

Re: Complaint and Request for Investigation into Defamation

Sabina Burton

Thu 4/2/2015 8:02 PM

Sent Items

To: Dennis J Shields <shieldsd@uwplatt.edu>;

Cc: John A Lohmann <lohmannj@uwplatt.edu>; "sabinaburton " <sabinaburton@live.com>;

Chancellor Shields,

I didn't attempt to dictate who will adjudicate the matter. Please re-read my email. I respectfully requested that you not assign this investigation to Provost Den Herder and explained my reasons why. I have a right to make this request.

Respectfully,

Sabina Burton

From: Dennis J Shields
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2015 7:24 PM
To: Sabina Burton
Cc: John A Lohmann
Subject: RE: Complaint and Request for Investigation into Defamation

By this message I acknowledge your lodging a complaint. I will take it under advisement and let you my decision on how I will proceed.

Lodging a complaint does not give you the right to dictate who will adjudicate the matter.

Dennis Shields

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Sabina Burton <burtons@uwplatt.edu>
Date: 04/02/2015 5:14 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Dennis J Shields <shieldsd@uwplatt.edu>
Cc: "sabinaburton " <sabinaburton@live.com>, Mittie Den Herder <denherderm@uwplatt.edu>, Jennifer M DeCoste <decostej@uwplatt.edu>, John A Lohmann <lohmannj@uwplatt.edu>, Charles Cornett <cornettc@uwplatt.edu>, Teresa Burns <burnst@uwplatt.edu>, Elizabeth A Throop <throope@uwplatt.edu>
Subject: Complaint and Request for Investigation into Defamation

Chancellor Shields,

I respectfully request a formal investigation into Dean Throop's false allegation that I cancelled classes on Dec. 12, 2014. Dean Throop reprimanded me in her Dec. 16 email and threatened disciplinary measures against me without having talked to me first or properly verified her facts. Dean Throop again included the allegation in her UWS 6.01 complaint about me.

I now want to file an official complaint as the false allegation constitutes defamation. To this day I have not been shown the courtesy of being told who made the false claim. I taught both of my courses that day, held an unscheduled office hour afterwards and left campus after 1:30 pm. I have emails from 30 students verifying that I taught my classes and an email verifying that I held office hour afterwards.

I don't think you need any other information from me to conduct an investigation into this matter. I am still on medical leave but will monitor my email account. Please do not delay this investigation.

I request that you do not assign this investigation to Provost Den Herder. As I have expressed to you previously I believe Provost Den Herder is biased against me. I have learned that she stated at an unofficial department meeting in front of my colleagues that I am "alone on a sinking ship." I find this statement to be inappropriate and unprofessional.

Workplace stress, caused by acts such as Dean Throop's defamation, has contributed greatly to my severe health problems and required me to go on extended sick leave.

Respectfully,

Dr. Burton

cc:

my private account,
Provost Den Herder,
Assistant Chancellor DeCoste,
HR Director Lohmann,
Faculty Senate Chair Cornett and
Faculty Senat Vice Chair Burns