

# DEPAUL UNIVERSITY



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April 12, 2006

Laura Hartman, Ph.D  
Management Department  
DePaul University  
1 East Jackson Blvd., Ste. 7000  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Laura,

I would like DePaul to begin the process of creating a speech & expression policy (although I leave the exact title of the ultimate policy up to you). I have asked Helmut Epp to select someone to head a committee that will engage in this process, and it is my understanding that he has nominated you to coordinate DePaul's efforts.

I would like the policy committee to be comprised of a wide variety of members from the DePaul community—including representatives from Faculty Council, Staff Council, and SGA; as well as several representatives from the administration, including representatives from Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, the Office of the Secretary, and the Office of the General Counsel—although again, I leave the exact composition of the committee to your discretion.

I anticipate that the policy will grapple with some difficult issues regarding speech and expression. Obviously, it is imperative that the policy cautiously protect and preserve the expressional rights of all members of the DePaul community. However, it is also important to keep other important values in mind as you craft the policy—including DePaul's commitment to tolerance and productive lively discourse, as well as the necessary practicalities of managing a large community.

As a starting point, I would like the policy to include guidelines for (i) campus events/activities (including events sponsored by student organizations), (ii) written communications distributed on-campus, and (iii) using campus technology. I'm sure that this list is not exhaustive, and that as the policy development process unfolds, you and your committee will identify other similar arenas in which specific guidelines for expressional rights will have to be delineated. To the extent that you identify these areas, please feel free to bring them within the scope of your policy. However, I do not anticipate that this policy will tackle the issue of academic freedom, although it may impact the expressional rights of community members other than students, which naturally could in some instances include faculty.

I have great respect for your judgment in these complex matters. Thank you very much for helping to take on this extremely important issue. I look forward to working with your committee as needed, and to seeing the final results of your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dennis H. Holtschneider". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

(Rev.) Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M.  
President