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April 19, 2016

Marieke Tutin Beck-Coon
 Senior Program Officer, Individual Rights Program
 Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
 510 Walnut Street, Suite 1250
 Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Ms. Beck-Coon:

Thank you for your letter of April 13, 2016, sharing your concerns about the campus last week. We appreciate your bringing the matter to our attention.

The University of Delaware understands and values its students' right to free speech. We would like our campus to be a place where students can freely express their views and values. While we are in the business of the law, but as educators we also want them to consider and appreciate the importance of free speech. As we both know, the fact that speech may be protected by the First Amendment doesn't mean it won't be harmful to others.

Our police officer was well-meaning and clearly he was not accurate when he stated that the drawing was prohibited by the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy. There are many situations when a drawing of a penis is not considered sexual harassment.

Just as you do, we commend our officer for his concern and interaction with the students. He never threatened to stop them from engaging in their activity or to censor the words on the "Free Speech Ball" himself. And while we do agree that the University's policy enforcement of "most if not all students will self-censor to avoid a fine" and apparently was not the case here since the students continued tabling, we have never more than but declined to censor the poster. We have not censored any poster on the University's campus since 2008.

The University of Wyoming is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. We welcome you to engage in our community and to express your views and perspectives.

Once again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely,



Nancy Targert
Acting President