



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

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September 5, 2006

President William Brody
The Johns Hopkins University
Office of the President
242 Garland Hall
3400 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Sent via U.S. Mail and Facsimile (410-516-6097)

Dear President Brody:

FIRE is distressed to write to The Johns Hopkins University (JHU) for a third time regarding the state of liberty on your campus. FIRE first wrote to JHU on May 19, 2006, to object to the violation of freedom of the press regarding *The Carrollton Record (TCR)*. After receiving an ambiguous response from JHU Deputy General Counsel Frederick Savage, FIRE next wrote to JHU's Board of Trustees on August 9 to inform them about the university's refusal to protect freedom of expression for *TCR*. Again, JHU's response was entirely inadequate, as Executive Director for Communications and Public Affairs Dennis O'Shea failed to address any of FIRE's concerns regarding press freedom at JHU.


FIRE now writes to ask you to answer three simple questions:

- 1) Does JHU plan to continue the investigation into the complaint of harassment filed against *TCR* staff members after the May issue of *TCR* was distributed?
- 2) Does JHU plan to condemn the theft of approximately 600 copies of *TCR* from the Milton S. Eisenhower Library that took place between May 13 and 14, 2006?
- 3) Does JHU intend to clarify its arbitrary and viewpoint discriminatory distribution restrictions that subject *TCR*, but not other campus papers, to a vague "postering policy" in order to keep issues of *TCR* out of the dorms?

If JHU hopes to facilitate an environment conducive to "the free and open exchange of ideas," as O'Shea stated, then it will address the issues that FIRE has presented. As the fall semester commences, FIRE calls upon JHU to protect the freedom of expression and equal treatment of the members of *TCR* and all JHU students. Again, until JHU assures FIRE and the entire campus community that

free speech is welcomed at JHU, FIRE will continue to use all of its resources to support the staff of *TCR* and the freedom of the student press. We request a response by Wednesday, September 13, 2006.

Sincerely,



Greg Lukianoff
President

cc:

Raymond Mason, Chair of the Board of Trustees, The Johns Hopkins University
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Shelly Fickau, Residential Life Director, The Johns Hopkins University
Dennis O'Shea, Director for Communications and Public Affairs, The Johns Hopkins University
John Miller, Politics Editor, *National Review*
Jered Ede, Editor, *The Carrollton Record*