence across the University's mission of instruction, research, and service outreach.

Sincerely,



Lee N. June, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs and Services

Cc: President Lou Anna K. Simon, Ph.D.  
Vice Provost David Gift



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