



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

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May 21, 2009

Dr. Mark B. Rosenburg, Ph.D.
President
Florida International University
University Park Campus
11200 Southwest Eighth Street
Miami, Florida 33199

Dear Dr. Rosenburg,

Congratulations on your selection as the new president of Florida International University.

The purpose of my letter is to seek your support for the continuation of the Religious Studies Department, which in spite of its growth and reputation, is facing elimination due to budget constraints.

FIU is the only public state university in our area which provides this important educational opportunity. In a time when religion can be misused and misunderstood, the service provided by the Department of Religious Studies is more important than ever.

Religion is a major force in our culture and an essential component of the rich pluralism and diversity of our democracy, especially in South Florida. Our society needs individuals who are trained in major religious texts and traditions, which impact current issues affecting so many. FIU graduates from the Department of Religious Studies have found that their degree enabled them to continue many other careers in higher education.

It is my hope that you will exercise your leadership to keep this outstanding department at FIU which has been of such benefit to its students and improved multicultural and inter-religious relations for so many.

With personal good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Archbishop of Miami

cc: Dr Christine Gudorf, Ph.D.