

CAL POLY

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May 15, 2009

Greg Lukianoff, President
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. Lukianoff:

I am writing on behalf of Pres. Warren Baker to acknowledge receipt of your May 6, 2009, letter regarding CARE-net, a proposed project at Cal Poly intended to expand the opportunities of students and other community members to voice concerns about incidents involving possible bias or discrimination at Cal Poly and seek assistance regarding appropriate responses. The project is still under development and we do not expect implementation to take place before next fall at the earliest.

You have raised concerns about the consistency of the CARE-net project with our obligations to protect free speech rights for all members of our community. I want to assure you that CARE-net will not function to suppress controversial, offensive, or any other kind of protected speech. However, your letter illustrates that the project description initially placed on our website could be open to misinterpretation.

Whenever implementation occurs, we expect it will be done in a manner consistent with constitutional and statutory principles, as well as our various collective bargaining agreements and campus policy. To ensure that the intent of the project and its consistency with applicable law and policy are communicated more fully and clearly, the CARE-net website has been temporarily suspended while revisions are made.

Thank you for providing FIRE's perspective regarding this matter. We will consider it along with other comments and suggestions as we continue to work on developing the initiative.

Sincerely,



W. David Conn
Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Undergraduate Education