

th August 200

# NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

A private university in the public service

Office of the President

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John M. Lukianoff  
President

Gregory Lukianoff, President  
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education  
601 Walnut Street, Suite 10  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. Lukianoff:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts  
apologize for responding tardily.

The University rejects your assertion  
publicly that no time did the University say that  
is that no time did the University say that  
disparaging of the cartoons. Indeed, the reverse  
Municipal community at NYU that the display  
to say that because of NYU's commitment  
sports club by the Objectivist Club would go

ate on the day of the event -- indeed  
to state that the Objectivist Club indicated that  
in order to be allowed to invite non-Universities  
decision was made wholly and exclusively by  
contact them and ask to see the email they sent  
in Student Affairs, with whom they were dealing.

Because all institutions have a responsibility  
properties can go forward without the threat  
of the level of fractiousness that arose over  
violence that had attended the cartoons in other  
decided to limit attendance to an audience from  
the University community; this same step has  
speeches and events. When the possibility of  
with student organizers in a meeting almost  
opposed and merely wished to obtain feedback

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Events held by student organizations are principally meant to serve the student community and the broader community at NYU. The definition of an open meeting at NYU is that it is open to the NYU community, not the broader community. Given the diversity of views within our large population of students, scholars, and administrators – we are the largest private university in the U.S. – NYU rejects the assertion that free speech was in any way abridged.

As to the issue of tickets: it is impossible to know, when someone picks up a ticket, whether he or she intends to attend an event. We do not query ticket buyers about their intentions, and I know of no institution that does. On the day of the event, the student organizers came to the Student Affairs staff to share their concerns that tickets were being picked up by members of the NYU community who intended not to use them, that they would not have their audience, and that they would like to invite their list of outside guests to ensure that they would have an audience. In response, those administrators told them that if there were sufficient space in the auditorium at the time of the start of the program, they would accommodate the club to ensure that its guests were admitted regardless of whether they had actual tickets. If the students had instead chosen to go forward with the event with the cartoons displayed, the Student Affairs staff would have made similar accommodations for members of the University community who wished to attend but did not have a ticket.

Although I believe your organization has conscientiously provided a thoughtful and accurate narrative in describing this NYU event, freedom of speech and the free exchange of ideas are such enormously important values that I fully understand and appreciate the passion you bring to this matter. Nonetheless, after full consideration, I disagree with and reject your assertions of censorship on the part of the University.

Sincerely,

  
John Sexton

Cc: Members of the NYU Board of Trustees