

August 19, 2010

[Phone: (512) 463-2000, Fax: (512) 463-1849 (12:48pm)]

To: Texas Governor Rick Perry and Senate Committee on Higher Education

Subject: Formal Complaint against Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, President William C. Powers, Jr. and The University of Texas Leaders stated herein for Violation of Zenobia C. Joseph's Constitutional Rights to Free Speech, Due Process, and Equal Protection of the Laws

Re: Senate Committee on Higher Education Testimony on Interim Charge 9, Senate Bill 175 and UT-Austin's Diversity Commitment

1. **Preface:** No Top 10 percent student, veteran, or minority capable of earning a PhD should be denied an opportunity to do so. My story reflects the egregious misuse and abuse of power by leaders at The University of Texas who earn on average \$100K to over \$300K/year. Please put the graduate students' adjudication process and university sanctions into statute to protect students from arbitrary dismissal.

2. **Policy:** The President delegated his authority of The Graduate School to Steven Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost.¹ Despite Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa and Assistant Chancellor Dawn Jones sending my issue to President Powers twice, UT System still investigated my dismissal from the Cultural Studies in Education PhD Program where I completed 42 hours, though denied 6 credits, in one year (Fall 2008-2009) with an A average in Curriculum and Instruction at The University of Texas at Austin. On August 25, 2009, Deputy Charles Roeckle referred me to Associate Dean Terry Kahn; we met August 31, 2009. Kahn spearheaded retaliatory clandestine meetings within 11 days of my written and oral request for 6 credits to deny my UT graduation and ensure "principal players" gave a "common response." Kahn's meetings included Linda Millstone (Equal Opportunity Services), Lee Smith (Lawyer) and education faculty based, out of context, on "numerous inquiries ranging from the departments of C&I to Ed. Admin. To Diversity/Community Engagement to the Graduate School to...Office of the President."

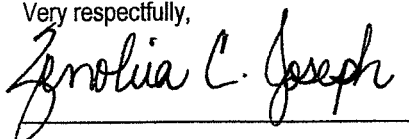
3. **Background:** Key Dates (list is not intended to be all inclusive but provides an overview).

- September 10, 2008: President Powers referred me to Gregory J. Vincent, Vice President for the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE) per my Carson Scholars inquiry to fund scholarships for gifted grade 4-11 students.
- October 2, 2008: Vincent and I met with UT leaders (Edmund "Ted" Gordon and Wanda Nelson); notes excluded from open records.
- October 3, 2008: Vincent and I conversed during the Black MBAs social underwritten by DDCE where he stated, in part, "I need you to graduate" and inquired about my job, health insurance, and matters stated in Members' notebooks. He hugged me before leaving and did so through April 2009 as corroborated by abstract entitled, "I-Matter": An Autoethnographic Suicidal Subjugated Soul (2009).
- October 29, 2008: Vincent and I met at the UT stadium sports bar to discuss DDCE jobs. He stated, "I don't need another teacher"; shared that he'd just hired Aileen Bumphus (former principal); and offered a grant job and a job as his speech writer asking for an ASAP reply. I shared my research interest in African-American males and presented a copy of his dissertation with a critique and handwritten notes. Shortly after the conversation started, Vincent looked me in the eyes and stated, "We're equals – Greg and Zenobia." He then shared intimate details about his divorce after 14 years of marriage and asked about my personal life. Vincent advised me but graded me unfairly. My 3-ream box of documents were excluded from UT open records. Relief: I request a grade change to an A in absence of objectivity. I also request a grade change from Walter Bumphus per my syllabus compliance (2009).
- April 2009-July 2010: UT-Austin failed to consistently follow the transfer policy afforded my Cultural Studies peers disregarding its graduate students' adjudication process. On May 7, 2010, I met President Powers in the elevator and requested a 5-minute meeting. Unbeknownst to me, Dean Marilyn Kameen sought advice from Kahn about my request. Kahn's May 7, 2010/10:18:13 e-mail notes, "Marilyn– Don't do anything. I'll send these to Lee Smith, and we will go from there. Thanks. T. Kahn." All other Kameen e-mails with this text were wrongfully redacted noting, "personally identifiable information" though e-mails contained exculpatory evidence. Assistant Jody Owens also warned Dean Fields, "Zenobia came to our office...Amadeo let me know that she was in the building."

4. **Redress:** Please honor your education commitment per State of the State Address and allow me to resume PhD studies in Fall 2010 under leadership of a 5-member ad hoc committee with tenured faculty of my choice sponsored by Cultural Studies per Graduate Adviser Stuart Reifel's guidance in July 2009 and his April 27, 2010 GI Bill letter stating how each of my courses met program requirements. I also ask for a complete copy of my academic file per Open Records Request to Texas Attorney General dated June 21, 2010 and assurance of Graduate Research Assistant funding to work with members of my committee. Lastly, I request an apology letter from Dean Kahn to all persons e-mailed with his character defamation statements. I ask, too, for a letter from the Chancellor and President to state how they will improve the system.

5. **Closing:** There can be no justice in a system of grave injustice where UT policies state one thing and leaders do another. I pray you will act with integrity to right this wrong. Please work with Texas legislators to ensure that no other veteran or minority endures violations of his/her constitutionally protected rights. Notably I shared my story with all Texas Legislative Black Caucus members, Senator Watson, Representative Strama and Congressman McCaul to no avail. I also wrote to President Obama, Secretary Duncan and Secretary Shinseki. Please let me know within 7 days if you need more information. Point of contact is the undersigned at zcjsph@sbcglobal.net or (512) 669-0347. ~Thanks.

Very respectfully,



¹ UT-Austin's Revised Handbook of Operating Procedures (The Graduate School), <http://www.utexas.edu/policies/hoppm/01.C.02.html> (D1-4)