

From: Gerald Lang
To: Nutter, Roy
Date: 12/27/07 11:24 AM
Subject: Re: Question from Charleston Daily Mail

>>> Roy Nutter 12/27/07 11:14 AM >>>
Jake:

IF indeed there was a degree awarded when the person completed only half the courses, I am indeed livid and heads should roll. I seriously doubt however that this occurred as it has been reported by the Pittsburgh paper. I am not a faculty member in B&E but it is not surprising that records can be lost. 1998 was before the major re-writes of software on the WVU campus to make sure we could survive the awaiting disasters of computer software with the Y2K millennium bugs. I would not be surprised if this was a contributing factor. The trouble with multiple data bases (both paper AND digital as well as separate College and University data bases) is keeping them coordinated. They can contain different data that conflicts. My guess is that this is probably more of the problem than actual overt fraud.

I am certain that an investigation by WVU will (probably already is) underway. I am also certain that the WVU Faculty Senate will want to know what is happening. If there is a smell, the faculty in general and the Senate in particular will not be satisfied until all is in the open and public. I am confident in our WVU administration to sort this out accurately and honestly. If there has been fraud, it will come out. If there are fixes needed to repair our record keeping systems (which there is no doubt in my mind we do need to work on), I am sure it will be done.

Sorry to be so verbal.

...Roy Nutter
Chairman of the WV Advisory Council of Faculty 2007-2008
WVU Faculty Representative to WV Advisory Council of Faculty 2006-2008
Member of WVU Faculty Senate
Past Chair of the WVU Faculty Senate (2001-2002)

Roy S. Nutter, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Professor Computer Science and Electrical Engineering
West Virginia University
933 Engineering Sciences Bld
POB 6109, Lane Dept of CSEE
Morgantown, WV 26506-6109
Tel: (304)-293-0405 x2510
Fax: (304)- 293-8602
e-mail: RNutter@wvu.edu

>>> "Jake Stump" <jakestump@dailymail.com> 12/26/2007 12:16 PM >>>
Mr. Nutter,

Hello. I'm Jake Stump, a writer for the Charleston Daily Mail down here in Charleston, WV.

I'm hoping this message reaches you on this day after Christmas.

We're following-up on the allegations that the university awarded Heather Bresch, daughter of Gov. Joe Manchin, with a business degree when she only completed half the courses. I'm assuming you've heard about it. Anyway, I'm quizzing Faculty Senate members about those claims, and would like to seek your perspective. What is your general reaction to the allegations? Are you aware of what really went down? Are faculty members outraged?

If you could get back to me, I would greatly appreciate it. Happy holidays.

Respectfully,
Jake Stump
Daily Mail Staff Writer
(304) 348-4842

jakestump@dailymail.com