

May 19, 2026

Gregg Lemkau
Chair, Board of Trustees
Dartmouth College

Dear Gregg,

Thank you for your e-mail of May 11, 2026. I apologize for my delay in responding, as I have been engaged in my conducting duties with the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra.

While we are glad to know that “The Board takes its responsibility in conferring honorary degrees with the seriousness it deserves,” we urge you to lead the Board to do better in fulfilling that responsibility. This is indeed Dartmouth’s highest distinction, and this individual’s record of hate speech does NOT offer the graduating class a model of excellence, in fact, it does the opposite.

Dartmouth’s honoring of such speech will never “create a welcoming space for every member of this community.,” To better understand how hurtful is this award by the Board, I invite you to read our OpEd piece which appeared in “The Dartmouth” today:

<https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2026/05/at-this-years-commencement-dartmouth-will-honor-a-man-who-helped-megyn-kelly-smear-trans-people>

We have now invited all members of the Dartmouth community to turn their backs on Mr. Greg Lukianoff, as the awarding of this Honorary Degree has done to some of the most vulnerable members of that community.

Sincerely,
Erik Ochsner '93
President, DGALA

cc: Pete Williams '76, Secretary, DGALA