

## Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

---

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

Greg Lukianoff  
PRESIDENT

Robert L. Shibley  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

William Creeley  
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND  
PUBLIC ADVOCACY

Adam Kissel  
VICE PRESIDENT OF  
PROGRAMS

Alan Charles Kors  
CO-FOUNDER AND  
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harvey A. Silverglate  
CO-FOUNDER AND  
CHAIRMAN

Barbara Bishop  
William J. Hume  
Richard Losick  
Joseph M. Maline  
Marlene Mieske  
Daphne Patai  
Virginia Postrel  
Daniel Shuchman

### 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  
Muriel Morisey  
Steven Pinker  
Milton Rosenberg  
John R. Searle  
Christina Hoff Sommers

November 4, 2011

Chancellor Robert Coombe  
Office of the Chancellor  
University of Denver  
2199 South University Boulevard  
Denver, Colorado 80208

*Sent via U.S. Mail and Facsimile (303-871-4101)*

Dear Chancellor Coombe:

conscience on America's college campuses. Our website, thefire.org, will give you a greater sense of our identity and activities.

FIRE is concerned about the threat to free speech and academic freedom presented by the University of Denver's (DU's) punishment and finding of sexual harassment against Professor Arthur N. Gilbert after roughly 50 years of teaching. Although his academic peers cleared him of sexual harassment allegations and criticized the merit and impact of the allegations, DU's provost has nevertheless refused to abandon the university's ill-considered, illiberal prosecution, taking

DU's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODE

DU's "Faculty Personnel Guidelines Relating to Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure," approved by DU's Board of Trustees, identify the importance of academic freedom at DU. This document states that "The purposes of tenure are to assure academic freedom in both teaching and research and to afford a basic security that will attract faculty of ability to the University" and frequently refers to academic freedom as a DU faculty member's right. In promulgating this document, DU has essentially bound itself to the legal and moral requirements of academic freedom. In the free speech context, the Supreme Court of the United States has held that academic freedom is a "special concern of the First Amendment" and that "[o]ur nation is deeply committed to safeguarding academic freedom, which is of transcendent value to all of us and not

