



DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS

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MEMORANDUM

TO: James Tracy, Associate Professor
FROM: Heather Coltman, Interim Dean *Heather Coltman*
RE: Summary of Meeting on January 18, 2013
DATE: January 28, 2013

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize the points we discussed at the meeting that was held last Friday, January 18, 2013, with Diane Alperin, Associate Provost of Academic Personnel and Programs, and Douglas Broadfield, Associate Professor of Anthropology and UFF Grievance/Contract Enforcement Chair.

I explained that the purpose of the meeting was to clarify points and ask questions regarding the recent media attention you and FAU have received. I stated that we were not meeting to debate issues related to "freedom of speech."

I asked you about the disclaimer posted on memoryholeblog.com. Specifically, I asked you when the disclaimers were posted. You stated that the initial disclaimer was posted at the same time that the blog began, which you believed was sometime in either March or April of 2012. You added that you had recently changed the disclaimer so that it made no mention of your employment at FAU. I asked whether or not you had updated your disclaimer in December 2012, and you replied that you had not. Later in the day of January 18, I asked you to provide evidence of the disclaimers you have posted, and the dates that they appeared on the blog. You agreed to supply documents reflecting the disclaimers.

We asked you to tell us more about the Global Research site, and you stated that Global Research was a news and analysis website that was founded in September of 2001, and that you have made numerous contributions to the site over the past few years. You stated that your activity on Global Research should not be associated with your FAU research assignment. I then read to you from an email you sent Noemi Marin, Director of the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies on November 19, 2012, in which you clearly stated that the articles you contributed to Global Research were part of your research and scholarly activity assignment for the 2012-13 academic year. I confirmed that they would therefore be considered part of your FAU assignment, and would be evaluated accordingly.

I asked you whether or not you had completed and filed the "Report of Outside Employment/Activity Form" required by the BOT/UFF Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA"). You replied that you had not. You should complete this required form and return it to the Director of SCMS for her approval by February 1, 2013.

Diane Alperin then shared the broad brush of the impact that your articles have had on the University; from admissions to development, from students to faculty, from the Board of Trustees to the legislature, and across the administrative offices of the University. We discussed the large number of emails that have been received and the disruption of the normal operations of the University that the media attention has brought to the University. We let you know of the large number of parents who had communicated with the Office of Admissions requesting that their child's application be withdrawn; the student whose parent requested she be withdrawn from your class; the donor who withdrew his support to the Department of History; and the faculty who have expressed concern about the safety of students.

I asked you about your perceived level of threat, and whether or not you feel that the safety of you and your family is in jeopardy. I referenced the blog article in which you expressed the threat you felt from Anderson Cooper. I shared that numerous students and faculty have felt that their safety is compromised during this time, and that the University as a whole needed to consider undergoing a threat assessment, in order to protect not only you, but all of our constituents. You shared that you had felt under stress, that you had not been sleeping well, and that you did indeed feel targeted by Anderson Cooper's AC360 television show that aired on January 11, 2013. Both Dr. Alperin and I expressed concern for your safety and urged you to immediately forward any emails you perceived as threatening to upper administration.

When asked what your plans were for the immediate future, you stated that you wanted the media attention to "die down." Despite this, you participated in two radio programs on this same day. You also stated that you wanted to continue to write on these topics, and that you wanted to continue to engage with the alternative media.

At this point I will continue to work with the Associate Provost in determining what appropriate action should be taken regarding your outside activity and research submissions. We will also explore what action is needed to protect the University community from the safety risk caused by these activities.

cc: Diane Alperin, Associate Provost
Noemi Marin, Director, SCMS