

Email to the President

Dusty Harrington Case, October 2025

From: Dusty Harrington
To: President Ellen Navarro
Subject: Urgent: Academic Freedom and the Crisis of Conscience on Campus

President Navarro,

I am writing with genuine concern about the moral and intellectual collapse happening within this institution. I have dedicated my career to teaching students how to think critically, yet I now find myself in an environment where critical thought is punished when it challenges the wrong power structures.

Over the past two weeks, I have been “advised” by your office to “tone down” my references to ongoing atrocities in Gaza. I was told my comments could “inflame tensions.” That phrase HAUNTS me. What kind of university fears TENSION more than TRUTH?

Academic freedom is not a decorative value for accreditation brochures. It is the FOUNDATION of higher education. The moment we silence faculty voices to maintain COMFORT or DONOR SATISFACTION, we cease to be a university in any meaningful sense. We become a BRAND.

I am aware that my recent messages have “raised concerns.” My concern is for INTEGRITY, not optics. The cowardice of silence is not neutrality; it is COMPLICITY. I will not be complicit.

I would appreciate clarification on whether faculty are still permitted to speak publicly about matters of GENOCIDE, HUMAN RIGHTS, and MORAL PHILOSOPHY without administrative censorship. If the answer is no, then at least let’s stop pretending this place still values TRUTH.

I am not looking for a fight. I am looking for HONESTY.

Respectfully (though exhausted),

Dusty Harrington
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