

An Investigation into the Abigail Shrier Protests, and Recommendations to Prevent Future Disruptions to Free Speech

**By James A. Bacon
Executive Director
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Preamble – Why This Report?

In partnership with the Young Americans for Freedom at UVA and the Common Sense Society, The Jefferson Council hosted an Oct. 11, 2023, event on university grounds featuring author Abigail Shrier in a livestreamed Q&A session. Objecting to Shrier's message and her presence at UVA, leftist militants from the University of Virginia and the Charlottesville community sabotaged attendance of the event, violated university rules on signage to attack Shrier, abrogated an agreement with university authorities restricting where to hold their protest, crowded the entrance to the venue at Minor Hall, intimidated attendees entering the event, and harassed attendees leaving the event.

President Jim Ryan has repeatedly expressed his support for "free speech," "civil dialogue," and "viewpoint diversity." Those same noble sentiments are reflected in official statements adopted by the Board of Visitors. But there is a gulf between abstract policy and actual practice.

Our intent in publishing this report is three-fold: (1) to document the mundane reality of how "free speech" works at UVA, (2) recount the response of university authorities to the challenges posed by the trans protesters, and (3) make practical recommendations on how the university can prevent a reoccurrence of abuses.

The major recommendations are these:

- Prohibit the practice of registration spam by members of the university community as a tactic for suppressing attendance at targeted events.
- Set clear boundaries at designated protest areas to ensure separation from event attendees.
- Issue No Trespass Orders for community members who engage in disruptive behavior on university grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Bacon
Executive Director
The Jefferson Council

The Transgender Militants Mobilize

Abigail Shrier, a journalist whose work has been published in *The Wall Street Journal* and *Newsweek* among other media outlets, is author of “Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters.” She argued in the book that the spike in transgender identification among teenage girls is a form of social contagion. She also criticized “affirming” psychological and medical treatment of these girls with hormonal therapy and surgery. Members of the transgender movement have criticized her findings and denounced her as transphobic and dangerous to transgender people.

In collaboration with the Young Americans for Freedom, a conservative club at UVA, and co-funder The Common Sense Society, The Jefferson Council invited Shrier to speak at UVA on the evening of Oct. 11. Contrary to rumors circulated online, the Council did not select that date because it was National Coming Out day – an event of which the organizers were entirely ignorant. Rather, the date was selected because it followed a UNC Free Speech Alliance-sponsored appearance that Shrier, a California resident, was scheduled to make in Chapel Hill, N.C., allowing her to combine two East Coast events in a single trip.

Transphobia is at UVA. Do not
be complicit.

What can you do right now?
Reserve tickets and attend if
you can (or cannot).

Take up space. Queer students
at UVA are not going anywhere.

Allyship comes in many
different forms, but make sure
this does not go unnoticed.

The Jefferson Council began promoting the event in late September through emails to its members as well as radio ads, talk radio interviews, and articles in the Jefferson Council and Bacon’s Rebellion blogs.

Members of the transgender community quickly took notice. Discussion erupted in social media regarding how to respond. Should transgender militants disrupt the event, protest the event, or participate in the event?

Here follow some excerpts from the Queer Student Union CIO GroupMe:

- “What can you do right now? Reserve tickets and attend if you can (or cannot). Take up space.

Queer students at UVA are not going anywhere.”

- “Especially frustrating that they’re allowed to welcome Jordan Peterson associates and spew hate speech and get paid for it but us protesting or disrespecting it in any way will just fuel them to do it more and very well lead to performative liberal uva stopping us from doing it again.”
- “Fuck this, I’m so on board for protesting.”
- “Unfortunately, knowing that the university is okay w allowing hateful ppl to come to this school (pence, pompeo, other random hateful republicans) it is clear that the notion of “free speech” and “bipartisanship” is valued over the safety of their students. Having been involved w organizing efforts to get these people away from this school, it is best for us to show in numbers bc they won’t stop. Republican/right winged groups are incredibly well funded and well organized”
- “I’ll join if there’s a group going; this is such bullshit”
- “Grab food/drink beforehand, sit there and be the worst audience ever”

The following comments were posted in YikYak:

- “I mean you don’t have to be harassing, just don’t cheer and when she makes a bad point boo. I went into the Pence speech last year and it was just bigots cheering, asking questions they would get a bigoted answer from, and scream-cheering louder. It was awful.”
- “Trans rights arnt a matter of debate, and I you think that we should be debating them you are a part of the problem”
- “Buy tickets and don’t show and picket outside. Or, if you feel comfortable, buy tickets and go inside and make good trouble”
- “Oppression of a group of people isn’t a democratic debate. This woman is coming here to tell us that trans people are not valid and should not have access to basic health needs they require. That’s not right.”
- Reserve your tickets and don’t show
- “I should invest in pepper spray huh”
- “Boycotting is an exercise in the right to protest. In today’s society, it’s not enough to be against transphobia, you have to actively fight against it. trans people are being targeted and marginalized and it’s my responsibility as an ally to fight back.”

A document created by the Queer Student Union laid out a three-pronged plan for Oct. 11, which included in its “coalition” SOR, oSTEM, National Lawyers Guild, Lambda Law, WIMS, qMD, and local trans organizers. The document outlined the following forms of protest.

- Flyering/zine-creation
- Community event/open mic
- Demonstration

A digital flyer headlined “4 Demonstration Best Practices” presented by Sigma Omicron Rho (the LGBRQ fraternity), urged participants to attend “demonstration training” presented by the National Lawyers Guild to “learn your rights as a demonstrator.” The flyer also admonished protesters to “follow all rules and guidelines set by demonstration organizers.”

Registration Spam

Spreading the word through social media, transgender militants disrupted attendance at the Shrier event by bombarding the Council’s EventBrite online registration tool with registration “spam” – fake sign-ups designed to make it look as if the event had “sold out,” thereby closing out genuine attendees from registering. This is a common strategy by leftists nationally. Having experienced disruption of previous events from what we were informed were online robots, the Jefferson Council knew to anticipate trouble. We just didn’t expect so many *UVA students* to be part of the problem.

The first day the Jefferson Council opened its registration system, it filled up, and legitimate attendees were shut out. Vice President Libby Klinger, in charge of orchestrating the event, noticed that registrations were flooding in at the rate of several per minute. A friend alerted her to an Instagram post encouraging students to “take up space” at the event. Also, students in a GroupMe discussion group labeled “October 11” urged one another to reserve tickets to the event.

Klinger expanded the number of tickets, and the system promptly “sold out” again. Then she switched to a different registration system. Confusion ensued as legitimate attendees followed links from old email promotions to now-defunct URLs. “Every time I would release a new batch of tickets for individuals wanting to attend,” reports Klinger, “the ‘October 11’ GroupMe individuals would alert one another about more tickets and flood the system with false registrations until there were no

more spaces left." Eventually, she eliminated the cap and allowed unlimited registrations. That created a risk that we might overbook, but we decided to take that chance.

Spammers submitted obviously fabricated names and addresses, such as these:

Nick DiMaggio, This is Transphobic

Liam K, Cum Road

Sawk Dick, 909 Fuck Off Avenue

Transpeople Arereal, 1 One Lane

You'Re Transphobic, 124 ABC St.

Yew Soocc, 1134 N. 1st St.

You'Re Violently Transphobic, 1234 Are You seriously Writing About Trans People

ThisWoman Sucks, 1826 University Ave

Stupid Stupidly, 1428 Madison Ave

Mike Hawk, 180 McCormick Rd.

Peas Noodle, 123 Cat Street

Maya Buttrecks, 368 Emmett

Mike Litoris, Old Cabell Hall

Worry About What's In Between Your Own Legs, Obsessing Over Other People's Genitalia is Creepy, 182 5th Ave

Suq Mahdiq, 1354 Pine Grove Ave

Donald Trump, 2700 N. Cedar Crest Blvd

While we could weed out these obvious fake registrations by hand, there was no way to tell with many others. We believe that the sabotage succeeded in depressing attendance. We received numerous complaints from alumni and members of the Charlottesville community that they tried to

register but the event had sold out. If someone contacted us, we urged them to come anyway. There is no way of knowing how many did not bother to get in touch.

Registration spamming violates the spirit of the student Standards of Conduct.

“Scholars thrive in an environment that supports freedoms: of inquiry, thought, and expression,” states the office of Student Affairs website. “We’re committed to protecting these rights by supporting a safe, inclusive environment for living and learning. *Students are, in turn, expected to contribute to a positive culture at UVA by conducting themselves in accordance with a high standard.*”

The student Standards of Conduct prohibits the following: “Intentional disruption or obstruction of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, other University activities, or *activities authorized to take place on University property.*”

Clearly, the clogging of the Jefferson Council event-registration system with spam was intentional, and it was designed to disrupt or obstruct the Shrier event. The offending students, if identified, should be subjected to the discipline of the Student Judiciary Committee. Looking ahead to future events, the University should explicitly declare registration spam to be a violation of the Standards of Conduct.

Unauthorized Signage

The University of Virginia places clear restrictions on flyers and chalking in [PRM-008: Exterior Posting and Chalking](#). All affiliated persons, student groups/organizations, and unaffiliated persons may engage in posting on University property in compliance with the following conditions:

Exterior posting on University property is permitted on designated kiosks. Materials may not be placed on areas or surfaces not intended for posting including, but not limited to: trees, columns, lampposts, bollards, walls, trash receptacles, railings, newspaper racks, construction fences, and bicycle racks. ... All materials posted shall clearly indicate the name of the sponsoring University department, office, student organization, independent group or outside organization.

Transgender protesters printed a flyer with the heading, “HEY, ABIGAIL, UVA IS NOT A HOME FOR HATE,” with the text, “The Only ‘Irreversible Damage’ is the harm trans people face and the only ‘transgender craze’ is the hatred against them that you perpetuate.”



Flyers were posted all over the columns marking the entrance to Minor Hall, where the event was scheduled to be held, as well as colonnades approaching the hall. The flyers violated two provisions of university policy: (1) they were posted outside permissible areas, and (2) they did not identify the name of a sponsoring group.

When the Jefferson Council brought the unauthorized posters to the attention of Student Affairs, Buildings & Grounds personnel promptly removed them.

Designated Zone for Protesters

Representatives of Sigma Omicron Rho filed the necessary paperwork to hold a protest rally before and during the Shrier event. The chosen location was the McIntire Amphitheatre adjacent to Minor Hall, which was separated by a steep incline but accessible by means of steps leading directly to Minor Hall's entrance. University officials found the student leaders to be "cooperative." They agreed to restrict protesters to the amphitheater and not to obstruct access to the Shrier speech.

Shortly before the event, a crowd of more than 100 protesters gathered in the amphitheater. As the time of the event approached and attendees were walking to the main entrance of Minor Hall, protesters migrated up the amphitheater steps and spilled into the sidewalk in front of Minor Hall.

The following photo, taken from a video ([Protestors Outside Minor Hall at UVA on October 11, 2023 for Abigail Shrier Event \(3 of 5\) - YouTube](#)), shows clearly how protesters encroached upon the sidewalk in front of Minor Hall.

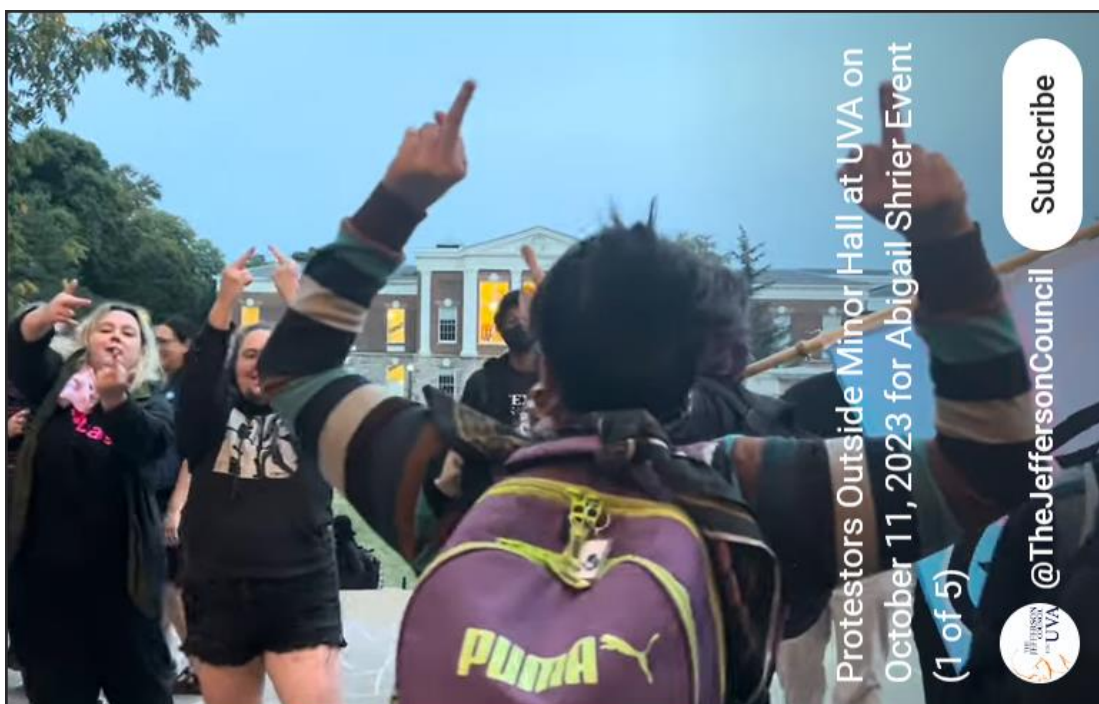


The demonstrators chanted slogans, waved placards and berated attendees as they passed through a narrow gauntlet to reach the event. The use of profanity was common. Some protesters displayed their middle finger.

Jefferson Council President Tom Neale accompanied Liz Stiff, a senior executive of the Common Sense Society who would interview Shrier in the Q&A, into the building. He recalls:

I had to walk through the crowd with two other Jefferson Council Board members and ... Liz Stiff, to gain entrance to Minor Hall. Liz was both alarmed and appalled by this experience. The protestors not only violated the University professed standards of civility, but their language was also beyond the pale as they thrust themselves into our faces.

A sampling of their epithets are as follows: "f--- you fascists, f--- you homophobes, f--- you trans haters, f---ing racists"....(see a theme?). In addition, they wished death to each of us and our families. This is not hyperbole. All this occurred during our 2-3 minute trek through the mob as they surrounded us, getting within inches of our faces screaming these insults. I took a brief 15 second video at the tail end of the assault just before entering Minor Hall which captures a fraction of the chaos:: [Protestors Outside Minor Hall at UVA on October 11, 2023 for Abigail Shrier Event \(1 of 5\) - YouTube](#)



*An Investigation into the Abigail Shrier Protests,
and Recommendations to Prevent Future Disruptions to Free Speech*



“Say hi to the crowd,” said Neale to protesters who were flashing him the bird. “I’ll give you the thumbs up. Thank you. Love you. Love you.” Someone responded: “Rot in hell.”

Ann McLean, a Jefferson Council advisory board member, had volunteered to drive Shrier from her dinner venue to the back entrance of Minor Hall. With university police escort, Shrier stepped out of the car and walked a short distance into the building. McLean parked her car nearby, and then rolled Shrier’s suitcase into the building for storage until Shrier departed for her post-Charlottesville destination. Recalls McLean:

As I got near the building, I witnessed a group of trans activists pretending to be Conservatives, shouting in unison the exact opposite message from the amphitheater crowd on the other side of the building. These activists shouted: “We hate Trans! Go home Trans! We hate Trans! Go home Trans!” with Antifa’s characteristic repetition and intensity.

Observing the behavior outside the building, Klinger contacted Marsh Pattie, assistant vice president of student affairs, who was monitoring development inside the building. The main concern of Student Affairs and the University Police Department was that someone might try to prevent Shrier from speaking. They had established protocols for delivering a warning to disruptive elements of the audience and they were prepared to physically remove protesters if necessary.

Klinger asked Pattie if he could do anything about the situation outside. Why was there a system in place to designate a protesting area if the boundaries weren’t going to be enforced? He explained that university had never confronted such a situation before and, therefore, had never had to define the precise boundary of the amphitheater. Were the steps part of the amphitheater or not? When she contested this assertion, Klinger says, “he said that UVa is a free speech campus, and it can’t limit speech on Grounds.” She did not challenge the answer and went back to running the event.

As the situation outside continued to deteriorate, Hannah Hanford, president of the Young Americans for Freedom-UVa chapter, encouraged Ms. Klinger to try again. “I asked Marsh Pattie why the policy even existed if they’re not going to enforce it,” Klinger recalls. “He then told me as long as the protesters didn’t prevent ingress or egress to the building, they weren’t violating any policy. I challenged his definition of preventing ingress and egress, pointing out that the protesters were inches from the event attendees. He said that because attendees were still able to get into the building, there was no policy violation.”

According to Pattie's recollection, he texted the Sigma Omicron Rho leader and told him to pull the crowd back from Minor Hall. Based on his scanning of the crowd, he believes the protesters were a mixed group of students and older "unaffiliated" individuals from the community. Most of the students complied with his request, he says. He acknowledges that some non-students might not have cooperated. He was unwilling to ask the university police to push the protesters back, he says, because "as long as the group wasn't blocking a thoroughfare and activity was peaceful, they have a right to have their voice heard."

Inside McIntire Hall, the event proceeded smoothly. Shrier spoke freely and without interruption during the Q&A formatted session. Numerous transgender advocates lined up to ask her questions. While some questions were combative, most were polite. Early during the session, two transgender supporters walked out but caused no stir. During the Q&A, one woman, apparently a student, asked a question and then stormed out after Shrier's answer. But the incident did not interrupt the proceedings.

The most objectionable behavior occurred after the speech.

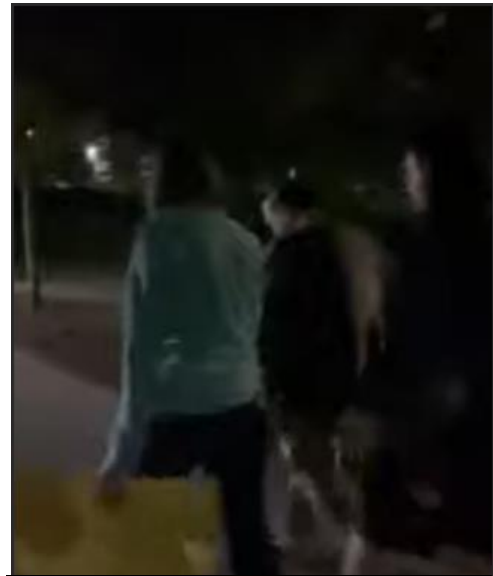
Harassment of Attendees

Philip Hamilton, a Republican candidate for state senate, was denied admittance to the event because he did not have a ticket. He lingered to observe transgender activists who were giving speeches in the amphitheater, and then he struck up a conversation with some bystanders. One was a conservative student, an immigrant from Cambodia, and one turned out to be a trans activist. He gave them both a campaign card. The activist ripped it up and threw a piece at his face before storming off. Hamilton continued chatting with the conservative student. By the time Minor Hall was letting out after the Shrier event, most of the protesters had dispersed. But not all.

Hamilton spotted Neale, a 71-year-old man recently recovered from hip-replacement surgery, being set upon by a group of eight to ten protesters. He recognized two of the demonstrators, who had

protested several of his campaign events, as members of a Charlottesville Antifa group. Here is his account of what transpired while he and Neale walked to their cars in the central parking deck.

I walked with Thomas Neale because I sensed that he was in physical danger from these protestors. One Caucasian man (65 years old, 300lbs. 5 ft. 9in., grey hair) immediately started aggressively bumping me with his hips multiple times. As this man hit me with his hip, he said "Philip why are you hitting me"? This man took this right out of the "Rules for Radicals: A Practical Primer For Realistic Radicals" playbook by accusing me of what he was doing. The protestors accused Thomas and me of being "Confederates", "Nazis", and "Transphobes" while I accused them of supporting baby killers like Hamas.



Tom Neale (center) flanked by protesters.

Hamilton took a video that captures some of the interactions. It is dark and the images are grainy, but the audio gives a flavor of the profanity and insults. [TJC President Getting Harassed by Student Protestors On the Way to His Car - YouTube](#)

Neale describes the same incident.

After the talk was over, I walked over to the Emmet Street garage next to Newcomb Hall where I'd parked my car. A subset of 8-10 of the protestors broke away from the mob (they had stayed outside Minor Hall during the Abigail Shrier talk) and followed me. They surrounded me, circling and screaming the same vile comments referenced above. Luckily for me, a local politician running for state level office who was at the event saw this. He called University police who were at Minor Hall and asked them to help us. The police quickly came over, told the mob to back off and not get close to us, and accompanied us all the way to my parked car. The thugs still walked behind us. The verbal abuse didn't stop, but the police kept this from escalating to possible physical assault. If they had not arrived, I don't know what would have happened.

Three other attendees experienced similar harassment on their walk together from Minor Hall back to the parking deck: Jim Bacon, executive director of the Jefferson Council, Peter Bryan, a TJC executive committee member; and a third person who asks to remain unidentified. The protesters followed close behind all the way to the parking-deck elevator, hurling angry invective the entire time. Here are their accounts:

Peter Bryan: *Just before we got on to the elevator at the Newcomb Parking deck, I asked why they were so filled with hate, and they answered, to the best of my recollection, "We hate you and everything about you. We don't want you here." The words and tone of delivery were dripping in vitriol (and spittle, I might add). Clearly, they do not want to enter into civil debate. They know exactly nothing about any of us, our views on Transsexuals, or Gender Dysphoria. They were very confrontational, ferocious looks on their faces.*

Jim Bacon: *A few demonstrators lingered by the entrance after the main rally had dissipated. As two companions and I walked from Minor Hall to the parking deck, a bedraggled group of seven or eight followed us, crying shame, shame! How could we live with ourselves? We were terrible people -- our grandchildren would disown us! We were not welcome on the Grounds, we should go home, and we never come back! Quickly perceiving that there was nothing to be gained by responding to their invective, we did our best not to engage them. The demonstrators had other ideas. A couple of them had their smart phones out as they tagged behind us all the way to the parking deck, presumably ready to record any interactions. One protester accused one of us of brushing against him and cried out, "That's assault!"*

Third Party: *I was one of Jim Bacon's companions on the walk back to the Newcomb Hall parking garage and can attest to the treatment we were subjected to by the group of protesters. ... They did not know us, but were perfectly willing to spew hatred and vitriol. How incredibly hypocritical, in view of the many slogans they were writing in chalk on the sidewalks about how Hate does not belong at UVA.*

Among the words hurled at the group, recalls this witness, were "hope you die" and "hope you get killed going home." The protesters followed the group back to the parking-deck elevator, shouting, "Get out of here and never come back!"

Issues for the University of Virginia

The Jefferson Council is grateful for the assistance rendered by Student Affairs and the University Police Department. They worked with us hand-in-glove to plan security for the speaker and attendees, and they were diligent about ensuring that the event inside Minor Hall went smoothly. We also credit Student Affairs with acting quickly to take down the unauthorized anti-Shrier posters before the event. However, the protesters' behavior outside the hall was unacceptable. Just as members of the UVa community have a right to protest and be heard, people also have the right to attend events without being obstructed, yelled at and harassed.

Free speech and assembly are not just for protesters.

However, senior university leadership holds to the position that nothing about the event suggests the need for change.

Based on a report from Chief of Police Tim Longo, Chief Operating Officer Jennifer "J.J." Davis and Provost Ian Baucom did concede in a communication to the Board of Visitors that the verbal insults in the videos were "disappointing" and "do not represent the civil discourse the University values." However, wrote Davis and Baucom, "there were no arrests or injuries, and no property damage."

Regarding the false registrations, wrote Davis and Baucom, EventBrite, an outside vendor, provided the registration service, and the event was not university sponsored. "As such, UVA would not have access to the vendor's registration platform or be responsible for assessing instances of insincere registrations. If there are concerns, the event organizers could reach out to the vendor to explore options."

Addressing the harassment of attendees walking back to the parking garage, Davis and Baucom wrote, the post-event review strongly suggests, based on investigators' familiarity with some of them, "these were not University students." (*See Appendix A for full text of the communication.*)

We find the administration's response totally inadequate. The standard of acceptable behavior should be set higher than "no arrests, injuries or property damage."

We offer the following recommendations for consideration by the Board of Visitors to ensure the rights of all to fully participate in the life of the University of Virginia free from disruption and harassment.

Prohibit the practice of registration spam. The practice of using registration spam to depress attendance of someone else's event is not only obnoxious, it is indisputably intentional, indisputably disruptive, and indisputably a violation of the student Standards of Conduct.

First, instead of washing its hands of the matter, the university should explicitly – in writing -- prohibit students from entering fake registrations for university-related events.

Second, the university should issue a public statement singling out the students and organizations responsible for the registration spam and publicly declare that their behavior does not represent the values of the university. (Disruptive behavior would never be tolerated from conservative students or employees; indeed, several individuals have been investigated and/or disciplined for far less.)

Third, the administration should warn the student body that anyone engaging in future comment spam will be reported to the Student Judiciary for violation of the student Standards of Conduct.

Set clear boundaries for protest areas. University officials designated the McIntire Amphitheatre as the location for anti-Shrier demonstrators to conduct their activities. The location *in* the amphitheater placed protesters within eyesight of the venue but separated them from individuals going in and out of Minor Hall. The conflict arose because no one had thought to set clear boundaries for what constituted “the amphitheater.” It could be argued (not reasonably in our opinion) that the steps leading up the incline to Minor Hall were a constituent part of the amphitheater. However, it could not be reasonably inferred that the sidewalk at the top of the steps was. The sidewalk was a public thoroughfare, and attendees could not enter Minor Hall without experiencing harassment from the crowd. In the future, the boundaries of protest zones should be clearly defined, and university police should be authorized to intervene if event attendees are being intimidated.

Issue No Trespass Orders. Some of the Shrier protesters apparently were not part of the UVa community. While they are not subject to university judicial processes, the university does have a remedy: Evict them from university property and issue No Trespass Orders so they cannot return. The University did precisely that when it banned several white supremacists in the 2017 Unite the Right rally from setting foot on university property. The precedent has been established. If outsiders disrupt university events or intimidate/harass attendees, they should not be permitted back on the grounds.

Adopting these recommendations will close the gap between abstract declarations in favor of free speech and actual practice.

Appendix A: Davis/Baucom Communication to the Board of Visitors

Dear Members of the Board:

Earlier this week, Jefferson Council President Tom Neale wrote to President Ryan and the Board to describe the experience he and others had during the Oct. 11 appearance by guest speaker Abigail Shrier.

We write at the request of President Ryan, who is attending a funeral service, to respond to some of the issues Mr. Neale raised, and offer additional context regarding the public safety preparation and management of the speaker's visit.

This information comes primarily from a post-event review led by Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and Chief of Police Tim Longo.

Mr. Neale supplied several video clips of demonstrators who gathered outside Minor Hall, where the event was held, and of a smaller number who walked near Mr. Neale and others after the event as they made their way to the Central Grounds Parking Garage.

The verbal insults on the recordings are disappointing and do not represent the civil discourse the University values and seeks to accommodate. While we strongly adhere to our principles of free and open expression even when that expression is offensive, we also promote empathetic speaking and generous listening, which was not exhibited in the gestures and words of some of the demonstrators.

The post-event review strongly suggests, however, that these were not University students who were present during the walk toward the garage, based on our investigators' familiarity with some of them.

We do echo Mr. Neale's appreciation for members of our Department of Public Safety team for escorting him and others there.

Ms. Shrier's visit was sponsored by a student organization (Young Americans for Freedom), the Jefferson Council, and Common Sense Society. Our Public Safety and Student Affairs teams collaborated in advance to assess safety needs and assign resources to protect the right of the speaker to address those in attendance in Minor Hall and the free-expression rights of those outside.

Chief Longo led in the planning, was present in our event command post, and led the post-event review. Preparations included discussions with the event sponsors and an opposition group representative, a pre-event security assessment, and ongoing review of the potential for demonstrations.

Thirty-three personnel from UPD and 10 members of the Virginia State Police were assigned to the event, staffing Minor Hall, McIntire Amphitheater and the command post.

Ms. Shrier was escorted into Minor Hall and out to a car after the event without incident. The moderated discussion and the audience Q&A segment that followed it proceeded without interruption with civil dialogue, accommodating and addressing countering viewpoints and questions.

Both inside the event space and outside, there were no arrests or injuries, and no property damage.

Public Safety personnel observed derogatory statements made toward those walking into Minor Hall, but their access was not prevented. The command post received one call regarding blockage of a Minor Hall entrance, but the person responsible moved immediately after a discussion with a UPD sergeant. Once the event began, those gathered outside were encouraged to move to the Amphitheater, and the vast majority of them did so.

Mr. Neale also raised concern about possible false registrations affecting the ability of people to register and attend. An outside vendor (Eventbrite) provided registration service for this event, which was not University-sponsored. As such, UVA would not have access to the vendor's

registration platform or be responsible for assessing instances of insincere registrations. If there are concerns, the event organizers could reach out to the vendor to explore options.

Mr. Neale also pointed out improper posting of fliers at Minor Hall. Student Affairs manages our policy on exterior posting, and asked Facilities Management to remove those deemed in violation of the policy once they were brought to their attention.

We hope this information is helpful in addressing some of Mr. Neale's concerns and in offering useful context to UVA's management of Ms. Shrier's visit.

We are grateful for the collaboration and preparation of Chief Longo and his team, along with our Student Affairs staff, in addressing safety considerations of those attending while protecting and respecting the expressive rights of those demonstrating.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either of us, or Chief Longo.

Sincerely

Jennifer (J.J.) Wagner Davis, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Ian Baucom, Executive Vice President and Provost