

**From:** Kent Sharples [mailto:sharpk@daytonastate.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 02, 2010 3:04 PM  
**To:** Kent Sharples  
**Subject:** WDSC Programming

Dear Board Members:

When WDSC, our wholly owned public television station went digital in 2003, bandwidth increased to allow us to have three channels that are broadcast over the cable network, open-air broadcast and satellite systems. Our primary channel is 15 on Bright House Cable. Depending on your cable provider or satellite system the station number will vary. Prior to digital conversion we only had one signal for which we provided a combination of PBS and local programming. Our emphasis on that single station (15-1) has been to develop as much local programming as possible. We work closely with the county and cities to do so. The other two stations (15-2 and 15-3) have different priorities. Channel 15-2 is dedicated as the Florida/ Education station, while Channel 15-3 is designated as the Florida government and worldwide news station. Decisions regarding programming are made by station management consistent with College guidelines to provide a variety of programming including local, state, national and international news as provided by public broadcasting stations. On the primary station, 15-1, we actually create some of the local news programming. As part of the program for 15-3, we identified in 2008 a public broadcasting package titled MHz Worldview Television that is offered through PBS WCVERichmond, Virginia based stations. The MHz Worldview Television channel is a multicultural international news provider that is made available at no cost to public broadcasting entities across the United States. This free offer to include MHz Worldview news is broadcast in 29 markets throughout the U.S., including WDSC. Included in the programming of MHz Worldview news is an American version of Al Jazeera English and RT News. Al Jazeera is a network that provides a variety of worldwide programming from the Middle East, while RT News provides worldwide news from Russia. We broadcast worldwide news on channel 15-3, which for those of you on Bright House is channel 1152, and Al Jazeera English and RT News can be seen at 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. respectively. Our annual contract with the Virginia station is ongoing with a 60 day cancellation notice required.

Mr. Tanner has received the attached complaint from Mr. Jerry Kenney regarding his opposition to our public television station airing both Al Jazeera English and RT news. His attached email is self explanatory. On Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. I met with Mr. Kenney to explain the College's position regarding this issue. While the meeting was cordial, Mr. Kenney remains steadfast in his position that we remove these programs. There are obvious concerns for **First Amendment rights, censorship, and academic freedom**. Since Mr. Kenney's position is unresolved, I will need direction from the Board as to how I should proceed with this matter.

Kent

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