



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

Nathan O. Hatch
President

October 4, 2011

Mr. Donald L. Woodsmall
1340 Mosbys Reach
Charlottesville, VA 22901

Dear Mr. Woodsmall,

I am writing in response to your letter to me regarding Wake Forest's hiring of Imam Khalid Griggs as the university's first Muslim chaplain. He joins the other members of the Office of Chaplain, which include individuals representing mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic, other Christian traditions, Jewish, Orthodox Christian traditions. Imam Griggs is a well-respected individual, both on campus and throughout the Winston-Salem community, and was hired in large part because of the wisdom, spirituality and pastoral experience he brings to Wake Forest and our Chaplain's office. Like other chaplains, Imam Griggs' work will focus on religious leadership, pastoral care, and interfaith work. He is and will continue to engage students, faculty and staff across the University through a variety of occasions to provide an Islamic voice to discussions of faith, spirituality, social justice, and life in general.

Like other leading colleges and universities across the United States, we believe that Wake Forest has a role to play in the formation of a new generation of Muslim leadership of a broad-minded character. The hiring of Imam Griggs helps Wake Forest move toward a future in which managing the new global realities will require students, faculty and staff to work together in a multi-faith collaboration where diversity is appreciated as a vital resource for learning and growth. Providing opportunities for our Muslim community to flourish and interact in meaningful ways with non-Muslim students is an important step in educating our future leaders.

Mr. Woodsmall, I would be happy to have a phone conversation with you at some point if you wish to discuss this further.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Hatch', written over the printed name.

Nathan O. Hatch