

October 7, 2016

Mark Mercer, PhD
President, Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship
PO Box 33056 Quinpool Centre
Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

Dear Professor Mercer:

Thank you for your letter of October 5 concerning the Code of Student Conduct matter reported in the *London Free Press* <http://www.lfpress.com/2016/10/04/western-university-the-school-in-a-statement-on-racist-signage-says-its-investigating-online-images-and-slogans-that-traded-over-the-weekend-on-social-media>

While I believe you have already consulted Western's Code of Student Conduct, allow me to draw your attention to its location on our website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>

Among the principles outlined in its introduction, the Code states:

- 4. The University encourages students to set for themselves the highest standards of behaviour off-campus, including behaviour conducive to the peaceful and safe enjoyment of housing by both students and neighbours. The University does not condone behaviour that infringes upon the rights of the University's neighbours or that brings the University's good name into disrepute.*
- 5. Students are reminded that they are equally responsible for observing the standard of conduct set out in this Code when using any means of electronic communication to send or post messages or material, including the use of social media sites.*

In light of these considerations, our administration initiated an investigation when members of the community brought complaints to our attention about the nature of the message printed on the banner (i.e., its apparent trivialization of the "Black Lives Matter" movement) and the fact that an image of the banner was being disseminated via social media.

At the time of responding to your inquiry, the investigation of this matter remains ongoing and any outcomes will be pursued in accordance with the processes and policies outlined in the Code.

Sincerely,



Amit Chakma
President & Vice-Chancellor

cc. Janice Deakin, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)
Jana Luker, Associate Vice-President (Student Experience)