



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

College of Social
& Behavioral Sciences

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July 19, 2018

Mr. James Hannley
3615 Prince Village Place
Suite 181
Tucson, AZ 85719

Dear Mr. Hannley,

I am embarrassed to inform you that I misplaced your letter of last September and only recently discovered it when going through stacks of papers on my desk in anticipation of the new school year.

I want to thank you for your thoughtful and incisive comments on the Center for the Philosophy of Freedom (Freedom Center). I would respond by confirming that in spite of the widely known viewpoints of the Koch brothers, the Foundation's financial support of the Freedom Center – which effectively expired years ago – did not purchase any political leverage on our hiring practices.

The college is committed to supporting a faculty with a diversity of viewpoints. That SBS is the home of both the Freedom Center and Professor Noam Chomsky attests to this commitment. What is more, I have encountered considerable heterogeneity in the social and political philosophies of the faculty associated with the Freedom Center. With diversity, we are told, comes strength, and in the case of political philosophy, we can proudly point to a number one world ranking in 2017-18 by the Philosophical Gourmet (<http://34.239.13.205/index.php/theory-of-value/>).

I am in complete agreement with you in your assessment of the importance of adequate state support for public higher education in Arizona. As the father of two alumni from UA, I agree with you that it is in our collective best interest to see that the quality of this institution improves with each passing year.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the University of Arizona.

Sincerely,

John Paul Jones III, Dean





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September 20, 2017

Re: U of A Center for Philosophy of Freedom

Dear Dean Jones,

I am a graduate of the University of Arizona; class of 1975 and my majors were psychology and sociology. Both of these fields of study are housed in your college today, I believe. I am deeply grateful to the University of Arizona and to the state of Arizona for the fine education I received. I have been "paying this forward" by my service to the university. For the past five years I have been a member of the Univ. of Arizona Poetry Center's Development Council and prior to this, I served on the Africana Studies Community Advisory Board for about ten years. I also contribute financially to the Univ. of Arizona Foundation.

I am writing to express my concern about the presence of the Center for Philosophy of Freedom ("the freedom center") at the college of SBS and of the programs it has initiated. It is my understanding that this entity has its own \$2M direct appropriation from the Arizona Legislature. Furthermore, it is also funded by grants from the Koch Brothers Foundation; an organization that is dedicated to advancing the philosophy of Ayn Rand. Rand called this philosophy "objectivism" or "rational objectivism". Others simply call it "Randism".

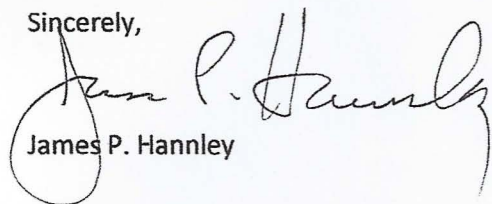
The Koch brothers are political activists who have formed the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to advance policies hewing to Randism. ALEC has had considerable influence upon legislation in many states, including Arizona. Randism has been the dominant ideology in the Arizona legislature for many years with many members of the state legislature regularly attending ALEC meetings and proposing bills crafted by ALEC. This influence has manifested in Arizona statutes and budgets that have deregulated industries and cut income and corporate taxes. This revenue reduction has caused deficits that are met with reduced government services and funding for state institutions; including public education.

The event that has caused me to write at this time is the upcoming colloquy called "Public Goods and Education" to be presented by faculty member Jonny Anomaly, PhD. Dr. Anomaly's presentation as previewed on the center's webpage calls into question the role of government in education (i.e. "public education"). It suggests that government involvement is unhealthy for society and may advance an

agenda that threatens individual liberty. Dr. Anomaly will argue that public education is undesirable; that society is better served if people must buy education from private corporations. Such a view, in my opinion is patently anti-social, undemocratic and in a sense un-American since our society has long held that an educated population is the bedrock of our democracy; that self-determination requires an educated populace. This view also has racial implications. People of color are over represented in impoverished America. It is widely accepted that education is the way out of poverty. If education is not provided publicly then those who cannot afford to buy education for their children will go without. Dr. Anomaly's views, as previewed are classically Randist.

I hope the irony is not lost upon you that here, at a land-grant institution we now have a presence that is advancing a philosophy that eschews taxation and spending on public institutions! It is also grimly ironic that the center; espousing individualism and the evils of the state was established *by* the state at a state educational institution. Dr. Anomaly's caution about state interference in advancing ideology through public schools is well taken. Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,



James P. Hannley

Cc: Dr. Robert C. Robbins, President, U of A; Bill Ridenour, Chair, ABOR; James Walsh, Esq., Chairman, U of A Poetry Center Development Council

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