

Hi Colleagues:

I think we should try to be clear about where we are and where we've been. Please tell me if I'm wrong on any of the following.

In March of last year the council voted no confidence in the president and the provost. There were several reasons for the support of the vote. Two relevant reasons:

- (1) the de-facto contraction strategy of the administration appears to be to cut their way into financial security
- (2) lack of an approach to the deferred maintenance problem

We stated the de-facto strategy was a threat to the viability of the university. In February we mentioned several consequences of these drastic cuts: reduced departments, faculty, programs, and staff; dangers to student, staff, and faculty health; phones unanswered; and dangerous breakdowns reported at the Howard Hospital by the Washington Post.

Essentially, the Faculty Senate, through the council, warned that the administration's contraction policy would continue to have systemic and public breakdowns, unless the Board put in a different administration that would raise funds and rebuild the infrastructure and hire more staff. Since the no confidence vote, the administration and Board have gone through a number of failures.

- (1) Harassment of seniors in the Howard Manor
- (2) Dump of patient on sidewalk by Howard University Hospital
- (3) Convocation Protest of Mr. Comey
- (4) HU alert breakdown during reported active shooter on campus
- (5) Student scholarships and loans unprocessed until late in the semester
- (6) Student accused of multiple sexual assaults on campus
- (7) Tax bill proposal impact on Black PhD's (not publicly acknowledged)
- (8) Student complaints of late grades and payments for the Spring (#howardhaze)
- (9) Grad students paid late over the summer and the beginning of the fall semester
- (10) The current boiler/pipe crisis

The cause of the current boiler/pipe failure is under investigation. But the magnitude of this failure and the cascading failures associated with it are staggering. Failures spawned by the boiler/pipe failure include : damaged buildings, students and faculty in cold classrooms, students in flooded dorms.

What is truly frightening is what comes next? Since it is unclear if the administration and board are investing in more staff to deal with these problems, the limited staff and resources that the administration had before this crisis seems to be primarily focused on the current crisis.

In other words, already stretched resources are stretched even further. Perhaps increasing the likelihood of more systemic failures.

Several colleagues have come to me asking about a new no confidence vote in the president and provost. I've responded to them by saying, there isn't much point. The failures of the last 8 months (mentioned above) have pretty much confirmed the faculty's original assessment and predicted outcomes of the administration. All failures since the March 2017 no confidence vote are the responsibility of the Board of Trustees and the administration. Since the Board and administration made no changes, they "own" these failures. And the ones to come.

**So no, I don't think another no confidence vote is needed. Nothing has changed. From what I can tell, the faculty still don't have confidence in the administration after the failures of the last 8 months.**

**I don't have any feelings of dislike towards the administration or Board. I simply don't see their current strategy working, and I don't see an end to the downward spiral the university is in, unless there are changes and we speak honestly.**

Respectfully,

Marcus Alfred  
1/30/18