

NORTHWESTERN PRESIDENT SCHAPIRO RESPONSE TO 23 GROUPS RE: SWASTIKAS ON CAMPUS

From: Morton O. Schapiro

To: Tammi Rossman-Benjamin

Subject: concern about antisemitic graffiti at Northwestern University

Date: April 21, 2015 at 3:28:34 PM PDT

Dear Ms. Rossman-Benjamin,

Thank you for your email of April 21 regarding the incidents of graffiti that occurred earlier this month at Northwestern. I appreciate your taking the time to write and express your thoughts.

I assure you that no one is more concerned about the well-being of all Northwestern students, including Jewish students, than I am. The safety and security of our students is one of our top priorities at Northwestern, and it is something we work hard at every day. Since you quote from my email to the campus community that was sent on April 14, I assume that you have seen it; in that email we reported that there were no indications of any specific danger to the campus community at that time. That remains the case. If we believed that a threat did exist to Jewish students -- or any other students -- we would take the appropriate actions in order to ensure the continued safety of our students.

Also, thank you for your suggestions regarding other statements that might be included in a subsequent message to the Northwestern campus community. We are not planning on sending any additional messages at this time, but if we decide to do so, we will consider your recommendations thoughtfully, as we will your other suggestions.

I would also reiterate my strong personal commitment, as stated in my message, that Northwestern will not tolerate any acts of hate and or anti-Semitic activity. I am very proud of the vibrant Jewish life at this great university. We have an extraordinarily strong Hillel, Jewish students are active and involved in every facet of the University, and through the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, Northwestern has significantly increased its commitment to the academic study of Jewish history, religion and culture. While incidents of racist or anti-Semitic graffiti are indeed troubling, I am confident that they do not represent the sentiment or values of the vast majority of the Northwestern community.

Again, thank you for your message and for your interest in Northwestern.

Sincerely,

Morton Schapiro
President and Professor