



Student Affairs

March 8, 2006

Samantha Harris
Program Officer
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms Harris

In my role as Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, responsible for oversight of campus activities, President Sample asked me to respond to your letter dated February 22, 2006, regarding the incidents involving free speech that occurred on our campus on January 23 and 26, 2006.

USC is fully committed to free and open expression which our Vice President for Student Affairs has re-affirmed in an open letter the USC community printed on March 6 in our student newspaper, The Daily Trojan (see attached for a copy of the letter).

The staff member who stopped the student performance on January 23, and who also attempted to halt the student protest on January 26, did so independently, and not at the direction or request of any university official. Our policies on freedom of speech and expression do not place any inappropriate limitations on the nature or content of speech. We have used this opportunity to re-educate our staff and other members of our campus community with regard to the University's policies on free speech and expression.

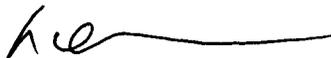
You also raised a number of additional concerns in your letter:

Free Speech Zone: USC's policies on freedom of speech and expression do not limit free speech to any particular place or space on campus. Students are free to exercise their free speech rights anywhere, and without prior permission, provided such engagement does not disrupt or substantially interfere with the regular and essential operations of the university and does not violate the rights of others. We have designated Trojan Square specifically as a place for members of the university to engage in civil discourse so that we can ensure that there will always be a dedicated venue on campus for members of the university community to gather and to engage in such dialogue.

USC's Policy on Advertising, Promotion and Literature Distribution: We currently are reviewing this policy to determine if clarifications are required.

Please know that the university does not in any way endorse the actions that occurred related to the events on January 23 and January 26. We are confident that our university continues to uphold the highest standard for free speech and expression.

Sincerely,



Lori S. White, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Enclosure

cc: Steven B. Sample, President
Carey Drayton, Assistant Chief, Department of Public Safety
Eddie Marquez, Assistant Director, Topping Student Center
Bryan Hunt, Public Safety Officer