

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield

Office of University Counsel
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506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801

July 30, 2010

VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL

Mr. Adam Kissel, Director
Individual Rights Defense Program
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

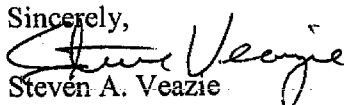
RE: Dr. Kenneth J. Howell

Dear Mr. Kissel:

Mr. July 16, 2010 letter to Interim Chancellor Robert Easter has been referred to me for response. I want to confirm Dr. Howell's status with the University pending completion of the review being undertaken by the Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure. The School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics has contacted Dr. Howell to offer him the opportunity to teach Religion 127, Introduction to Catholicism, on a visiting instructional appointment at the University of Illinois, for the Fall 2010 semester. Dr. Howell will be appointed and paid by the University for this adjunct teaching assignment.

Like any instructor for the University, Dr. Howell will be expected to provide instruction in a manner that adheres to and does not violate Constitutional principles precluding the establishment of religion in a public university context. In addition, the University of Illinois is committed to upholding principles of academic freedom and the requirements of the First Amendment. Nothing in this letter is intended to express or imply that such principles have been violated by previous events.

The Faculty Senate's Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure will continue its review of the situation surrounding the earlier decision not to offer Dr. Howell a teaching appointment for the fall semester, and we look forward to receiving this committee's report.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Veazie
Deputy University Counsel

- Copy: Michael J. Hogan
- Robert A. Easter
- Richard P. Wheeler
- Ruth V. Watkins
- Ann Marie Mester
- Robert J. McKim
- Jeffrey Dawson
- Matthew W. Finkin