

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

June 21st, 2019

Stacey J. Mobley, Esq.
Chairman
Howard University
Washington, DC 20059

Dear Chairman Mobley:

Thank you for your letter of July 19th, 2019. The timing of the response of Council of the Faculty Senate to the version of the new Handbook reflected the fact that a copy of this document was received in the late afternoon of Friday, May 31st, 2019. This document was sent to the Senate without any track changes, which necessitated the tedious task of identifying significant changes and consulting with the Council before crafting a formal response. The objective of the Senate's correspondence was to have an opportunity to discuss the document before a vote of the Board.

It is important to be clear regarding the "extraordinary ten-year process" involving the revision timeline. For the record, passage of a new handbook was interrupted twice: a) in 2014 when President Frederick made significant changes to a previous revision that was approved by the Faculty (that was developed by the University-wide committee, headed by Dr. Alvin Thornton), and b) in November 2016 when Provost Wutoh presented another version with changes that differed from the original document that was previously approved by the Faculty. In both cases, these actions violated the protocol outlined in Section 2.9 of the 1993 Faculty Handbook for its revision. These actions resulted in significant delay to adopt a new handbook and compromised the shared governance process.

The new Handbook, which was adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 7th, 2019, contains changes by the Academic Excellence Committee and the Legal and Audit Committee that were not in the consensus document of January 31st, 2019 [with March 7th, 2019 Faculty Senate Changes] that was approved by the Senate.

While we understand the vagaries of meeting during the summer months, the Council still requests a meeting with the Board to discuss the 17 points outlined in its Memo of June 7th, 2019, which we feel negatively impact the academic life of the Faculty. The July request for meeting is an effort to schedule a meeting before classes begin in the Health Sciences and before the July 31st, 2019 transition in Senate leadership. However, its imperative that a



meeting be scheduled as a soon as possible, as important matters regarding the Board's changes need to be addressed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sonya K. Sobrian

Sonya K. Sobrian, Ph.D.
Chair, HU Faculty Senate

cc: Benaree P. Wiley, Vice Chair, Howard University Board of Trustees
Mark A. Mason, Vice Chair, Howard University Board of Trustees
Florence W. Prioleau, Esq., General Counsel and Secretary
Wayne A. I. Frederick, MD, MBA, President, Howard University
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