

From: Patti Morrow [mailto:pmorrow@IDPCinfo.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 6:59 PM
To: 'Spewock, Kelly'
Cc: 'Pry, George'
Subject: RE: Student/Licensing issue

Dear Mr. Pry, Ms. Spewock,

Thank you for your reply. As you know, I wrote to you to express the grave concerns of the design community regarding the inappropriate situation of student coercion at AIP. In accordance with transparency standards embraced by most institutions of higher learning, I requested answers to specific concerns but instead received what appears to be a form letter which provides no useful information, but rather, flowery platitudes ensuring that students need to be well-informed, which as you know, is the basis for our complaint.

While we agree with and appreciate your honest admission that Ms. Musulin's extra-credit assignment was inappropriate, there are still a number of outstanding questions and concerns that should be addressed before this issue can be put to rest. We would appreciate it if you would provide us with detailed and specific information to the following questions:

1. Has Ms. Musulin's inappropriate extra-credit assignment been removed from the student server?
2. Please provide the actual date that the "alternative" extra-credit assignment was given, whether it was announced by Ms. Musulin in lecture, and the date it went up on the student server.
3. Please provide the details of how this matter has "been addressed" as per your reply. Has Ms. Musulin been rebuked in writing for her heavy-handed tactics on the basis that they do not adhere with AIP's policy for academic fairness and equality?
4. What steps have been implemented to ensure that Ms. Musulin or any other instructor does not engage in the same inappropriate behavior again?
5. Have the students in the Revit class been advised that Ms. Musulin's extra-credit assignment was inappropriate? If so, was it Ms. Musulin who delivered the apology, was it verbally or in writing, or was it accomplished through AIP administration? Written documentation of her acknowledgement to the students would be most fitting in this situation. We'd like to request a copy of such documentation and suggest that it should also be posted on the student server.
6. Have Ms. Musulin's students been briefed on fair academic freedom? Since they have already been unfairly subjected to one side of this highly controversial topic, have they been provided adequate access to hear the other side? If so, who delivered that lecture or wrote the document they were required to read? Do you have any plans to give students equal access to both sides of this issue next semester?
7. Your assertion that no students elected to pursue the assignment is irrelevant. The damage is done, and the only fair solution is for them to be required to research the opposing view, as well as receive written documentation that the original assignment was inappropriate, as stated above.
8. Your statement that due to the semester ending that you do not expect this assignment to generate influence among legislators makes an assumption that has no basis in fact. What about next week? Next month? Next year? Ms. Musulin's strong-arm tactics

were tantamount to a hostile takeover and without hearing that her actions were inappropriate or the other side of this issue, these students could very likely walk away and contact legislators without AIP's knowledge. You have no way of knowing how far Ms. Musulin's influence has reached and any assumption otherwise is ludicrous.

9. Have Ms. Musulin's students who have already graduated been apprised of the inappropriate assignment?
10. Full written disclosure should be made to the entire PA legislature regarding the coercive tactics that have already or will in the future influence the students to lobby in favor of licensing.

Student coercion is a serious issue that cannot be swept under even a designer rug. AIP can undermine or reaffirm their pursuit of fair academic freedom based on how it remedies this situation. I am sure you are as eager as I am to resolve this issue and ensure that it does not recur. I look forward to your continued cooperation and the additional information requested. If you prefer to speak by phone rather than email, I can be reached on Thursday, June 18th between 1:30 and 4:00 p.m. I look forward to hearing from you.

Very sincerely,

Patti Morrow

Patti Morrow

Executive Director

INTERIOR DESIGN PROTECTION COUNCIL

Fighting for designers' rights to practice

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