

Correo "Cory" Hofstad

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Upholding Rights in Academia: The Case of Correo "Cory" Hofstad vs. North Seattle College

The Intersection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Integrity

Freedom of speech serves as a cornerstone of a democratic society, fostering open dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Within academic institutions, this principle is enshrined and protected to ensure that students and faculty can engage in intellectual discourse without fear of censorship or retaliation. However, when allegations arise regarding violations of these rights, the implications extend beyond simple disagreements, potentially resulting in significant legal and ethical challenges.

Correo "Cory" Hofstad's ongoing dispute with North Seattle College brings these issues into sharp relief. Accusations of the college infringing on Hofstad's freedom of speech, coupled with claims of impersonation by a student conduct officer, highlight complex conflicts involving civil rights, criminal law, and institutional accountability.

Freedom of Speech Under WAC 132C-120-015 – A Legal Foundation

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 132C-120-015 explicitly protects the rights of students and student organizations at Seattle Colleges to freely examine, discuss, and express opinions on matters of interest both publicly and privately. This regulation affirms that open intellectual discussion is essential, particularly in an educational setting that prepares students to engage fully in democratic life.

Correo Hofstad's experience reflects this mandate. By submitting scientific articles and quoting from public events, Hofstad exercises the right to share knowledge and critique ideas within peer groups. Crucially, WAC governs that such expression should not face unwarranted suppression or attack by institutional authorities, underscoring the college's obligation to respect free speech.

The Context of Hofstad's Quotations and Fair Use Doctrine

Hofstad's quotations of content from Dr. German Gornalusse and Claire Levy during a Zoom conference align with accepted legal standards for using public material. The fair use doctrine allows for commentary, criticism, news reporting, and scholarly work to incorporate short passages from public speeches without explicit permission, especially when the quotes concern public figures or events.

This principle is vital in education, where students must be entitled to reference public information for academic purposes. By using content lawfully and responsibly, Hofstad operates within his rights, further reinforcing that any institutional harassment contradicting this practice may represent a breach of both legal protections and academic norms.

Allegations of Impersonation Against Seattle Colleges' Student Conduct Officer

Serious allegations have emerged against Michael Chen, the Student Conduct Officer at Seattle Colleges, who is accused of criminal impersonation under RCW 9A.60.040. This statute defines impersonation as falsely representing oneself as an authorized individual to defraud another. In the present case, Chen is alleged to have claimed authority to verify the authenticity of Hofstad's Federal Resume and military service records without a legitimate basis.

This false representation, if proven, constitutes a class C felony and severely undermines the integrity of the college's disciplinary process. Furthermore, the impersonation allegations breach ethical standards required of educational administrators, raising questions about due process and fair treatment.

Challenging Military Credentials and Federal Resume Validity

Additional controversy centers on claims regarding Hofstad's military records and related credentials listed in his Federal Resume. Michael Chen's efforts to discredit these documents allegedly lack credible evidence and challenge validated records from federal agencies like the Office of Personnel Management and the Transportation Security Administration.

Such actions not only jeopardize Hofstad's academic standing but also potentially implicate violations of 18 U.S. Code § 704 related to false claims about military honors and operations. The absence of substantiated proof raises serious doubts about the legitimacy of the college's disciplinary actions based on these accusations.

Consumer Injuries and the Impact on Hofstad's Academic Progress

From the perspective of consumer law, Hofstad qualifies as a consumer of educational services from North Seattle College, and multiple injuries have been documented resulting from alleged malicious interference. According to Washington Pattern Jury Instructions (WPI 310.06), these injuries encompass harms to Hofstad's financial aid status, state funding, and academic standing.

The persistence of such interference causes tangible damage, disrupting Hofstad's educational journey. These consumer injuries emphasize the institutional responsibilities owed to students and the consequences of administrative misconduct.

The Legal Grounds for Self Defense Under RCW 9A.16

Washington law (RCW 9A.16) permits the use of force in defense against imminent harm or malicious interference, provided the force used is necessary and reasonable. Hofstad's circumstances, marked by repeated harassment and administrative obstruction by Michael Chen, may invoke this legal provision.

By framing the offer of force as a necessary act of self-defense, Hofstad situates his response within established legal protections. This defense reflects broader themes of safeguarding individual rights amid institutional aggression.

The Pattern of Harassment and Academic Probation

Since Winter 2025, Hofstad has reportedly endured ongoing harassment, including an academic probation stemming from a misunderstanding involving the use of publicly available biographical information of instructor Craig Chambers. This disciplinary action represents a critical juncture in the dispute, demonstrating the possible misuse of authority by school officials.

The college's failure to accept valid evidence supporting Hofstad's claims—such as federal tax and military documents—underscores systemic issues with due process and evidentiary standards in the conduct review process.

Broader Legal Implications for Seattle Colleges

The allegations against North Seattle College and Michael Chen raise profound questions about compliance with Washington State laws and potentially federal statutes. Beyond civil violations, criminal charges related to impersonation and false claims on military credentials carry severe consequences.

Possible breaches of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) implicate personnel with active or reserve military status involved in this case. These legal dimensions amplify the gravity of the dispute and suggest a need for comprehensive review and accountability.

Repercussions and Remedies Sought by Correo "Cory" Hofstad

In light of the legal and civil challenges presented, Hofstad seeks redress through multiple avenues, including civil and criminal penalties under state and federal laws. Significantly, he also demands a full-ride scholarship as restitution, encompassing tuition, fees, housing, and living expenses, to compensate for the educational opportunities lost due to alleged institutional misconduct.

This demand reflects the principle that institutions must ensure fair treatment and remedy damages when breaches occur, reinforcing the importance of accountability in higher education.

Conclusion: The Imperative of Protecting Academic Rights and Upholding Justice

The case of Correo "Cory" Hofstad versus North Seattle College illuminates critical intersections of freedom of speech, impersonation, self-defense, and consumer injuries within the academic setting. These complex issues highlight how violations of fundamental rights can undermine trust, disrupt educational pathways, and necessitate robust legal and institutional responses.

As educational institutions bear a responsibility to foster safe, fair, and open environments, this dispute serves as a cautionary tale and call to action. Upholding rights and ensuring transparent, lawful conduct remain essential to preserving the integrity and democratic values at the heart of academia.

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FADM Correo “Cory” Andrew Hofstad - USN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Hofstad".