

1. Fagal letter to Marywood faculty, March 17, which describes the events of February 22. The letter also includes a survey about student free speech (e.g. hanging items on dorm room doors) and a stamped addressed reply envelope.

Dear Fellow Faculty,

March 17, 2006

On the morning of Wednesday February 22, 2006 Sister Margaret Gannon ordered me to remove from the exterior of my office door a cartoon picture of Mohammed. The cartoon was one of the very famous "Danish cartoons" which have been related to continued worldwide upheavals. Under protest I immediately removed the picture. Sister Margaret told me we had some Muslims in the department, and "we" did not want to offend anyone.

At my request Sr. Mary Reap was kind enough to meet with me at 4 pm that very day. She told me there was a tradeoff between the value of free speech and other values such as the right of others to not be offended by someone challenging their deeply held beliefs [e.g. that Mohammed's likeness should not be published]. I did in fact have to remove the cartoon. We had a civil and frank discussion.

Do you support free speech on campus?

I am trying to gauge faculty support for free speech, and enclose a survey sheet and self-addressed stamped envelope that I ask you to please fill out and return to me (regardless of your stance on the issue). I have provided a stamped self-addressed envelope.

You may go right to the survey, or perhaps you'd like to read the scenarios below and return the scenario sheet with a big X crossing out each "dorm door scenario" you think should NOT be allowed, i.e. what examples of free speech outlined below would YOU restrict?

Thank you very much

Sincerely,

Fred Fagal fffagal@juno.com cell 315-406-8063

P.S. Some of you may be interested in the following article about Larry Summers & Harvard:

<http://www.proteinwisdom.com/index.php/weblog/entry/19989/> Hat Tip: instapundit.com

FREE SPEECH SCENARIOS: (concentrating on the dorms because the students are the paying customers and are not employees)

Some students know what has happened to me and have expressed their outrage and support. For students the issue may be illustrated by the **following feasible scenarios (each likely to offend someone...)**. **Is there a "right" to be not offended? I don't think so. Please think about it.** We can be trained and programmed to perceive slights at even the merest of comments. Thick skins can be useful... Free speech comes with some costs, but we have some power to decide how "hurt" we will be by works [sic -should be words]... Who is in charge? See **especially # 13**

below...

1 Do you support the right of a residence hall student to post on her or his door a news story which severely criticizes the pope's stance on some issue?

2 How about a story which, based on the Hurricane Katrina response, said white Americans and Republicans [of all kinds] were racists?

3 How about a story which criticized New Orleans Mayor Nagin for being a black racist?

4 What if someone posts on their door "Let's arrange a non-profit 'Girls Gone Wild' spring break trip bus trip to Florida. Inquire within. The more the merrier and the cheaper."

5 How about a story which vilifies Yale University for admitting a former Taliban spokesman [anti-gay and anti-women much?] as a Yale student, while Yale sought to deny the US military the right to recruit on campus because of a law Congress passed regarding "don't ask, don't tell?" The story notes that congressmen and congresswomen who voted for the law are of course welcomed to the campus....

6 How about a student who posts an article saying polygamists should go to hell and that the new HBO television show *Big Love* is the work of the devil? Can one risk offending polygamists or polyamorists? We don't want to upset polygamists do we? After all, one can make (say) a libertarian argument in favor of such arrangements...

7 What if a student makes a sign for her or his door, accompanied by a small crucifix, and the sign reads "Join the Catholic Church – I think the only way to heaven is to be a good Catholic"?

8 What if a black student places on his door a Xerox copy of an Associated Press story where Louis Farrakhan claims Jews are the source of problems in the black community.? Yellow highlighting is used to emphasize Farrakhan's remarks.

9 What if a conservative white student posts the exact same Farrakhan story as the black student?

10 What if a Muslim African exchange student posts the same Farrakhan article with the same highlighting?

11 What if a student posts a picture of Che Guevara on his or her door? How about Pol Pot? How about Hitler? How about Stalin? How about David Duke?

12 Can a student hang on his door a cartoon picture of President Bush with a monkey face and swastikas on his sleeves? Such pictures do exist...

13 What if someone brings to the administration the statement/proposal "Muslims believe women should be covered and are offended when women are not covered. So as not to offend anyone, all women on the Marywood campus should be covered in a hajib."

The last scenario is not over the horizon. It is here. Pressures along these lines are building around the world, and to think they will not come here is (I think) *very* naïve.
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L10525192.htm>

GROZNY, Russia, March 10 (Reuters) - The pro-Moscow Chechen government has

started to demand that female state workers wear headscarves, women in the turbulent Muslim region said on Friday.

"I received a verbal warning that if I did not wear a headscarf, I would lose my job. I had to wear it the next day so as not to bring trouble on my head," said one woman who works in the regional administration and asked not to be named.

A spokesman for the region's new prime minister, Ramzan Kadyrov, who has pushed through a series of Islamic decrees, denied the headscarves were compulsory and said women were merely encouraged to cover their hair.

But women used to the rough tactics of Kadyrov's government, which is accused of mass abduction and torture in its hunt for separatist rebels, took the suggestion as law.

Thank you for thinking about this. PLEASE return the survey.

Sincerely,

Fred Fagal fffagal@juno.com cell 315-406-8063

Please return the following to me by US Mail (stamped addressed envelope provided !)

(see accompanying letter) [printed on one page to save me copying costs]

Please **circle the position you support: [my red signature to prevent ballot copying]**

signature Fred Fagal

Position 1

"I support free speech on Marywood's campus."

If you are willing to NOW **publicly** support Position 1 please let me know by signing your name (and then printing it). (See below if you support Position 1 but not (yet ?) publicly.)

Optional signature (publicly supporting Position 1)

Optional Printed Name supporting Position 1

Position 2

“Free speech on Marywood’s campus must be responsible, and therefore must be limited so as not to offend deeply held beliefs that some people may have.”

Optional Signature supporting Position 2 [opposing Position 1]

Optional Printed Name supporting Position 2 [against Position 1]

Position 3

“I either cannot make up my mind, or I hold a more nuanced position, or I simply do not want to commit in any way to a position.”

Optional Signature supporting Position 3

Optional Printed Name supporting Position 3

Do you support Position 1 but do not (yet?) want to “go public” ?

"Many people fear nothing more terribly than to take a position which stands out sharply and clearly from the prevailing opinion. The tendency of most is to adopt a view that is so ambiguous that it will include everything and so popular that it will include everybody. Not a few men who cherish lofty and noble ideas hide them under a bushel for fear of being called different."

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Strength to Love

Highly Recommended book (use Google for reviews) Timur Kuran (1995, Harvard Univ. Press) *Private Truths, Public Lies: The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification*

It’s very likely some (many?) of you support Position 1 but have understandable concerns about what expressing such a position may mean for you personally. Many people privately were anti-communists (note how

quickly the Berlin Wall came down), but were only willing to say/do so when enough others [e.g. Vaclav Havel, Aleksander Solzhenitsyn] had spoken or acted first. As more people spoke out and went on the streets, the Eastern Bloc (and Russia) rapidly fell.

“Tipping phenomena” are at work when someone says “I will speak out when x % of the people have spoken out and have the same views I do.” We all have a different value for x.

Professor A (strongly held views, single, no kids or close relatives, tenured, thick-skinned, ready to retire in a few years) may speak out very readily and lead the way and not give a darn about any possible consequences.

Professor B (tenured, age 48, a few kids, likes to be liked by all and on the good side of administrators) holds Position 1 but only speaks out when a (“large enough”) majority of the tenured faculty has publicly expressed support for Position 1.

Professor C (age 32, not tenured) more or less holds Position 1 but will only speak out when 80% of all the faculty and more than 90% of the untenured faculty have come out in favor of Position 1.

IF you *privately* support Position 1, please fill in the blanks below:

I am (Tenured /Not Tenured) [circle or underline] and I *will publicly support Position 1 when*

a minimum of ____ % of the tenured faculty support Position 1 and a minimum of

____ % of the non-tenured faculty support Position 1.

If you wish, you may contact me in **full confidence** that I will give NO clues to anyone about your support. If you oppose Position 1 and wish to contact me, I will of course respect any wishes you have regarding full confidence.

Thank you for considering what I think if a very important matter for Marywood and our country and Western Civilization. Sometimes it is time

to stand up...

Sincerely,

Frederick F. Fagal Jr.

Associate Professor of Economics, Marywood University

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