



SOUTHEASTERN LEGAL FOUNDATION
Rebuilding the American Republic®

November 19, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Mr. George Ahmadi
University of Oklahoma Student Government and Organization Services
kga@ou.edu

Re: Follow Up: First Amendment Violations at the University of Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Ahmadi:

Thank you for your response to our November 6, 2020 letter regarding concerns about the treatment of Turning Point USA members and other conservative students on your campus.

We are glad to hear that the University of Oklahoma takes seriously reports of spitting, assault, and abusive conduct toward all students, including conservatives, and that you have encouraged members of TPUSA to report any future attacks to University administration.

In your response, you admit that SGA has no authority to pass resolutions that unconstitutionally infringe on students' First Amendment rights. You also note that the University President has the power and duty to veto any unconstitutional SGA legislation. We trust that SGA will not abuse its authority to intimidate or coerce OU students into silence. But in the event SGA threatens to pass unconstitutional resolutions in the future, we trust that the University President and other members of OU faculty and staff will reject them immediately.

Although the actions of SGA members over the course of this semester have been disappointing, we are pleased to know that the University community understands the importance of free and open discourse and will do everything in its power to protect it. We appreciate your promise on behalf of the University to ensure that the views of TPUSA members and other conservative students will receive the same respect and constitutional protection as all other views.

SLF is hopeful that students at OU have become alert to the dangers of stifling speech, even speech they do not agree with. It is imperative that college remains a "marketplace of ideas" where students are free to exchange ideas to develop a common understanding. Even where they lack the full force of authority, campus leaders—especially members of SGA—must set an example for their peers which values open inquiry, debate, and respect for all beliefs.

Yours in Freedom,

Kimberly S. Hermann
General Counsel
Southeastern Legal Foundation