

January 25, 2012

Chancellor Nicholas Zeppos
Vanderbilt University
211 Kirkland Hall
Nashville, Tennessee 37240

Dean James Hudnut-Beumler
411 21st Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37240-1121

Re: Town Hall Meeting regarding Students' Religious Liberty

Dear Chancellor Zeppos and Dean Hudnut-Beumler:

As president of one of the religious groups that the University has placed on provisional status, I share your hope that the upcoming town hall meeting will be a time when the Vanderbilt community better understands the University's decision to prevent religious groups from having leaders who share the groups' religious beliefs. I am encouraged that the University is attempting to provide a forum for the healthy, intelligent discussion of the University's position. I agree that it is essential for the University community to understand that everyone is committed to preventing discrimination on campus and why many groups believe the University's current policy interpretation itself discriminates against religious students. Through this meeting, the Vanderbilt community can hear the best arguments for each side and draw its own conclusions as to the better position. As you noted, these discussions support "diversity of thought and opinion among our students, faculty and staff."

I am confident that the University wants both sides to receive equal treatment in this public forum. However, it seems unrealistic to expect University officials to present a position with which they obviously strongly disagree. It will be an unfairly lopsided program if the religious groups are limited to asking a few questions of the University official who may not fully understand the position of the groups on provisional status.

For that reason, I would request that a spokesperson for the religious groups be given five to ten minutes to speak during the planned part of the program. I would be happy to present the religious groups' position or could suggest another spokesperson if you would prefer. Please let me know by email at Justin.P.Gunter@Vanderbilt.edu if you will provide a short time during the program for a spokesperson for the religious groups, in order to make this event an authentic town hall meeting.

Respectfully,

Justin Gunter
President, Christian Legal Society Student Chapter at Vanderbilt University

From: "Hudnut-Beumler, James David" <james.hudnut-beumler@Vanderbilt.Edu>

Date: January 27, 2012 4:50:23 PM CST

To: "Gunter, Justin Philip" <justin.p.gunter@vanderbilt.edu>

Cc: "Helland, Patricia Anne" <patricia.a.helland@Vanderbilt.Edu>

Subject: **Tuesday night non-discrimination policy meeting request**

Dear Mr. Gunter,

I received your letter addressed to me and the to Chancellor Zeppos, indicating that you would like to be allocated ten minutes to present your position at Tuesday night's forum.

I am writing to say that we welcome you and other community members asking questions about the non discrimination policy and its application to student religious groups at Vanderbilt from the floor. We are hopeful that many students representing many groups will help foster understanding by addressing their questions and concerns to Provost McCarty and Vice Chancellor Williams, who are senior officials in charge of the areas of student life, religious life, and the non-discrimination policy's enforcement.

I hope to see you there and I hope you encourage others who have concerns about religious freedom and expression in the student body to attend as well.

Sincerely,

James Hudnut-Beumler
Dean
Vanderbilt Divinity School
411 21st Ave S
Nashville, TN 37240