

From: Gregg Lemkau <glemkau@bdtmsd.com>
Date: Mon, May 11, 2026 at 3:55 PM
Subject: RE: DGALA: 2026 Honorary Degree Recipient
To: Erik Ochsner <eeochsner@gmail.com>
Cc: Liz Lempres <liz.lempres@gmail.com>, Jomysha D. Stephen
<Jomysha.D.Stephen@dartmouth.edu>

Erik,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter to the Board of Trustees on behalf of DGALA. We hear the concern behind it, particularly at a time when many are navigating a moment that feels vulnerable. I want to respond with the same care and directness you have brought to this conversation.

The Board takes its responsibility in conferring honorary degrees with the seriousness it deserves. As Dartmouth's highest distinction, these degrees move through a rigorous multi-stage process: an open nomination period, holistic review by the Council on Honorary Degrees, and final approval by the Board itself. Nominees must have made significant contributions to their field and to society and must offer the graduating class a model of excellence and commitment to their work. It is with that standard that the Board evaluated the nomination of Mr. Lukianoff, which was brought forward by a graduating student in the President's meeting with the senior class.

Dartmouth has always honored individuals whose contributions to their fields and to public life are significant — and like our community itself, our honorands represent a wide range of perspectives. Recognizing someone's body of work is not an endorsement of every position attributed to them. What remains constant is our commitment to free expression and open dialogue, grounded in mutual respect and our unwavering welcome for every member of this community.

We do not take lightly your concerns, nor the weight they carry for members of DGALA. Dartmouth's commitment to create a welcoming space for every member of this community is unwavering, and it is inseparable from the values that guide decisions like this one.

The feedback DGALA brought to us in 2024 made this process stronger, and we carry that forward. We remain committed to improving, and we hope you will continue to be part of that work. Please bring nominations forward, keep writing, and keep engaging.

Sincerely,

Gregg Lemkau

Chair, Board of Trustees

Dartmouth College