

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and  
Chief Academic Officer

Via Electronic Mail to [Maralfred@howard.edu](mailto:Maralfred@howard.edu)

October 28, 2020

Professor Marcus Alfred, Chair  
Howard University Faculty Senate  
325 Bryant Street, NW, Rm C-119  
Washington, DC 20059

Dear Dr. Alfred,

I am responding to your email of October 19, 2020 in response to my communication of October 8, 2020 forwarding a Confidentiality Agreement for your execution in connection with the upcoming Academic Excellence Committee (AEC) meeting on November 5, 2020 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. You raise several questions to which I will respond.

The Board Governance Committee announced on April 6, 2020 its decision to pause on adding any new affiliate and general trustees to the Board as it deals with the urgent health, safety and financial matters arising from the COVID 19 shutdown of the University. Thus, no new trustees were nominated or appointed to board positions since the date of that announcement. In order to continue to gain the benefit of important input in the board's deliberations, the announcement expressed the board's commitment to engage the leadership of the Faculty Senate, as well as the Student Association, the Alumni Association, and the Staff Organization during this pause.

In the spirit of engagement and transparency, it was decided that invitations would be sent to the leadership of those organizations, including the Faculty Senate, requesting their attendance at relevant board committee meetings. Because all invitees are expected to comply with requirements of confidentiality of board proceedings where sensitive information is freely shared, the Office of the Secretary requested execution of a Confidentiality Agreement from the invitees, all of whom have signed and returned the agreement, your case being the only exception. The trustees sign a Statement of Responsibility which contains a similar confidentiality promise, so the request made of invitees to board committee meetings is not an exception.

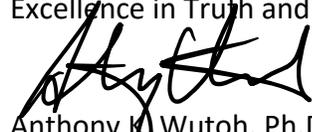
To avoid an impasse, I again want to welcome you to attend the Academic Excellence Committee meeting on November 5 to make a presentation to the Committee on those matters of concern to the faculty. You will have 10 minutes for the presentation followed by discussion with the trustees. Please let us know if you have a PowerPoint presentation so that the technical staff assisting with the meeting can display it. You will be excused from the meeting when the discussion is completed. You may feel free to provide feedback to the faculty on your session with the Committee.

I hope you will choose to take advantage of this opportunity. Kindly let me know by close of business on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 if you will accept this invitation, and I will provide the time when you should dial into the meeting.



Please let me know if you have any questions.

Excellence in Truth and Service,



Anthony K. Wutoh, Ph.D., R.Ph.  
Provost & Chief Academic Officer

Cc: Wayne A.I. Frederick, MD, MBA, President

