



SOUTHEASTERN LEGAL FOUNDATION
Rebuilding the American Republic®

August 5, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Mr. John M. Delaney
UNG Dean of Students,
Blue Ridge and Dahlonega
john.delaney@ung.edu

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Alyson Paul
UNG Dean of Students,
Cumming and Gainesville
alyson.paul@ung.edu

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Michelle Brown
UNG Dean of Students,
Oconee
michelle.brown@ung.edu

Re: Follow Up: Reporting COVID-19 Concerns about Others

Dear Mr. Delaney, Ms. Paul, and Ms. Brown:

We are writing to follow up about our July 27, 2020 letter written on behalf of concerned citizens. In it, we expressed concerns with the University of North Georgia (UNG) COVID-19 Concern Form, through which students could report other students for potential COVID-19 symptoms. As we explained, the Form is likely to result in an invasion of student privacy, is unconstitutionally vague, and opens the doors to both First and Fourth Amendment violations.

In the week following our letter, UNG amended its Concern Form, renaming it the COVID-19 Safety Concern Report and moved its location on its website. Although the Concern Report looks different than the Concern Form, the requested information remains largely the same. The biggest change between the Concern Form and the Concern Report appears to be clarification that the information provided to the Dean of Students will be used only “to share appropriate resources and health guidance and to initiate support services as needed.” This clarification was needed and we are hopeful that it means that UNG will not impose unconstitutional consequences or conduct unconstitutional investigations after receiving a report.

We also remain hopeful that it will alert students that they should not use the Concern Report to infringe on their fellow students’ First Amendment rights. It is imperative that the Concern Report not be used as a vehicle to further expand the “cancel culture” that has taken over our great nation and is no doubt in full force on our country’s college campuses.

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Southeastern Legal Foundation appreciates your prompt response to our July 27 letter. We trust that UNG will administer this reporting scheme in the way the new Concern Report describes. Most importantly, as students return to campus, we trust that UNG will enforce its COVID policy in a constitutional manner and do everything it can to protect its students' constitutional rights.

Yours in Freedom,

Kimberly S. Hermann

Kimberly S. Hermann
General Counsel
Southeastern Legal Foundation
560 W. Crossville Rd., Ste. 104
Roswell, GA 30075

cc: Student Health Services (stuhealth@ung.edu)
Brooke Taylor (brooke.taylor@ung.edu)
Christy Morrison (christy.morrison@ung.edu)
Sara Zerkel (sara.zerkel@ung.edu)