

We have received your note concerning an opinion piece in Salon.com by assistant professor for English, Steven Salaita. Please know that his opinions concerning support for members of the U.S. armed forces in no way represent an official university opinion.

Few universities in the nation support the military like Virginia Tech. The Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets is one of the largest military corps operations among U.S. universities outside the military academies. A larger percentage of our cadets are commissioned into the military than any other school, other than the academies. We rank among our alumni seven U.S. Medal of Honor winners.

Virginia Tech has a V3 certification from Virginia Department of Veteran Services for its hiring of Veterans, the first university in the state to be so designated. Virginia Tech has been recognized by Military Advanced Education as one of America's Top Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities for the 3rd consecutive year. Our work to attract and support veterans has been featured in U.S. News & World Report. We are proud of our veteran students and vets among our employ.

Institutionally and honorably, we support our nation's troops.

However much we may disagree with associate professor Salaita's opinions, we also recognize one of this nation's most cherished liberties ensconced in the first amendment to our nation's constitution and embedded in the principle of academic freedom. He has a right to his opinions just as others have a right to disagree.

While our assistant professor may have a megaphone on salon.com, his opinions not only do not reflect institutional position, we are confident they do not remotely reflect the collective opinion of the greater university community.

Lawrence G. Hincker
Associate Vice President for University Relations
Vietnam era U.S. Navy veteran

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