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Statement from Florida Atlantic University on behalf of its students, faculty, staff and president:

Freedom of speech is one of the cornerstones of this country and lies at the root of the free exchange of ideas at a university. Florida Atlantic University supports free speech unequivocally; however, the hurtful and often vicious comments posted on anonymous sites such as JuicyCampus.com do not measure up to the virtues of the First Amendment.

Last week in a Palm Beach Post article about JuicyCampus.com, the University took a stand against the kind of character assassination found on this website when discussing the damage that could be caused to students and other individuals targeted on the site. The University's Vice President for Student Affairs condemned the site.

In our letter to JuicyCampus.com customer service dated November 14, 2008, we requested removal of a misleading posting. The unprofessional response by the site administrators, who arbitrarily decided to ignore their site's user rules prohibiting the impersonation of others, illustrates that it is not simply the act of posting unsubstantiated claims about someone that is wrong; purporting to be someone you are not or claiming to be affiliated with an entity with which you are not affiliated also can cause people harm. The act of taking on anyone's identity in this fashion in essence amounts to stealing another person's voice.

It is shameful that in the age of 24/7 instant communication anonymous individuals can lay claim to the reputations of others with no repercussions.

A university is designed to educate, enlighten and serve as a forum for the free exchange of ideas. Florida Atlantic University recognizes that there are people who are going to agree with the position of this website and others like it; however, there are many people who don't. For those individuals who have been victimized in a very public fashion on forums such as JuicyCampus.com and for those who simply disagree with the nature of a site such as this, we reiterate our condemnation and urge our students, faculty and staff and all those who agree with our position to avoid sites that are geared toward damaging the lives of others.