



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

Office of the President

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May 18, 2026

Dominic Coletti
Program Officer, Campus Rights Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression

Re: "Just-Opposed: -- Administrative Response

Dear Mr. Coletti:

Pensacola State College writes in response to your letter of May 12, 2026.

We write first to clarify our position and provide details relevant to your most recent correspondence. As you acknowledged, no violations of academic freedom rights were committed. During the Spring 2026 term, Graphic Design and Journalism faculty collaborated on a class project; per the assignment, students from both courses worked together to create a print-ready magazine titled "Just Opposed." The assignment was completed, and all students received grades without administrative involvement.

Importantly, no requests were made to the College administration to publish the magazine and make it publicly available. In March, roughly halfway through the Spring 2026 term, however, faculty did request funding to print copies of the magazine with the expressed purpose of providing all enrolled students a physical copy of the magazine for their portfolios. The distinction between "publishing" the magazine and "printing" copies for students' personal use only is important both factually and legally.

Increasing challenges regarding the interpretation and subsequent compliance of statutory requirements are important to note as well. Initially, the College followed a particular interpretation of Florida Statute 1004.06 Prohibited expenditures, but after a full review of this matter, which included legal counsel, the College has determined that funding the printing of the magazine lies within its educational mission and does not violate state law. Thus, the College has funded the printing of 100 copies of "Just Opposed" to be used for students' personal use only, per the original request and approval. The process to print the magazine has begun. As a reminder, the College currently sponsors three student publications and is not considering another at this time.

This decision to fund the printing of the magazine reflects the College's consistent position that student academic work deserves institutional support and that the proper role of administration is to facilitate rather than impede student success. The College's commitment to student success extends beyond the classroom, as indicated by the

funding of a printed copy of the magazine for use in a print portfolio. The College retains discretion over how it utilizes the funds it is provided to comply with the state and federal law, institutional policy, and budgeting constraints. The College takes exception to the allegations that any of its administrators or personnel violated the law.

The College appreciates FIRE's ongoing interest in student rights. We trust this matter is now resolved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Meadows". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ed Meadows
President

cc: Dr. Erin Spicer, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
Dr. Brenda Kelly, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs
Mr. Braden Ball, General Counsel