
Re: Lorne

From : Elizabeth A Throop <throope@uwplatt.edu>

Fri, Oct 12, 2012 05:06 AM

Subject : Re: Lorne**To :** Sabina Burton <burtons@uwplatt.edu>

Sabina, I have been in touch with Human Resources, the Provost, and the Chancellor about this (I was on the phone with Jeanne Durr until after 10 p.m. last night). I am meeting with Tom, Lorne, and Jeanne Durr on Tuesday. What you describe is completely unacceptable and I am taking all measures that I can to cure this situation. This is a profoundly serious problem. Please reassure the student that it will be resolved as quickly as possible. Again, I am very concerned about what is being described and I will make sure that proper action is taken.

There is no need, at this juncture, to reveal the student's identity.

Liz

Dr. Elizabeth A. Throop
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----- Original Message -----

From: "Sabina Burton" <burtons@uwplatt.edu>
To: "Elizabeth A Throop" <throope@uwplatt.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 11:01:06 PM
Subject: Fwd: Lorne

Liz,

The student emailed me tonight. She is still struggling to understand the experiment and feels violated. I think if faculty and staff would have been informed of the experiment I could have calmed down the student right away. I must say I was worried myself.

Below the email exchange I had with Tom.

Well, at least you can't say we're boring ...

Thank you,

Sabina

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "Sabina Burton" <burtons@uwplatt.edu>
To: "Thomas E Caywood" <caywood@uwplatt.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 9:31:09 PM
Subject: Re: Lorne

Tom,

I understand what a breach experiment is. We are not a psychology department nor do I believe the experiment was conducted well. If the committee for Human Subject approved the experiment and the guidelines for the experiment were followed then there is no concern. Was I part of the experiment and included in the human subject form?

Alexandra Zupec is still upset about the incident. I can understand why. Nobody likes to be a guinea pig and sexual harassment is a very sensitive matter (perhaps not the best choice for a breach experiment when it comes to teacher-student relations).

Sabina

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

From: "Thomas E Caywood" <caywood@uwplatt.edu>
To: "Sabina Burton" <burtons@uwplatt.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 8:19:52 PM
Subject: Re: Lorne

Sabina:

I would like the name of the student who came to you with the note. So I can interview her to find out exactly what happened. Here is a brief definition of a breach experiment. In the field of social psychology, a breaching experiment is an experiment that seeks to examine people's reactions to violations of commonly accepted social rules or norms. This sounds exactly what he did - pass a note to a student which is a violation of a commonly accepted norm. Particularly inappropriate behavior since we all received the warning from the Dean about student contact.

Tom
