



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: CRIMINAL JUSTICE • HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES • NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • NOMINATIONS • TRANSPORTATION

July 26, 2023

Chancellor John Sharp
Texas A&M University System
Moore/Connally Building, 7th Floor
301 Tarrow St
College Station, TX 77840-7896

Dear Chancellor Sharp:

I am writing you to share my anger and disappointment with the bungled hiring of Dr. Kathleen McElroy as the new director of Texas A&M's journalism program. Dr. McElroy's credentials are impeccable, and A&M made a wise decision to initially offer her the job. Unfortunately, for the second time this year, A&M allowed itself to make a rash decision because of the hysteria surrounding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies. The treatment of Dr. McElroy after the announcement of her hiring was simply shameful and I am thankful that she will still be teaching young minds at the University of Texas-Austin.

After our discussion regarding your decision to prohibit DEI in the student admissions process, I had hoped that A&M would tread carefully around the issue. Instead, A&M allowed itself to be influenced by outside agitators who did not want an African-American woman who worked at the New York Times to lead A&M's journalism program. Allowing her race and work to be the reason her job offer was continually watered down sends a chilling message to the country about the academic freedom and the environment at A&M. I look forward to seeing the results and recommendations of the A&M System's investigation into Dr. McElroy's hiring process.

I welcome your desire to visit my district and explore ways to increase enrollment from minority communities. We have discussed many times that students from communities that I represent do not go to A&M, and a major reason is that they do not perceive the university as a welcoming

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institution to minorities. This episode only further reinforces that belief. For your effort to increase minority enrollment to be successful, these students must feel welcome at A&M. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Borris L. Miles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Borris L. Miles
Senator, District 13

cc:

Bill Mahomes, Chair, Texas A&M Board of Regents

Porter Garner, III, President, Aggies Association of Former Students

Erica Davis Rouse, President, Texas A&M Black Former Student Network