

SF SANTA FE COLLEGE
Office of the President

February 1, 2013

Mr. Peter Bonilla, Associate Director
Individual Rights Defense Program
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. Bonilla:

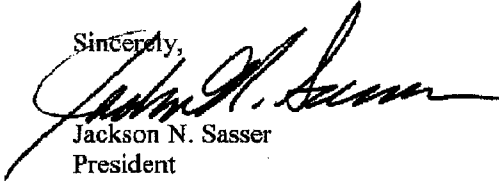
Santa Fe College protects and values the rights of students to engage in free speech. The First Amendment right to free speech is of paramount importance to our mission to educate students and prepare them to be leaders in our society. Civil discourse and peaceful assemblies are encouraged by the College in creating a dynamic academic atmosphere.

I appreciate the opportunity to clarify the facts in this case in response to your letter of January 30, 2013. My research reveals that a meeting took place. However, students were in no way threatened or warned against having a protest or carrying an empty holster, nor were they put under the threat of any sort of censorship or possible arrest. In fact, one individual carried an empty holster during the meeting and was neither censored nor adversely affected in any way. Moreover, the Chief of Police suggested additional venues to increase the dialogue on issues relating to gun laws, including a suggestion for a forum in connection with the College's Democracy Commitment. The Santa Fe College Police Department and administration fully respect the College's students and their rights.

Santa Fe College has administrative rules governing the dissemination of information and the use of College facilities. These rules are not a substantial burden on student speech and they are necessary to ensure the uninterrupted operations of the College. The process outlined in the Student Leadership and Activities Handbook for all student organizations who wish to utilize College facilities can be found online. Student organizations such as Young Americans for Liberty (YAL) must complete an Event Registration Form and file this form with the College. The College in no way discriminates in approving or denying any request by a student organization to use facilities. The procedures are necessary to ensure a safe and orderly campus and allow the College to devote the appropriate resources to the event. If YAL chooses to turn in an Event Registration Form for a protest or demonstration, I have no reason to believe that the Director for Student Life would have any reason to deny the student organization's request if made in a timely manner. Of course, individual students also have the right to engage in peaceful assemblies outside of their membership in student organizations.

In sum, the College, including its police department, recognizes the importance of spirited and intellectual debate, and has adopted rules concerning student activities that are narrowly tailored to serve its compelling purposes. We encourage such debate and will respect the ability of students to engage in it.

Sincerely,



Jackson N. Sasser
President

JNS:pns