

From: Afshar, Negar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2026 09:48
To: Finkel, Matthew D. <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Speaker Request Update

Good morning, Matthew,

Thank you for your submission and for the effort your organization put into the proposal. After careful review, we are unable to approve the invitation for former Congressman Allen West at this time.

As you know, our institution prioritizes fostering an educational environment that supports inclusive dialogue, respectful discourse, and student safety. After careful review of former Congressman West's public record and the proposed event, we have determined that moving forward would not align with these commitments.

Our institution is committed to fostering respectful engagement in a learning environment where all students feel safe and valued. The concerns identified through our review, including the nature of his previous campus engagements and remarks, as well as the potential impacts on our campus community, informed this decision.

This reflects our responsibility to consider campus safety, operational concerns, and the environment in which programs take place. We welcome diverse perspectives while also considering safety, respectful engagement, inclusion, and ethics, along with the operational realities of hosting campus events.

This is not intended to prevent students from engaging with differing viewpoints; rather, our responsibility is to consider the broader impact of any event on the campus community. Our goal is to support speakers and programs that challenge students intellectually while maintaining an environment grounded in respect, safety, and constructive dialogue.

We remain committed to opportunities that expose students to differing perspectives and encourage thoughtful and meaningful engagement. If your organization would like assistance identifying alternative speakers who align with your goals and our institutional values, we are happy to support that process.

Thank you again for your diligence and for your continued commitment to enriching our campus community.

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