

Hunter Quick <hcquick7@gmail.com>

to coakes, Nayef, David, John, John, Carroll, me, Buck

15 October, 2020

Corry,

Thank you for meeting with John and me this past Monday. We again ask that you bring before the full Board and reconsider our request for a correction/clarification of the specific false and defamatory factual allegations included in the June 6 English Department Statement. We also included those allegations in our September 18 email to Board Trustees. These allegations are:

--- “We believe that Wofford cannot achieve beneficial, equitable, and inclusive relationships without publicly acknowledging that racial inequity is our immediate reality, not simply our historical past. The college must facilitate healing on campus...beginning with identifying and addressing systemic, long-term and daily practices that perpetuate white supremacy.”

---There is a “cycle of racial violence on our students and colleagues at Wofford College...shared by other Wofford academic and administrative departments...”

Disturbingly, the English Department also advocates continuous volatility on campus by declaring: “We reject efforts that seek to restore stability and maintain the status quo over seeking justice.”

Everyone at our meeting and at the meeting we had with Nayef and his senior staff on September 3 has admitted that they don’t believe that these allegations are true. They have also agreed that there is no evidence, including documentation or facts, to support these false, offensive, insulting, and inflammatory accusations against Wofford. We have only asked that the administration correct these falsehoods by issuing a clarification through the internal channel in the same manner and to the same individuals who received the original Statement. We have asked only to set the record straight.

You expressed your reluctance to do so because setting the record straight, and thereby telling the truth, would create what you likened to a “firestorm.” Our group has struggled to understand why Nayef and the administration has refused to issue a clarification when they admit the allegations are false and they’re not Wofford’s official position. It appears from your remarks that you believe that not

setting the record straight keeps the peace and has more upside to the school. In essence, you believe that exposing the lie doesn't have as much benefit as ignoring it. That reasoning demonstrates feckless and craven leadership. You believe that Wofford can solve the problem by simply showing prospectively how egalitarian and progressive it is, without first renouncing the lies. However, it cannot and it must first start with admitting the falsehoods. If you side with the untruths of the faculty and a couple of hundred students against the desire for truth sought by the rest of the student body and thousands of alumni, you will do a great disservice to Wofford. And, asking for the truth is not just advancing principle or being emotional, as you suggested at the meeting. In fact, setting the record straight is exercising sound judgment, demonstrating good leadership, and conducting successful business as a Trustee. You may think you're being pragmatic now by refusing to correct the lies, but I think the long-term negative consequences of that decision will far outweigh the short-lived benefits you believe you are achieving. Our alumni group will be around for a good while, and we will not forget this controversy. We are tenacious, as Terriers should be, and we aren't going away. In addition, doing the right thing does not mean going to war with the English Department, as the administration querulously suggests, even though in reality that department has been at war with the school for a while by rejecting "efforts that seek to restore stability and maintain the status quo..." Interestingly, the anti-racist coalition is doing exactly what the English Department told them to do. Moreover, neither the coalition nor the English faculty care about the truth. They just want to erase history, rewrite it, and continue the chaos until they have the power they desire. We ask only that you excise the factual untruths noted above to set the record straight.

Therefore, we're making one last request for the administration and the Board to do the right thing, handle things internally, and set the record straight before we pursue other avenues to tell the true story. Thank you again for your time and attention.

Hunter