

August 25, 2015

Rev. Sean Charles Martin, M.A., S.T.L., S.T.D.  
President  
Aquinas Institute of Theology  
23 South Spring Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

Re: Docket # 07142260

Dear President Martin:

On September 3, 2014, the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received a complaint against the Aquinas Institute of Theology (Institute), St. Louis, Missouri, alleging discrimination on the basis of race. This letter is to confirm that the Institute has voluntarily submitted a Resolution Agreement (Agreement) to resolve this complaint.

Specifically, the Complainant alleged the Institute discriminated against him on the basis of race by failing to award him credit for his History II coursework.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 100 (Title VI), which prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color or national origin by recipients of Federal financial assistance.

As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department, the Institute is subject to Title VI. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

OCR interviewed the Complainant on September 16, 2014, October 2, 2014, November 3, 2014, and December 3, 2014. On October 17, 2014, OCR sent notification letters to the parties, including a data request to the Institute. On October 31, 2014, the Institute provided OCR with a response to OCR's data request. OCR reviewed the data and, prior to completion of the investigation, the Institute expressed to OCR an interest in resolving the allegation pursuant to section 302 of OCR's *Case Processing Manual*.<sup>1</sup> OCR has not completed its investigation of this complaint to date.

---

<sup>1</sup> OCR's *Case Processing Manual* may be accessed at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrepm.html>.

Prior to the completion of OCR's investigation, the Institute submitted a signed Agreement (copy enclosed) on August 21, 2015, that, when fully implemented, will address this complaint. Please consult the Agreement for further details.

OCR considers the allegation of this complaint resolved effective the date of this letter and will monitor the Institute's implementation of the Agreement. When OCR concludes the Institute has fully implemented the terms of the Agreement, OCR will close the complaint. If the Institute fails to carry out the Agreement, OCR may resume the investigation.

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR case. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. You may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

OCR is committed to prompt and effective service. If you have any questions, please contact XXXX XXXX, Equal Opportunity Specialist, (816) 268-XXXX (voice) or (877) 521-2172 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or by email at [julie.murphy@ed.gov](mailto:julie.murphy@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

Joshua Douglass  
Chief Attorney

Enclosure