



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

University Council

University Council

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January 21, 2010

Mr. Adam Kissel
Director, Individual Rights Defense Program
FIRE
601 Walnut Street, Suite 510
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Kissel,

Your January 4, 2010 letter directed to President Host has been forwarded to me for response. In your letter, you express concern regarding security charges for an event sponsored by Temple University Purpose ("TUP") on October 20, 2009. We are pleased to be protecting freedom of expression and assure you that Temple University does not assess fees upon student groups in a manner that is unconstitutional or that otherwise violates the law.

TUP initially was charged \$576 for the event. The charge was assessed on a flat fee type regardless of program content. A charge of \$224 was assessed for the additional security requested by TUP even though the cost of the requested added security amounted to more than \$6,000. Notably, Temple absorbed substantially all of the more than \$6,000 cost for extra security that was requested by TUP. As you know, the \$6,000 could have legally been imposed upon TUP because it was based not upon program content, but upon the request of the student organization. Finally, the event was held in an academic lecture hall and student organizations generally are charged for the use of academic space. However, the university absorbed that cost for TUP as well.

Should TUP find it impossible to pay the \$224 balance out of its Student Activities budget, I would encourage its leadership to speak directly with Jason Levy and the fee will be waived. And if you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Valerie I. Harrison
Associate University Counsel