

Altercation before Senate Meeting

Alfred, Marcus

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Sent Items

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Dear Colleagues:

I am Marcus Alfred, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Howard University. I am also the COAS representative to the Howard University Faculty Senate Council.

On April 18, 2017 in the School of Social Work Auditorium, before the beginning of the Senate meeting at 10 am. I was preparing for a presentation that I was to make at the Faculty Senate Meeting. In preparation for my presentation, I began to sort documents relevant to the meeting before putting them up on the wall of the social work auditorium. Professor and Vice-chair of the Faculty Senate, Veronica Clarke-Tasker, told me to be careful and make sure it was okay to put documents up on the walls of the auditorium. She indicated that I should ask Ms. Rahel if it was okay. I spoke with Ms. Rahel (administrator in the School of Social Work?), and she said that I could use thumb tacks to attach documents to the cloth portions of the wall but not to use tape to attach papers to the painted portion of the walls of the auditorium.

I began to attach documents using thumbtacks. Again, I was not posting information in the voting area, so this was not within the jurisdiction of Committee on Committees. Also, the information I was posting was not political or related to the election.

I had attached (a) a letter of imperatives that had been sent to the president, (b) a description of documents that were requested in the letter, (c) the documents that were provided by the president and provost of Howard University, (d) memoranda sent by the provost, (e) 2 Washington Post articles, (f) an announcement of the School of Business no confidence vote, and (g) part of the FY Audited Financial Statements provided by the president.

At this point Howard University Police Sargent Keene told me to remove the documents I had put up. I indicated that I was a member of the faculty senate and that I was putting up documents for the meeting. He told me that I shouldn't talk to him, but that I should talk to the person in charge and he pointed to Dr. Moses Garuba that was standing beside him. Dr. Garuba said that he was not in charge and that I should talk to Prof. Veronica Clarke-Tasker. Prof. Clarke-Tasker then told me that the material I was putting up was political and that I needed to take it down. I mentioned to Prof. Clarke-Tasker that the material had nothing to do with the campaign, but were documents received from the president, Post articles, etc.. Prof. Clarke-Tasker said the Post articles were political and needed to come

down. I told the officer that I would take the material down. After I took several of the documents down, Dr. Broome, the chair of the faculty senate came into the auditorium and I told him that Sargent Keene was making me take the documents down. Dr. Broome and Sargent Keene went into the lobby of the auditorium and later Dr. Broome came back and told me just to keep the post articles down but the rest could stay.

I then put one document back up, and Sargent Keene returned and told me that I had agreed that I would take everything down, but that he saw me put up a document. Sargent Keene then said that if I put anything else up that he would rip everything off the walls and "take me in". At that point I took everything down that remained on the walls of the auditorium.

My concerns are the following:

(1) It appears that Dr. Clarke-Tasker and Dr. Garuba abused their authority as officers of the Senate. Police authority was used to silence me and violate academic freedom.

(2) Sargent Keene indicated that Dr. Garuba was in charge. Dr. Garuba is an Associate Dean. Dr. Garuba is also a Faculty Trustee. He is also secretary of the Faculty Senate. What would normally be an internal Senate matter, now includes both the Administration and the Board of Trustees. Dr. Garuba, an Associate Dean and Trustee, helped use Howard University Police to prevent dissemination of information to the Faculty Senate that may be relevant to current discussion regarding no confidence/ confidence votes.

Respectfully,

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