

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



October 7, 2010

Vice President for Student Affairs
25 East Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-2201
312/362-8854
FAX: 312/362-5671

Mr. Will Creeley
Director of Legal and Public Advocacy
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street Ste 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Creeley:

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 30 to Rev. Holtschneider regarding the registration of "Students for Cannabis Policy Reform" as a recognized DePaul student organization. Rev. Holtschneider has asked me to respond.

The University plays a role in educating students about safe decision-making around issues of health and wellness. Considerable research indicates that the use of cannabis does not contribute to healthy decision-making, particularly in college-age populations. Given the above, the University determined that recognizing the "Students for Cannabis Policy Reform Group" as a DePaul student organization would not be congruent with our institutional goals regarding the health and well-being of our students.

As articulated in DePaul's Guiding Principles on Speech and Expression, DePaul is "committed to fostering a community that welcomes open discourse." Registration as a recognized student organization is by no means that only path to debate and discourse on the DePaul campus. Rather, there are myriad opportunities for students to gather together and express their views to the larger community regarding the use of and/or legalization of cannabis. These include programming partnerships with other student organizations or academic departments, promotional tables with off-campus entities, or by engaging student media. DePaul welcomes the interested students to engage the community in these discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Doyle".

James R. Doyle
Vice President for Student Affairs

CC: Rev. Dennis Holtschneider, C.M., President
Suzanne Kilgannon, Director, Student Life