

May 5, 2016

Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley

President, Higher Learning Commission

230 S. LaSalle, Suite 7-500

Chicago, IL 60604-1411

Dear Dr. Gellman-Danley,

I am Trustee Dianne McGuire from the College of DuPage and I would like to provide an update to my previous (11/11/15) correspondence with you inasmuch as I am unable to be present for the meeting on May 5th between the Board of Trustees and Ms. Barbara Johnson, our administrative liaison to the HLC.

In six months time, quite a few changes have taken place, including the December 13th, 2015 abrupt resignation of our Chair, Kathy Hamilton, leaving the Board without leadership and no clear majority. In an effort to bring to the forefront serious concerns, the "legacy" trustees, a term coined by the Chicago Tribune, proposed the addition of several items to the December 17th meeting agenda, requests which included a review of our legal expenses and the continued employment of our attorneys, requests which were denied by Vice Chair Mazzochi. What occurred over the next eight weeks was nothing short of stunning. The three legacy trustees called four different special meetings, all of which were hijacked by the Clean Slate trustees, with competing meetings starting just before or 30 minutes after our meetings were to start. At absolutely no point was Vice Chair Mazzochi willing to consider supporting one of our agendas; at absolutely no point was she willing to work with us to discuss the issues of importance we had identified. Knowing we could never agree on that new trustee appointment, we allowed for the process to play out with an appointment by the Chair of the ICCB, Dr. Lopez.

With regard to my ongoing concern with the withholding of legal and financial information, there is nothing I can compose which could come close to the scene that played out on December 15th at the COD finance department. Former Chair and attorney, Erin Birt, and I scheduled a time to review 4 months worth of legal invoices. When we saw the huge six inch stack of paper, we requested copies to take with us. I will attach the report I filed with the COD police department which will provide you with all the detail you need to know concerning the over the top response from Vice Chair Mazzochi, a trustee with absolutely no power to issue the demands she issued. I spent 11 hours reviewing those invoices and discovered one invoice in particular dealing with the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Following the appointment of the new trustee, the balance of power was restored once again to the Clean Slate and the proposed revisions to Board Policy 5-180 were passed, allowing for trustees to impose restrictions on the viewing of legal documents by other trustees. How has this played out? I requested the legal invoices from all three law firms for the months of December, January, February, and March just a few weeks ago. What I have received is a huge password protected digital file. I have attempted numerous times to view these documents, which are displayed two to a screen, all to no avail. There are error messages, password problems, difficulty turning the pages on the screen so they are readable... finally gave up and just requested the total dollars spent. My other alternative would be to spend many hours on campus or at the attorney's office reviewing the invoices with a "babysitter" in attendance. Very, very difficult for me to perform my due diligence when access is so impeded and yet we are spending millions of dollars on legal services.

With regard to the micromanaging of the college by trustees, it is still a problem. In a recent closed session, Vice Chair Mazzochi indicated that with regard to the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Chair Mazzochi, newly elected on April 30th, has been trying to schedule a retreat for the Board. It is very difficult to consider participating in a retreat with the Clean Slate trustees inasmuch as there is no trust currently in place. Photos have been taken of my papers on the table at board meetings by Trustee Napolitano; two private conversations with Trustee Napolitano were made public to the press at a board meeting, conversations which might have led to something more positive. In the end, I would be most uncomfortable expressing any sort of opinion at a retreat.

The new president was just appointed on a 4-3 vote this week. The search firm RFP issued on September 15th completely exceeded Board authorization and prompted one concerned attorney who is a constituent, Mark Misiorowski, to send a letter to Senator Durbin, Senator Kirk, Congressman Foster and to the college calling for a federal monitor to oversee operations at the college. (His email will be forwarded to you.) The CEO search firm that was chosen, William E. Hay & Co., had close personal and professional ties to the same administrator cited in your October report, Chris Robling. The candidate who was chosen, in my opinion, most likely also has personal and professional ties to William Hay, our search firm CEO, and failed to list her current employment on her resume. Why, you ask? Because according to her LinkedIn profile she works with the Allen Austin Executive Search Firm, who has a Chicago office. She was also appointed in November as a trustee for the Chicago Union League Boys and Girls Club, and yet she was described to the press as an out-of-state candidate. I voted present for her appointment. We've had seven professional service providers appointed by the Board in the past twelve months, all with questionable ties to the Clean Slate trustees or our former Chair, Kathy Hamilton.

The lawsuits are still playing out; the expenses related to the firing of the three administrators are now very close to \$5,000,000. Next year's budget will be \$11,000,000 short on revenue to meet expenses, something we never saw in the past. We will plug the difference, I am sure, with money from the reserves.

As I said at the end of my November correspondence, the underlying dynamics on the Board, centered on mistrust and a profound difference of opinion with regard to the "corruption" on campus, seem impenetrable. Their manufactured crisis has produced no indictments and a clean audit for 2015. Although some have described these differences as "bickering" they are fundamentally about fairness, justice and transparency.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne McGuire, Trustee