

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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May 20, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL
(fire@thefire.org)

Adam Kissel
Vice President of Programs
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: UCSB College Republicans' Event Featuring David Horowitz

Dear Mr. Kissel:

I am Campus Counsel for the University of California, Santa Barbara ("UCSB"). I am writing in response to your letter dated May 6, 2011, addressed to Chancellor Yang regarding the UCSB College Republicans' ("CR") recent request for funding of the above-referenced event featuring David Horowitz.

We appreciate your bringing these concerns to our attention. However, your letter indicates a fundamental misunderstanding of the underlying facts surrounding this matter. Initially, the Associated Students ("AS") Finance Board refused to recommend funding for this event to the AS Legislative Council due, in part, to the fact that CR did not send an informed representative to the Board meeting who would be capable of responding to the Board's questions regarding the funding request. Please note that the AS Legislative Council has final say on AS funding decisions, not the Finance Board. CR subsequently sent an informed representative to the Legislative Council meeting wherein the funding request was reconsidered and partially approved by the Legislative Council.

It is important to note that CR's requested funding was for audio-visual equipment and ordinary security costs. AS did not impose any additional security fee requirements upon CR for this event. Moreover, AS's custom and practice is to not fund audio visual for any student events – irrespective of the content of the presentation. Accordingly, the Legislative Council ultimately voted to deny that portion of CR's funding request that pertained to audio-visual and approved the majority of the ordinary security fees.

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Consequently, the funding approval was based on neutral criteria unrelated to the message content of the event. As such, the Legislative Council's partial approval of CR's funding request is consistent with Constitutional standards.

We trust that the foregoing clarification of the facts surrounding this event will allay the concerns you raised with respect to freedom of expression at UCSB. Again, thank you for brining your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Greenan Hamill".

Nancy Greenan Hamill
Campus Counsel

cc: Henry T. Yang, Chancellor