



## Capital City Alliance

Serving LGBT Baton Rouge

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Board of Supervisors  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dear *LSU* Board of Supervisors,

As one of the founders of Capital City Alliance, a Baton Rouge based organization which promotes tolerance and equality in our Baton Rouge community, I am writing to bring to your attention, and to request appropriate action be taken regarding a very disturbing letter that had its origin on the LSU campus in Baton Rouge.

We received a copy of the attached letter dated October 3, 2007 from Dr. Denis Eenigenburg, Pastor of the Chapel on the Campus to Mayor-President Melvin (Kip) Holden. In his letter, Dr. Eenigenburg expresses his disdain for gay taxpaying citizens and his opposition to the One Baton Rouge Resolution which was under consideration by the Baton Rouge Metro Council in October of 2007. The letter makes bigoted and intolerant comments about fellow Baton Rouge citizens who happen to be gay. We trust the Board agrees that such behavior is abhorrent and should not be tolerated. I would like to remind the Board that the citizens which the Pastor so vehemently degrades, happen to also be taxpaying citizens of not only the City of Baton Rouge, but also the State of Louisiana.

As you are no doubt aware, Dr. Eenigenburg and The Chapel on the Campus occupy their site on the LSU campus pursuant to a Lease Agreement with Louisiana State University dated June 18, 1974. A copy of The Chapel on the Campus' Lease Agreement is attached for your convenience. Their Lease Agreement stipulates that they may occupy the leased land (land funded almost entirely by taxpayer dollars) at no cost to them. Accordingly, pursuant the terms of their Lease, they should be required to abide by the rules, regulations and policies of the LSU system. We trust that you agree their Lease should be enforced for the benefit of the Church as well as the LSU community and the State of Louisiana.

During the past year and a half, we have submitted to LSU system President, Dr. John Lombardi and Chancellor of the Baton Rouge campus, Dr. Michael Martin other similarly disturbing documentation concerning The Chapel on the Campus's views. In response to our submissions, we received courtesy replies acknowledging the receipt of our information. We have been disappointed, however, that there has never been any substantive follow up on our requests for inquiry into the Pastor's activities.

Although we defend and support any American's right to subscribe to and to publically express their views, regardless of how bigoted or intolerant they may be, Dr. Eenigenburg's expression of his views on behalf of the The Chapel on the Campus is a public matter and therefore requires a heightened sense of review. As an organization that is enjoying the benefits of a no-cost Lease on LSU campus land, land that is owned by the State of Louisiana and funded by taxpayer dollars (without regard to the sexual orientation of such taxpayer, I might point out), Dr. Eenigenburg and the Chapel on the Campus are obligated to abide by the regulations and policies of the LSU system and State of Louisiana laws and regulations. As the LSU Board of Supervisors, you are no doubt aware that LSU has its own system wide policy against harassment and discrimination against applicants and employees to the University. Specifically, I draw our attention to LSU Policy Statement Number PS-01 which I have enclosed for your convenience<sup>1</sup>. The Policy Statement states in relevant part:

**The purpose of this policy statement is to state LSU's commitment to provide equal opportunity for all qualified persons in admission to, participation in, or employment in the programs and activities which the University operates without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation [*emphasis added*], religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran's status, as well as to implement a procedure to address complains for those who believe they have been subjected to discrimination and/or harassment in violation of this policy.**

I applaud the University for taking such a strong stand on their commitment to provide equal opportunity for all individuals. I note with particular interest that there have been a number of prior versions of this policy and am pleased that LSU has taken such a strong stand against discrimination.

We find Dr. Eenigenburg's letter, sent on behalf The Chapel, extremely offensive and at the very least harassing to the thousands of gay citizens (many of whom work, play and study at LSU) in and around the Baton Rouge area. I have no doubt that this is most certainly a very negative exception to the Baton Rouge religious community which has worked hard not only to preach, but more importantly to practice, in daily life a message of love, compassion and tolerance for all human beings. Nonetheless, the letter's content is abhorrent and must be addressed by LSU.

We feel that the attached letter from The Chapel on the Campus, dated October 3, 2007, is prima facie evidence of violation of their Lease Agreement to occupy space on the LSU campus and we respectfully request that the LSU Board of Supervisors investigate this matter immediately, consistent with its own campus policies. We trust that LSU's investigation will be conducted in an open and transparent manner and that appropriate action will be taken in this matter.

Make no mistake, if the Dr. Eenigenburg and The Chapel on the Campus were not occupying, at no cost, taxpayer owned and funded land, you would not be receiving this request. Dr. Denis Eenigenburg and The Chapel on the Campus have chosen to disregard and violate blatantly their Lease Agreement and the strict standards and policies of LSU on discrimination and harassment and they therefore should be held accountable for their actions.

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<sup>1</sup> Policy Statement Number PS-01 can also be viewed at LSU's website at:  
<http://74.125.113.132/search?q=cache%3AAajHZUjEEukj%3Aappl003.lsu.edu%2Fups.nsf%2F%24Reference%2FE93A2F2B166AF22786256C250062AE9B%2F%24file%2FPS01%2BR05.pdf+LSU+discrimination+policy&hl=en&gl=us>

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. I speak on behalf of countless LSU faculty members, students and others in the Baton Rouge community who share in the belief that the city of Baton Rouge and Louisiana State University (including those groups that are situated on the LSU campus, and benefit from their resources) should, at all times present to the world a spirit of openness and tolerance that is welcoming to all people, no matter who they are.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Joseph Traigle

cc: [Name] Board Member  
[Name] Board Member  
[Name] Board Member  
[Name] Board Member  
[Name] Board Member  
[Name] Board Member  
Dr. John Lombardi, President  
Dr. Michael Martin, Chancellor of the LSU Baton Rouge campus  
Office of Human Resource Management  
Board of Elders, Chapel on the Campus  
Dr. Denis Eenigenburg, Pastor of the Chapel on the Campus