

Good morning Dr. Wutoh,

I'm assuming the Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA) request is for the HU Board of Trustee's Academic Excellence committee meeting? I ask because I haven't gotten an invitation to the meeting and want to make sure this isn't a mistake.

I've shared the request with the steering committee of the senate and most are asking questions:

(1) Do other university boards require NDA's of senate chairs before meeting?

(2) Isn't requiring the senate chair to sign an NDA before meeting a severe restriction of academic freedom?

(3) How can this even work? The senate chair, as spokesperson for the senate (900+ faculty), speaks for the faculty. If the faculty have a position on a topic discussed in the meeting, a chair that signs the NDA can't speak on the topic can they?

(4) Faculty trustees sign a type of NDA. Why not simply accept the faculty trustees elected in the most recent election?

As we've stated before, there is an enormous problem caused by requiring senate faculty representatives to sign NDA's. These NDA's may prevent faculty representatives from reporting information essential for the senate to make recommendations to the board and administration. This is true in this instance, but it's also true of decanal searches and all other university and college committees. Finally, I believe requiring an NDA violates AAUP, AGB, and ACM agreed upon principles.

I'd strongly recommend the board drop requiring NDA's for faculty meeting with them. In addition, I'd strongly recommend the board require the administration to drop NDA type requirements for all university and college committees (excluding personnel information, etc.).

Sincerely,

Marcus Alfred