

Dean Johnson,

Below represents my response to your letter of February 12, 2013. It is divided into several parts independently addressing the allegations by [redacted] and [redacted] and then a summary.

[redacted]

At some point during my Summer class in 2006, [redacted] started coming to see me at my office hours on a regular basis. Her academic skills were solid, she was receiving an A in my class and had no need of academic feedback. She started seeing me to discuss a personal issue. Our initial conversations were tangentially tied to a socio-political issue and therefore the initial conversation did not seem that out of place.

[redacted] came to see me regarding concerns she had about her boyfriend. According to [redacted] [redacted], her boyfriend recently converted to a fundamentalist or radical version of his religion. Although I do not remember the specifics, I believe he converted to a fundamentalist sect of Islam. Our conversations started by addressing religion, politics, and values which, although not exactly on topic for my Summer class, did not seem completely inappropriate for a student to bring up to a political science professor.

As the conversation continued, [redacted] raised the issue that as a result of her boyfriend's conversion, he had reverted back to a celibate life. [redacted] then proceeded to give me a relatively detailed description of her relationship prior to and after his conversion. Much of this description revolved around what intimate behaviors he once engaged in but would no longer engage in. At that point, I believe the conversation basically ended, and I believed that would be the end of it.

Instead, [redacted] started regularly stopping by my office during my regularly scheduled office hours. In the second meeting, there was little pretense to discuss academic affairs. She started discussing her frustrations with her boyfriend, her celibacy as a result of his decision, and her dilemma on how to proceed with her relationship. Part of her discussion was asking me if I thought he would convert back to his original religious views. Other parts of her conversation were far more uncomfortable. She again started to offer detailed information about her intimate personal life as it related to her boyfriend. She offered specific details about what he would not do. At this point, I was clearly out of my professional skill set. I had a limited counseling background as a Resident Advisor while in college. I was not qualified to discuss this subject. My mistake was not ending the conversation. Although the "rule book" may tell us to show the student the door, that is a lot easier in the abstract than in reality. It is very hard to tell a student to leave. However, I did suggest counseling for both her and jointly for her and her boyfriend.

I don't recall the exact time gaps, but [redacted] came to see me a third time to discuss the same topic. The third conversation essentially re-hashed the same earlier conversation with one addition. The third conversation revolved around her other relationship options. She noted to me that she gets asked out every day and on some days, more than once a day. She seemed to be indicating that she could have another boyfriend if she wanted one. At this point, I became exasperated and suggested if she were unhappy, she should break up with her boyfriend and go out with one of the many other boys that were

asking her out. In hindsight, I regret that as I do not believe that advice, delivered in the tone I gave it, was appreciated. After this meeting, [redacted] did not return to my office to discuss the matter further.

We did continue to be friendly throughout the remainder of the Summer session, although we did not have any more one-on-one meetings in my office. We did encounter each other one additional time down at the Starlight. The encounter was not nearly as contrived as [redacted] indicates. I emphatically deny that I ever "asked her out". I was down at the Starlight and [redacted] and a friend saw me there, invited themselves over to my table and had a few drinks while sitting with me. This is not an uncommon occurrence in Ellensburg. We are a small town and there are few places to go out. Students regularly see me out and join me at my table. This is also a common occurrence with other faculty members and students. In the case of [redacted] again, the topic of her boyfriend came up and she once again began describing her concerns and personal life. In cases like this, I tend to use humor or sarcasm as a defense mechanism. Clearly, based on the material in the report by Mr. Radillo, I probably said something that was taken poorly, or out of context, and caused offense. If that is the case, then I sincerely apologize.

From another perspective, I am uncomfortable defending myself from an official CWU report that deals with an event that took place in the summer, after school hours, and off school grounds. Yes, I was at the Starlight and drinking. However, I was over the age of 21; I was not having a drink on campus; and I was not having a drink prior to a school event. The two students who were there were also adults and at the establishment voluntarily. They both were also drinking and, therefore, I assumed they were at least 21 years old. To have to defend myself from a conversation that took place seven years ago, off campus, outside of school hours, and at a bar strikes me as an inappropriate area for CWU to concern itself with.

I also offer a few miscellaneous responses. In her comments, [redacted] claims that I was her advisor and therefore she felt pressured to converse with me. [redacted] had one class with me in the summer. I highly doubt I was her advisor. If she is willing to lie about that issue, I feel it reflects on her credibility.

[redacted] claims that she was uncomfortable in my presence. That too is not true. She repeatedly came to my office hours despite the fact there was no academic need for her to do so. She did not feel uncomfortable in any way. She repeatedly visited, and discussed intimate details of her personal life.

[redacted] claims she sent me emails. Of course, once again, there are no emails to substantiate that claim.

[redacted]

I have known [redacted] for at least two years now, and all of my interactions have been positive and appropriate.

I first met [redacted] when she was a student of mine about two years ago. At that time, she was commuting from Moses Lake to Ellensburg, during the winter, every day. This was an incredible hardship

on her. She had informed me that she was working on her education, helping her mother through a long-term illness and was also running her mother's farm. At the same time, I had just had my first child and as a result, I found myself sick quite often. This meant that I was cancelling class at the last moment, often calling the department secretary at 7:00 am to post a sign on the classroom door. Although this was little hardship to my Ellensburg students, it was an incredible hardship to [redacted] [redacted] who was getting up early in the morning, driving an hour on winter roads only to find her class cancelled.

As a result, I diverted from my general policies towards students. I agreed to let [redacted] become a "friend" on Facebook and give her my personal cell phone number. If I was feeling ill the night before, I would let her know via Facebook. If I decided not to cancel class until the morning of, I would text her. We used this system and even went so far as to set up a system where I would Skype my class lecture so she could stay at home and see the day's class (although this did not work very well and we gave up).

I can affirm that I did text [redacted] from time to time and did leave messages on her phone—all relating to school work. I invite [redacted] to turn over her phone, as in doing so, I would be completely vindicated. I would also invite CWU to peruse all of my email correspondence with [redacted] [redacted], as it too will show a professional relationship between student and teacher, with no improprieties.

I can also say that [redacted] did become tangentially involved in my campaign. She attended my campaign "kick-off" in Moses Lake and agreed to help me find some people who might walk in parades with me. None of this was done while she was a student in my class.

My other interaction with [redacted] is that she was one of several students for whom I got tickets to attend a banquet put on by the Washington Policy Center. I sit on their advisory board and they reserve a free table for students each year.

I can emphatically state that [redacted] never confronted me about voice messages on her phone and never blackmailed me about texts or messages. This accusation came as a complete surprise.

Since my election to the House, [redacted] has contacted me a few times. At one point she contacted me indicating frustration with her financial aid and fears that she would not be able to graduate. However, since I was on leave there was nothing I could really do about it. [redacted] contacted me a second time in January indicating she was being harassed by CWU and an attorney to give a statement against me.

Therefore, I was quite surprised when I got a communication from Dean Johnson with an investigation report indicating [redacted] had made several allegations. Per Dean Johnson's instructions, I have since refrained from communicating with [redacted]

Conclusion

In my first 10 years as a professor at CWU, not a single student filed a complaint against me. Once I ran for public office, three accusations have surfaced. I would note that in not a single case did these

students come forward to file a complaint while either at CWU or after they graduated. In each case, CWU pursued them. As is clear from the [redacted] Declaration, CWU and its hired attorney investigator, Ernest Radillo, have used relatively aggressive, and at times abusive tactics, to pressure ex-students. I would also submit that Mr. Radillo has acted in a less than professional manner. In his report he has submitted as "evidence" anonymous comments from a blog by the Chair of the Democratic Party. If we are to accept this type of material in an official report, then all standards have been abandoned.

Regardless of tactics and unprofessionalism, I believe it is fair to summarize as follows:

In the matter of [redacted], CWU Chief of Staff Sherer Holter has signed a sworn Declaration that all prior claims made against me are "unsubstantiated." (Declaration attached).

In the matter of [redacted], I have reviewed CWU's sexual harassment policy, which is attached to Mr. Radillo's report, and I can emphatically say that I have never sexually harassed or otherwise intimidated her.

In the matter of [redacted], we have an accusation that seven years ago, during the summer months, after school, off campus, at a bar in which she had been drinking, an inappropriate conversation took place.

I respectfully submit that CWU is singling me out for an unwarranted investigation and possible discipline based upon allegations made nearly seven years ago, by trying to force [redacted] into making unfounded allegations against me.