

Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>

Fri 7/16/2021 3:12 PM

To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>

Sure. Yes, I do.

Marcus Alfred

Pronouns: he, him, his

Associate Professor

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Washington, DC 20059

202-806-6258

maralfred@howard.edu

From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>

Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 2:56 PM

To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>

Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Thank you! Do you have tenure at Howard?

Lauren Lumpkin

Reporter

The Washington Post

216-333-3811

she/her

From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>

Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:06 PM

To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>

Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Hi Lauren, here is my statement.

Regrettably, the poor treatment of HU faculty as described in the article is not surprising. Nor am I surprised that the HU board hasn't held Drs. Frederick and Wutoh accountable. This poor treatment has been a factor in the decision of some of our best minds to leave Howard, especially those descendants of slavery in the US. It's heartbreaking what my colleagues have gone through, and what losing them means for our students and the African American community.

Marcus Alfred

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From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

No problem. Here are the documents and the email where I asked Drs. Frederick and Wutoh if they came from the administration. I never got an answer. The board secretary at the time was also on the email list - Ms. Priouleau.

I'll try to have an email statement ready for you in a bit.

Marcus

Marcus Alfred
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From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:52 PM
To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Yes, please forward those documents if you can. Thanks so much. I'd still like to include your thoughts on the letter in the story I'm working on, if you have a few minutes or would rather email a statement.

Lauren

Lauren Lumpkin
Reporter
The Washington Post
216-333-3811
she/her

From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

I've spoken with the adjunct unionizing leadership - I think you have too? I wouldn't have much more to add from what they tell you except to confirm that they had tried to talk with the administration and had reached out to me several times.

Also, I had asked the HU administration and if I'm not mistaken reported to the board about the apparent HU administrations tactics (letters and emails) to dissuade adjunct faculty from unionizing. I do have the documents if you'd like to see them. Just let me know.

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From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Do you have some time today to talk specifically about the issues outlined in the open letter?

Lauren Lumpkin
Reporter
The Washington Post
216-333-3811
she/her

From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:21 PM
To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Great, thanks so much.

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[\[nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#)

From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:30:19 PM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Ok. Let me start calling. I think so.

Marcus

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From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:05 PM
To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

That would be great -- I'm eager to hear from more faculty on this subject. On-the-record sources are always preferred but since it's a trick subject, I can offer anonymity.

Do you think you can get a few people by Friday?

Thanks,
Lauren

Lauren Lumpkin
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The Washington Post
216-333-3811
she/her

From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:55 PM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Regrettably, it is. From the tenured faculty side, it's more like the AAAS article I sent you.

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/06/atmospheric-science-overwhelmingly-white-black-scientists-have-ignited-change> [[sciencemag.org](https://www.sciencemag.org)]. [[nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](#)] [[nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](#)] [[nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com](#)]

My offer still stands to try to get a few faculty together to give you a few more opinions if you'd like. Just let me know. Thanks for asking questions and all you do as a journalist.

Marcus

Marcus Alfred
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From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:27 PM
To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Hi again,

I'm sure you've seen the [Medium letter \[nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#)
[\[nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#), [\[nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#)
[\[nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com\]](#) addressed to Nikole Hannah-Jones. Is it fairly consistent with what you've seen/experienced at Howard?

Lauren Lumpkin
Reporter
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From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 7:07 PM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Hi Lauren,

If I'm not mistaken, the no confidence dates were March 31, 2017, April 2, 2018, and April 10, 2018 (full senate vote ended). Also, I've attached a Science article about Dr. Vernon Morris and what happened to him and other scholars in Atmospheric Science at HU.

Best,

Marcus

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From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 10:42 AM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Hi Lauren,

Here is a bit of what I said. I hope it helps.

1. Good morning. Some information on me

Marcus Alfred, PhD
Associate Professor, Dept. of physics and astronomy
Computational physicist
Howard alum

2. Ms. Hannah-Jones and Mr. Coates are an amazing journalist and writer. By welcoming them and supporting them, HU fulfills part of it's understood legacy - to provide opportunities to those descendants of America's freed slaves and others. I truly wish them only the best. (I've no knowledge of the process that brought them to HU or on boarding them, so I can't speak to that.)

3. However, it may be useful to consider what's happened to some other outstanding scholars that have left HU within the last year. I'd like to give you a few names. Drs. Vernon Morris, Talitha Washington, Yolonda Wilson, and Thomas Searles. If I'm not mistaken, all descendants of enslaved Americans. They came to HU much like Ms. Hannah-Jones and Mr. Coates, but left. Dr. Morris had one of the biggest research grants at HU (if not the biggest), Dr. Washington was the only African American (descendant) woman with tenure in the math department. Dr. Wilson was one of the few African American women with a Philosophy PhD in the country. Dr. Searles recently brought to and spearheaded (PI) the multi-million dollar quantum science project to HU.

4. I wouldn't want to speak for them, but they didn't only leave because of a competitive salary. They and other faculty members have left, in my opinion, because the HU board and administration have created a climate that is hostile in some HU departments and colleges to some of our best scholars and in particular those scholars descended from American slaves. (Problems: unpaid/late payment of vendors, unpaid/late payment of grad students, unpaid/late payment of undergrad students, unpaid/late payment of invoices, late hires by HU administration even though grant funds are authorized or delivered to HU. Documented discrimination based on race and/or gender, dramatic loss of African American (descendant) faculty in some STEM disciplines and board dismissal of this potential problem)

5. Further context, we can discuss what's happened over the last 5-7 years, but I'd need time to prepare a bit more. Just a quick summary of problems apparently due in part to HU board and their administration's decisions: 200+ million dollar weather event, financial aid money stolen, broken decanal search processes, broken shared governance (student, faculty, alumni affiliate trustee elimination), illegitimate 2019 faculty handbook adoption, and more. These types of problems were the cause of the faculty to issue 3 no-confidence votes in the HU administration and/or executive board. (These votes still stand and their subsequent recommendations have not been rescinded by the faculty)

6. In summary, HU can be an amazing place for underrepresented scholars due to the fantastic students, alumni, staff, colleagues, and supporters. But for a number of HU faculty, especially descendants of enslaved Americans, the current HU is heartbreaking.

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From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 6:04 PM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Cool. Talk to you then and thanks again.

Marcus

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From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 5:41 PM
To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Great. I'm free at 9:30 a.m. if that's okay with you. My cell phone number is in my email signature!

Lauren Lumpkin
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From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Yup. Tomorrow morning works. Just let me know what time and what number to use?

Best,

Marcus

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From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 5:22 PM
To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

That's completely fine. Are you free in the morning?

Thanks,
Lauren

Lauren Lumpkin
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From: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 4:11 PM
To: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Subject: Re: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

Hi Ms. Lumpkin,

Absolutely. Would you have time tomorrow though? Today is essentially impossible.

Thanks for reaching out to us,

Marcus

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From: Lumpkin, Lauren <Lauren.Lumpkin@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 2:10 PM
To: Alfred, Marcus <marAlfred@Howard.edu>
Subject: Interview request: recent developments at Howard

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Hi Professor,

My name is Lauren Lumpkin and I'm a reporter at the Washington Post. I'm working on a story about the changes at Howard over the last few years and, most recently, the appointments of Nikole Hannah-Jones and Ta-Nehisi Coates.

I'm reaching out in the hopes you have some today to offer your perspective as faculty senate chair on these developments and explain how they fit into the changes that have occurred at the university in recent years.

Many thanks for your consideration,
Lauren

Lauren Lumpkin
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