From: Chancellor Kent Syverud
To: Libby A Barlow
Subject: Message from Chancellor Syverud
Date: Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:40:50 PM



June 22, 2017

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

Recently, a professor at Syracuse University issued a short statement via social media during a demonstration in the city. The statement is susceptible to multiple interpretations. Some have urged that, because their interpretations involve violence (interpretations the professor rejects), our University must discipline the professor.

I have received messages to this effect, some of which are hard to interpret in any way other than to encourage violence. They insist that the University—and that I—denounce, censor, or dismiss the professor for her speech.

No. We are and will remain a university. Free speech is and will remain one of our key values. I can't imagine academic freedom or the genuine search for truth thriving here without free speech. Our faculty must be able to say and write things—including things that provoke some or make others uncomfortable—up to the very limits of the law. The statement at issue is, I believe, within those limits. I intend to act accordingly.

Sincerely,



Chancellor Kent Syverud