Dr. Ken Trantham  
President of the Faculty Senate  
University of Nebraska at Kearney  
905 West 25th Street  
Kearney, NE 68849  
August 19, 2013  

Dr. Trantham,

As I’m sure you know, the Supreme Court case of Garcetti v. Ceballos has left open the possibility that faculty speech critical of administration may not be protected by the First Amendment. In order to make sure that it is so protected, the University of California Board of Regents has recently approved an amendment of Regents Policy 7401 to guarantee the freedom to speak out on institutional governance. Inside Higher Ed on July 29 had an article about the issue at [http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/07/29/u-california-board-regents-adopts-new-measure-academic-freedom](http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2013/07/29/u-california-board-regents-adopts-new-measure-academic-freedom).

Although the University of Nebraska Regents By-Laws protect academic freedom in research and teaching, they do not address the faculty’s right of internal dissent in relation to academic governance. On behalf of AFCON, I urge the Faculty Senate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to petition the central administration and Regents to revise the Regents By-Laws in order to protect the right to speak out on academic governance.

I am sending a similar letter to the presidents of the faculty senates at UNMC, UNO, and UNK. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Edler  
President  
Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

[www.academicfreedomnebraska.org](http://www.academicfreedomnebraska.org)  

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