



April 8, 2014

Susan L. Wheeler
University Counsel
James Madison University
Office of University Legal Services
MSC 7614
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807

Sent via U.S. Mail and Facsimile (540-568-3400)

Dear Ms. Wheeler:

Thank you for your response of November 26, 2013, to FIRE's letter detailing our concerns with several policies that infringe on James Madison University (JMU) students' First Amendment rights. A copy of FIRE's original letter of November 12, 2013, is enclosed here for your reference.

As FIRE mentioned in our letter, we currently award JMU our highest, "green light" rating for campus speech codes, a result that came about in large part because of the hard work of JMU students who were deeply committed to free speech on campus. Following JMU's policy reforms, numerous media outlets praised JMU's commitment to free speech, and the university's student newspaper, *The Breeze*, said that "it's become clear that JMU is a true believer in free speech." ("JMU earns highest rating for free speech from FIRE," Sept. 18, 2011).

As we wrote in our November 12 letter, however, several policies now threaten JMU's continued green light status. Although your response indicated that the university would be reviewing those policies, they are all still in place nearly half a year later. Therefore, I am following up with you today to discuss whether there are any updates on those revisions.

It is our sincere hope that JMU will revise the policies discussed in our November 9 letter before the fall, when FIRE's annual speech code ratings must be finalized. Regrettably, failure to bring those policies in line with the requirements of the First Amendment will result in a reconsideration of JMU's current green light rating. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

We request a response by April 29, 2014.

Sincerely,



Samantha Harris
Director of Policy Research

Encl.

cc:

Jonathan Alger, President, James Madison University

Josh Bacon, Director of Judicial Affairs, James Madison University

Don Egle, Senior Director of Communications and University Spokesman, James
Madison University

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Kelly Jemison

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