



Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

01 510 • 1 10
T 215- 1 -34 3 • F 215- 1 -3440 •

March 31, 2006

Interim President Joe Crowley
University of Nevada, Reno
Office of the President/001
Reno, NV 89557-0016

Sent by U.S. Mail and Facsimile (775-784-6429)

Dear Interim President Crowley:

As you can see from our Directors and Board of Advisors, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) unites leaders in the fields of civil rights and civil liberties, scholars, journalists, and public intellectuals across the political and ideological spectrum on behalf of liberty, legal equality, freedom of religion, academic freedom, due process, and, in this case, freedom of speech and expression on America's college campuses. Our website, thefire.org, will give you a greater sense of our identity and activities.

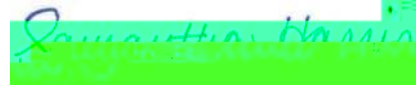
FIRE sTf4(d a -17.2T)-1rcern.or-,000Tc 0 17.2Tcerica.dMN[(a,ts)Tj0 Tc 0 Tw -17 8rrs and

In recent months, students at UNR have expressed their outrage over UNR's restrictive policies. In February, the Graduate Student Association passed a resolution calling upon the university to uphold the First Amendment rights of its students by allowing free speech all over its campus. It is our understanding that the Associated Students of the University of Nevada is considering a similar resolution.

As a public institution, UNR is legally obligated to uphold the First Amendment rights of its students and faculty. It has failed to do so. UNR's establishment of free speech zones that restrict and corral free expression is legally insupportable. The only possible defense of UNR's policy would be that it is a "reasonable time, place and manner" restriction as allowed by cases like *Ward v. Rock Against Racism*

FIRE is committed to using all of its resources to abolish the unconstitutional limits on freedom of expression at UNR. We request a response on this matter by April 14, 2006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Samantha K. Harris". The signature is written over a solid black rectangular background.

Samantha K. Harris
Program Officer

cc:

James E. Rogers, Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education

Bret Whipple, Chair, Nevada Board of Regents

John H. Frederick, Executive Vice President & Provost, University of Nevada, Reno

Ed Johnson, President, Graduate Student Association

Jeff Champagne, President, Associated Students of the University of Nevada

Annie Flanzraich, Editor, Nevada Sagebrush

Gary Peck, Executive Director, ACLU of Nevada

Allen Lichtenstein, General Consul, ACLU of Nevada