



**SOUTHEASTERN LEGAL FOUNDATION**  
Rebuilding the American Republic®

October 16, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Vern Davenport  
Chairman of Board of Trustees  
East Carolina University  
vern.davenport@gmail.com

Re: Unconstitutional First Amendment Violations: Campus COVID-19 Policies

Dear Mr. Davenport:

We are writing to you regarding the letters we have sent to administrators and members of the Board of Trustees at ECU over the course of the last month.<sup>1</sup> It is our understanding that the Board has upcoming meetings on November 5 and 6, 2020. As you prepare your meeting agenda, we would like to bring these letters to your attention again.

It is imperative that ECU students understand where the University stands on First Amendment freedoms. As our past letters show, ECU faculty, staff, and administrators have discriminated against the views of some students while supporting the views of others. Students also need clarity regarding exactly how ECU will handle specific instances of student expression, such as bringing speakers to campus, hosting rallies, and participating in student organization meetings. Students are forced to make difficult decisions as they look ahead to the spring semester. If the University does not address students' First Amendment rights or does not indicate that it will support the rights of *all* students to engage in the freedom of assembly and expression, these students will not feel comfortable returning to campus.

On behalf of these students, we respectfully request that you address the concerns presented in our prior letters during your November meetings.

Yours in Freedom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly S. Hermann".

Kimberly S. Hermann  
General Counsel  
Southeastern Legal Foundation

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<sup>1</sup> See *SLF Ltr. to ECU re. COVID Policies* (Sept. 16, 2020); *SLF Follow Up Ltr. to ECU re. COVID* (Sept. 24, 2020), attached to the body of this email.

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