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TO FAX NUMBER: 931.490.7989

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ATTENTION: Mr. Christopher Travis Barham

DEPARTMENT: Litigation Staff Counsel
ADF Center for Academic Freedom

SUBJECT: Dr. Kenneth J. Howell

FROM: Steven A. Veazie

COMMENTS: _____

HARD COPY TO FOLLOW: YES NO

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VIA FACSIMILE & FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL

July 15, 2010

Mr. Travis Christopher Barham
Litigation Staff Counsel
Alliance Defense Fund Center for Academic Freedom
12 Public Square
Columbia, TN 38401

RE: Dr. Kenneth J. Howell

Dear Mr. Barham:

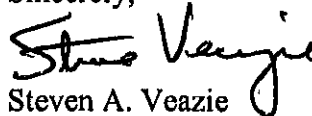
Your July 12, 2010 letter to President Hogan and other University administrators has been referred to me for response.

The University is fundamentally committed to upholding the principles of the First Amendment and academic freedom. The University of Illinois Statutes (policies adopted by the Board of Trustees) state that it is the policy of the University to maintain and encourage full freedom within the law of inquiry, discourse, teaching, research and publication and to protect any member of the academic staff against influences, from within or without the University, which would restrict the member's exercise of these freedoms in the member's area of scholarly interest.

There are additional facts that I want to bring to your attention, some of which have been either ignored or misunderstood by various accounts, and some that have occurred after you sent your letter. First, contrary to some reports, Prof. Howell has not been "fired." He held, and continues to hold, the appointment of adjunct professor. Second, his teaching assignment for this coming fall is as yet undetermined pending a review of this matter by the Faculty Senate's Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (CAFT).

While I do not want to speculate on the outcome, the CAFT and University administrators who you wrote to are fully committed to upholding principles of academic freedom and the requirements of the First Amendment. The University has not implemented any action which would violate these principles or Dr. Howell's legal rights. For these reasons, there is no case or controversy upon which legal action would be warranted at this time.

Sincerely,



Steven A. Veazie
Deputy University Counsel

Copy: Michael J. Hogan
Robert A. Easter
Richard P. Wheeler
Ruth A. Watkins
Robert McKim