



Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

601 Walnut Street, Suite 510 • Philadelphia, PA 19106
T 215-717-3473 • F 215-717-3440 • fire@thefire.org • www.thefire.org

David French
PRESIDENT

September 6, 2005

Greg Lukianoff
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND
PUBLIC ADVOCACY

President V. Lane Rawlins
Office of the President
PO Box 641048
Washington State University
Pullman, Washington 99164-1048

Rob Pfaltzgraff
VICE PRESIDENT OF
DEVELOPMENT,
MANAGEMENT, AND
MARKETING

Linda Chaplin
Director of Student Services
College of Education
PO Box 642152
Washington State University
Pullman, Washington 99164-2152

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Charles Kors
CHAIRMAN

Harvey A. Silverglate
VICE CHAIRMAN

William J. Hume
Joseph M. Maline
Michael Meyers
Marlene Mieske
Daphne Patai
Virginia Postrel
Ed Snider
James E. Wiggins

URGENT

Sent by U.S. Mail and Facsimile (509-335-0137, 509-335-4677)

Dear President Rawlins and Director Chaplin:

FIRE appreciates your quickly making clear that elementary education student Ed Swan will not be forced to sign an unconstitutional contract requiring that he hold certain beliefs to continue his enrollment in the teacher education program at Washington State's College of Education.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Lloyd Buchanan
T. Kenneth Cribb, Jr.
Candace de Russy
William A. Dunn
Benjamin F. Hammond
Nat Hentoff
Roy Innis
Wendy Kaminer
Woody Kaplan
Leonard Liggio
Herbert London
Peter L. Malkin
Milton Rosenberg
John R. Searle
Ricky Silberman
Christina Hoff Sommers

However, the mere fact that Swan was not required to sign the contract does not allay the concerns of either Swan or FIRE about Washington State's insistence on judging its education students based on their political beliefs. Indeed, Director Chaplin's letter of August 31, 2005, to Swan emphasized that Swan will still "be evaluated using the...Professional Dispositions Evaluation for Field Experiences." As discussed in our previous letter, both the Professional Dispositions Evaluation (PDE) form itself and, particularly, the College of Education's application of it to Swan violate the U.S. Constitution.

Put simply, Director Chaplin's letter made it clear that Swan will still be judged on the same bases that inspired Washington State professors and staffers to give Swan low marks for expressing negative opinions about the school's official version of diversity, for dismissing "white privilege" and "male privilege" as major problems, for expressing opposition to homosexual adoption, and for using the word "wetback" in a paper when describing what some Mexicans call recent

