

April 22, 2008

President Bernie Machen
University of Florida
Gainesville FL 32611

President Machen,

With this letter I am providing you the final report of the Ad hoc Committee on a Civil, Safe, and Open Environment, which you created in October 2007 to review the University of Florida's policies, regulations and practices following an incident at which a student was Tasered at a speech by Senator John Kerry.

As the report reflects, our committee has met bi-weekly for the past six months to develop a basic understanding of the issues surrounding our charge. We have interviewed experts, provided tutorials for each other on a variety of pertinent topics, and in all cases attempted to be completely transparent in our dealings with each other and the larger community. From the outset we understood that public trust was essential to the success of our project and have worked hard to earn the respect of the entire university community, no matter the positions taken by individual community members. We held two public fora, one at the start and one near the end of our work. More recently I made a presentation to and took comments from the UF Faculty Senate. I have personally responded to every communication I have received in my role as committee chair.

As our report makes clear, the Committee, like the rest of the UF community, places a very high value on the role of protected free speech at the University of Florida. We now understand more clearly how fragile such protections can be, and how vigilant we all must be to assure that this "marketplace of ideas" remains civil, safe, open, and available to everyone on campus. We hope that you will embrace the recommendations we have made, and use the power of your office to assure they will be implemented as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



Kim Tanzer
Chair, Committee on a Civil, Safe and Open Environment