

Hello, all!

I wanted to send a note via Marcia to the Faculty Senate and the AHE Union members to update you on my situation with the college.

As you all know, over a year ago, the Board denied my tenure after being recommended by my committee. From that point forward, I found out who my real friends were. Some colleagues I thought I could trust and I thought I was close to showed their true colors and changed their story as time went on. It proved to be a trying time for me personally especially because I had worked very hard since 2001 to establish myself an educator who cared, and put students first. A lot of my reputation was dragged through the mud and lies were spread about me and my professionalism and teaching ability after I had left campus and subsequently after my family and I moved back home to Chicago.

Dealing with the impending arbitration, looking for work and trying to figure out my future - in many cases, my family's future and well-being - was difficult and lonely. If not for my wonderful and supportive family and support from Marcia Roi and Lisa Lewison, I would not be in Chicago happy and healthy and with a settlement from the College.

Those who knew me well should know that I was never in this for the money. I didn't go on a snipe hunt hoping to come out a millionaire. I wanted what was right and fair. The WEA and other labor unions told Marcia time-and-time-again to "drop it; there's nothing that can be done with tenure."

Well, I am happy to report that they were wrong. The college gave in to every demand that Lisa and I had. In my opinion, the College wanted to avoid an arbitration hearing. I was awarded the tenure denial removed from my record with a resignation dated March 15, 2009, the College is not allowed to speak about the tenure denial because all of the documentation – paper and electronic - in their possession was ordered destroyed. I can pursue the College in legal action if they violate the settlement agreement. The best part is that the College did not request a gag order in the settlement on my part. Now, I will let you be the judge of whether or not the College was guilty of wrongdoing. The fact remains that no matter how certain people would like to spin the facts, the facts lead to the legal reversal of the Board's tenure denial.

Thank you to those of you who cared for my family and me. I especially want to publically thank Marcia for working hard on my behalf against popular opinion that nothing could be done to reverse the decision. As the Clark chapter comes to an end for me and I look to better things for my family and me, I believe that you all have a long and hard fight ahead of you. You may need to fight for your jobs and your rights. I wish nothing but the best to you all in your future at Clark. You should all stand together, united to secure your future.

I have included a copy of my resignation letter in case you would like to read it to the faculty.

Thank you for everything, Marcia! I will be sending the letter of recommendation forms your way for my law school apps.

Best,
Christina

March 15, 2009

Associate Vice President of Human Resources
Clark College
1933 Fort Vancouver Way
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To whom it may concern:

It is unfortunate that I am submitting this resignation letter.

Although I began my position in 2006 with great hopes and aspirations - I worked very hard for three years with various members of the college and local community to grow the journalism program, and was recommended for rehire three consecutive years as well as being recommended for, and winning, teaching awards - I have become less and less satisfied with my work situation.

The direction of the College Administration - the leadership in the English Unit and BEECH Division, in which I work, have been especially disappointing - and the methods being used to accomplish the College's goals are making it increasingly difficult for me to feel comfortable in this work environment.

Therefore, I am resigning my position as of June 19, 2009 for ethical and personal reasons.

Sincerely,

Christina M. Kopinski Zimmerman