


Addendum

Addendum A

Reply message -----

From: "Heather Coltman" 

To: "Marshall De Rosa" 

Subject: Request

Date: Tue, Jun 4, 2013 3:51 PM

Hi Marshall,

Just a summary below.

On April 15th I visited two of Dr. Poole's classes on the Davie campus that Dr. William Trapani had assumed, including the Intercultural Communication course in which the incident with the student occurred. Students in both classes were courteous and seemed grateful to be given an opportunity to speak to an administrator about the event and how it had been handled by the university.

In the first class ("American Multicultural Discourse") there were several students that spoke openly about their respect and appreciation for Dr. Poole. They felt that he was an engaged and supportive faculty member and were disappointed he was not completing the term with them. One student spoke passionately about his feeling that Dr. Poole was one of his favorite instructors at FAU and that he had specifically taken the course, although it meant driving to Davie, because Dr. Poole was the instructor. Most students seemed curious about Dr. Poole's well-being and whether he would be returning to FAU. I informed them that we were all concerned for his safety and that no decision had been made.

The second class ("Intercultural Communication") was even more animated and universal in their support for Dr. Poole and their belief that the facts of the case had been misrepresented by the media. As before, I announced that I was there to listen to any comments they had on the incident or the university's handling of the ensuing events and almost immediately I was inundated with students wishing to speak. I reminded them that if they wished to contact me or the Director of the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies privately to convey their views they could do that as well.

Before the conversation began, one student asked if he could distribute a petition he had drawn up in support of Dr. Poole. He read it out loud to the class (I believe a copy of this petition has been submitted to the committee). It is my recollection that all students in attendance signed the petition, but I did not watch whether each and every student signed the document as it made its way throughout the room.

The students spoke for nearly 30 minutes and in that time I heard nothing but unconditional support for Dr. Poole, and their sense that the student was a belligerent and continued to inflame the issue despite Dr. Poole trying to de-escalate it multiple times. Students reported the exercise was "no big deal", that they did not understand what all the controversy was about and that the actual exercise had not offended them or been forced on them. Students reported that the student had, from the earliest days of the semester, been something of a disruption in class often speaking

out at inappropriate times and using overly informal and potentially patronizing language to other students and to Dr. Poole (calling Dr. Poole “my brother” frequently for example). As in the first class students seemed determined to convey the message that Dr. Poole had been a consummate professional and an engaging teacher and they wished to see him return to his role on the faculty.