

An Open Letter to Wagner College Staff, Faculty, and Students:

The Wagner College Republicans is an organization that promotes free speech as we cherish the freedom to have differing opinions from our classmates and professors. Although we do not agree with many of the points made by the collection of faculty, we respect their First Amendment right to freedom of speech and expression. One of the great characteristics of the United States is that everyone can express their own opinion without fear of consequence. Despite this, on college campuses today, the First Amendment right of Conservatives is inhibited. Whether it is at University of California at Berkeley, or right here in New York City at NYU, there are violent riots occurring from the Left that call into question whether Conservatives are able to freely voice their opinions. We believe wholeheartedly in the right to protest and petition, but when cars are being burned, people are being assaulted, and violent chaos is occurring, that crosses the line. At that point it is no longer a protest, but a riot.

Since the November elections, members of Wagner Republicans have experienced animosity from individuals on campus, including students and professors. There has been cyberbullying and mistreatment by certain individuals to those who are in Wagner Republicans. Fortunately, we have not experienced any sort of violence and the acts of cyberbullying and mistreatment have been isolated. We want to make it clear that us Conservatives, us Republicans, appreciate the support we have gotten from everyone at Wagner, even if we do not agree with you politically. In conversations we have all had, the overwhelming majority of Wagner College has supported us with their encouragement for us to be free thinkers that express our opinions - regardless of how much we are in the minority on this campus.

We would also like to indicate that we are grateful to the many professors, several who even contributed to the letter, that have gone out of their way to ensure that politics is a multi-sided conversation. In the emerging era of safe spaces, us Wagner Republicans support the exchange of opposing ideas and we look forward to the continuation of our education here at this institution. The real world does not have “safe spaces” and it is important for us to be able to state and defend our beliefs. Through learning more about the world and listening to conversations and lectures, we are able to undergo a development of the mind. As we become more educated, we evolve on some political issues while on others we become more instilled in our beliefs. This process is treasured by Wagner Republicans and we yearn to cultivate our analytical and personal minds while we attend Wagner College. Thank you for the support.

Respectfully,

Charlton Boyd

President, Wagner College Republicans

Michael Pardo

Vice-President and Communications Director, Wagner College Republicans