

Office of the President

November 15, 2005

Mr. Robert Shibley  
Program Manager  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education  
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Shibley,

I am writing with regard to your inquiry about Marshall University's alleged discriminatory practices in our UNI 101 course. Although these sections appear to be based on race, they are in fact made up of both white and African-American students. Their emphasis is on special issues African American students face in the transition to college life at a predominantly white institution. White students as well as African American students are interested in this issue. African American students who are not as interested in these issues, or who are required to register for a major or college-specific section, do not enroll in one of these special-interest sections.

We are currently in the process of making UNI 101 a mandatory course for all freshmen and are revamping it accordingly. We have maintained the major- and college-specific sections but will maintain or increase the number of special-interest sections from which students may choose. These will be indicated with a descriptive statement in our Schedule of Courses each semester. We will continue to offer some sections that focus on Special Issues of African-American students and these will continue to be open to all students.

I hope this answers your concerns about UNI 101 at Marshall University.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Kopp  
President