

Zimbra

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Re: EMAIL UPDATE - Can we call a spade a spade?

From : Sabina Burton <burtons@uwplatt.edu>

Thu, Jun 05, 2014 10:45 PM

Subject : Re: EMAIL UPDATE - Can we call a spade a spade?

To : Michael Dalecki <dalecki@uwplatt.edu>

Cc : Thomas E Caywood <caywood@uwplatt.edu>, Dana L Cecil <cecild@uwplatt.edu>, Steven Elmer <elmerst@uwplatt.edu>, Cheryl Fuller <banachoc@uwplatt.edu>, Lorne Gibson <gibsonlo@uwplatt.edu>, Joe Lomax <lomaxj@uwplatt.edu>, Rex Reed <reedre@uwplatt.edu>, Deborah L Rice <ricede@uwplatt.edu>, Edward Ross <rosse@uwplatt.edu>, Pat Solar <solarp@uwplatt.edu>, Sheri Kratcha <kratcha@uwplatt.edu>, Amy Nemmetz <nemmetza@uwplatt.edu>, Valerie Stackman <stackmanv@uwplatt.edu>, Diana Johnson <johnsondi@uwplatt.edu>

I plan to tell students the truth about what's been happening in the department. I would like to know how long Dutelle (who ironically wrote a book on "ethics") or Johnson knew they would be leaving before they told the department about their plans to do so. Both waited until the last minute to inform the department of their decision to depart, leaving their students (and us) hanging. I have never worked with such inconsiderate and unprofessional colleagues before. I think the students deserve to know who is responsible for the "train wreck" and put blame where blame is due. Our FI students were aggressively recruited into a program with, as confirmed by the recent reports, at least partially false information or intentional lack of information.

Their prospect for being hired into an FI job after graduation is poor. Most states require CSIs to have LE field experience. Academies and police/Sheriff's departments train in fingerprinting, photography etc. in a much shorter time-span. Police officers can specialize in forensics in in-departmental training at low or no cost.

This "train wreck" shouldn't be our mess to clean up. FI students deserve to know what they are up against so they can make meaningful, informed career choices before it is too late for them to do so, before we take their money for a program we

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know is flawed and understaffed. Let the students know who abandoned them and give them some options for moving forward into a field of study that has some hope of securing them a good paying job. My focus is on the CJ program. I recommend that the FI program be turned back into an emphasis and that we put our attention on restorative justice, cyber-crime/cyber-forensics, homeland security and white collar crime. We had two outside evaluators and nationally recognized (and not self-proclaimed!) experts with no personal stake in this department or program give us their "2 cents." Let's talk about their recommendations and how we can apply them to our department.

I would like to see an investigation into this matter. Dutelle and Johnson both leaving on short notice seems like a conspiracy to damage the department (and the students). I wouldn't be surprised if we get at least one more sudden "resignation" at the worst timing for students. As a public institution there really should be an investigation into potentially corrupt behavior that if substantiated would allow for legal remedies (e.g., tuition reimbursement for students who cannot continue their FI education as planned). As a parent of a student myself, I would want to know what is going on. I think the Attorney's General office would be a good institution to look into this mess.

Letting your employer know that you are leaving as soon as you accepted a new position is not just ethical but demonstrates professional courtesy and maturity. Ed Ross, who will be dearly missed by all of us, has been a great recent example (and he has not been kept out of his office because of giving notice!).

We wouldn't have a job without our students. Our actions or inaction affects their futures. Many of our students (and their parents) have made great sacrifices to be here. They don't deserve to pay the cost of some faculty selfishness or pettiness.

I must say I am very glad that my daughter chose a different program than FI ...

We have a chance now to make some difficult decisions and effect some changes for the better. Let's do it right this time. Let's start being transparent in our dealings. Let's keep open minds as we look to the future of our department. Let's work together for the good of the school and students. Let's follow policy. Let's follow policy and law. Let's use some good old common sense going forward. I have many ideas for moving past this point in our department's history. Most of my suggestions in the past have been ignored or have been thrown back in my face. I hope those days are behind me. I hope those of us remaining in the department can act like professionals.

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My 2 cents ...

Sabina

----- Original Message -----

From: "Michael Dalecki" <dalecki@uwplatt.edu>
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Sent: Thursday, June 5, 2014 9:42:09 AM
Subject: EMAIL UPDATE

In this email:

DIANA JOHNSON LEAVING UW-PLATTEVILLE
PERSONNEL ISSUES AND SEARCHES
700-HOUR ACADEMY

DIANA JOHNSON LEAVING UW-PLATTEVILLE

In a move that surprised many of us, Diana Johnson resigned her position at UW-Platteville on June 4. She is moving to Milwaukee. We wish her the best as she moves on to a new stage in her life.

Obviously we have some position filling to do and work has begun on that. If you know of anyone who may be able to fill in for Diana's courses in the fall, please let me know.

PERSONNEL ISSUES and SEARCHES

Our next year promises to be busy from a personnel point of view. Here are the position openings:

Ed Ross (retiring December 2014)
Aric Dutelle (June 1 2014)
Diana Johnson (June 4 2014)

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Lorne Gibson (leaving UW-Platteville following 2014/15 school year)
Department Chair

I have a meeting scheduled with the Dean and Provost next week, where we will discuss the open positions and other issues. I remain hopeful that we will be allowed to fill them.

I believe personnel issues are intertwined with curriculum, the 700-hour academy, the FI program, the reports of the outside reviewers I sent to you a couple weeks ago, and strategic planning. Turnover in personnel always gives us options and possibilities; sometimes things remain the same.

I expect we will need to do some serious planning as a department as we look at where we are, where we've come from, and where we want to go. Are there courses we should be offering? Courses we no longer need to offer, or which can be revamped to better suit our purposes? Should we be looking at a revamp of the program?

Please have all those ideas in mind as we move through the summer.

700-HOUR ACADEMY

I want to clarify a few things relating to the 700-hour Academy, and our looking at whether we can embed that in our curriculum.

I had hoped to have a department meeting just before we left to clarify some of this, but there were additional potential conditions that may have made the discussion moot, so rather than waste your time we didn't do that.

Rex, Joe, Pat and I have been working on these issues since last October. We've always welcomed input and anyone who wishes to help us sort this out, and the invitation remains.

We've been working to see if it is feasible to embed the Academy within our program without cheapening the 120-credit degree that students normally achieve. Not Rex, nor Pat, nor Joe, nor I want this to become a training curriculum; we're a university, not a training facility.

And yet, there are redundancies in the Academy curriculum for which our student pay twice; the Academy as the Training and Standards Board envisions it cannot be included under student financial aid; and it greatly delays the entry of students into

the workforce, in addition to having greater cost.

As we have moved forward--Pat has been the main person focusing on these issues, with input from others--we've looked to see how we can get students Academy credit for what they're already learning in our program, how we can get the costs subsumed under students' financial aid umbrella, and how to do it within a 4-year time frame.

Some courses might be modified to include the material in a framework that allows students to earn Academy credit in addition to Academic (B.S.) credit. Perhaps we would need to create some new courses, though exactly how that would work isn't clear yet. There may not be room to add things in some courses, or we may need to have students take material outside of class, for which they would receive no Academic (B.S.) credit, but would receive Academy credit. For instance, maybe there would need to be a Monday afternoon Academy class taught by non-UW-Platteville faculty, for Academy credit only. Or Saturday. Or a night "class." Or something else. Students just wouldn't get UW-Platteville credit for it.

The point is that not everything can--or would--be done in our own courses. Much of the material is training-oriented, and doesn't fit our curricular model. That kind of thing doesn't belong in our courses, and nobody yet has expressed any interest in doing that.

As we move forward exploring this possibility, we need to see what can be done, what can't but could under different circumstances, what options we have available, what courses could be adjusted and which cannot, and ultimately how this might be done.

I remain optimistic that we can find ways to do this. We invite and encourage your participation as we move ahead.

And one more note related to this: in my years on City Council and as President of the Common Council, I was asked by many how they might present their ideas to the Council. I'd tell them to anticipate the questions and issues that are likely to be raised by the Council, and be ready to provide answers or solutions.

That's what we've been doing w/r/t the 700-hour Academy--looking at the issues, the problems, seeing what answers and solutions might exist, and being able to present those to the CJ Department faculty. We've tried to anticipate questions and issues and see

where they take us. We've looked at all sorts of issues ranging from potential need for additional staff, costs, cost recovery, value to the program, scheduling, financial aid, and so on. That doesn't mean we've uncovered every issue, but we've looked at a lot of them.

And again, anyone who would like to be involved with this, you're more than welcome.

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