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Chick-fil-A

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Chik-fil-A

Submitted by: David Seaman

9/22/2012

Question:

What is the nature and extent of Georgia Southern University's relation to Chik-fil-a?

Rationale:

I ask because I have read that the CEO of Chik-fil-a has supported anti-gay organizations, and I wonder if this offends our diversity principles. It offends me.

SEC Response:

10/9/2012: the RFI was approved and referred to Jeffrey Yawn (Director of Eagle Dining services), Ron Core (Vice President for Business and Finance), and Provost Bartels.

update 10/14/12: administrative response. The University's relationship with Chick-fil-A is a licensee agreement, in which the University pays a royalty of 10% of gross sales to use the Chick-fil-A brand. The employees are all GSU employees.

Chick-Fil-A also funded one classroom at the time of construction of the original College of Business Administration building in 1995. The College of Business Administration has received no additional funding from Chick-Fil-A since that time.

Senate Response:

Minutes: 10/17/2012: RFI: Chick-Fil-A Filed by David Seaman: What is the nature or extent of Georgia Southern University's relation to Chick-Fil-A? The rationale was that the CEO of Chick-fil-A supports anti-gay organizations, and Seaman asked if this offends GSU's diversity principles, as it offends him. The administrative response is that the University's relationship with Chick-Fil-A is a licensee agreement, in which the University pays a royalty of 10% of gross sales to use the Chick-Fil-A brand. The employees are all GSU employees. Also, Chick-Fil-A funded one classroom at the time

of construction of the COBA building in 1995. The College of Business Administration has received no additional funding from Chick-Fil-A since that time.

Marc Cyr (CLASS) noted that other funded rooms in COBA have a plaque of some kind that says "thank you for donating this," but the Chick-fil-A room has three of its four walls wallpapered with images and the company history and a statement of the religious principles on which the company was founded. *[NOTE Cyr has since informed the Senate list that this is incorrect; only one wall is so papered, while the other walls have a couple of large plaques each.]* He wondered how that squared with various state and federal laws pertaining to promotion of an individual private company in a competitive market, and perhaps the separation of church and state.

Maura Copeland (Associate VP, Legal Affairs) said there should be no problem in either of those areas. Someone unidentifiable *[NOTE: There are numerous instances throughout the recording of incomprehensible statements]* said there is no evidence that the company has treated homosexuals badly in any way. Statements by company CEO Cathy, made to a biblical magazine, have nothing to do with diversity on our campus. Mynard noted that that observation was part of the administrative response that this is a purely business relationship.