

From: Tommy Wilde <tomwilde@mac.com>
Subject: Fwd: UCLA Graduate School of Education
Date: October 8, 2018 at 10:30 PM
To:



Begin forwarded message:

From: Tom Wilde <tomwilde@mac.com>
Subject: Re: UCLA Graduate School of Education
Date: December 4, 2010 at 10:06:17 PM PST
To: Diane Ravitch <gardendr@gmail.com>
Cc: dr19@nyu.edu, michaelravitch@michaelravitch.com

Dear Diane,

Thank you for your reply.

In fact your one-line reply demonstrates in quite possibly the most succinct manner a complete inability to understand both this situation and the kind of help you are now in a position to offer. Please allow me a few more lines to explain.

Your one line: "I am sorry about your situation. There is nothing I can do to help you."

However, it should be quite clear to you, a nationally prominent spokesperson for public education, that when "the most popular campus in the nation" (from UCLA's marketing releases) disregards facts and violates its own Ethical Standards and Faculty Code of Conduct in order to terminate a student, this crucial selection operation by this public university cannot then be accurately characterized as a "situation" limited to a single student for you "to help" (or not).

To draw the appropriate analogy to hopefully make this point clear to you, let us suppose a young person walks into a parish church and offers the priest there some incontrovertible facts showing this person's serious abuse at the hands of priests in another, but distant, parish. And suppose this priest then refuses these facts and turns the person away by saying, "I am sorry about your situation. There is nothing I can do to help you."

Moreover, I think the fact that your message indicates you won't even look into this case with your colleagues is sharply instructive of what your newfound public stand for public education actually means: You remain silent when one of the nation's most highly regarded public universities flagrantly violates the public's trust.

Indeed, your short reply provides powerful evidence of how 'the secular priesthood' (Isaiah Berlin's term) works within our nation's top universities, and further substantiates Noam Chomsky's remarks on our so-called intellectuals' "shifting quickly and instantaneously from one position to the other [—] because they're really not changing their positions, they're just changing their assessment of where power is, so it's a very easy shift to make. It's the famous 'god that failed' transition."

(You can find this quote at 7:30 in part 2 of an interesting video lecture: "Necessary Illusions—Thought Control in a Democratic Society"; http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1bIFa_E0xk&NR=1 . You might also enjoy this short video clip: "Noam Chomsky on the Role of the Education System"; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xq6lFOhLJOc>)

In any case, we can both be quite sure that if your own son had come home (permanently) from the university with these same documents, you, a university faculty member, certainly would not have told him, "I'm sorry about your situation. There is nothing I can do to help you." That is, once acclaimed university faculty members (like you) selectively apply the university's own academic and ethical principles to how the university operates on its students (in their names), these faculty members are destroying the university for their own children and are instead merely guaranteeing them high positions within the ranks of the commissar class

—individuals who are subservient to power and who remain silent even in the face of this power's open and extreme violations of ethical conduct.

You have long held exalted positions of responsibility to public education. How you respond to the facts in this case at UCLA does, I believe, allow us a much deeper understanding of not only the actual function of these positions, but also the character of your own scholarly responsibilities to the nation's universities.

And again, I'd be happy to answer questions you may have on any of the documents on the website: ucla-weeding101.info.

Sincerely,
Tom Wilde
Santa Monica, CA
310-601-8596
tomwilde@mac.com

Ps. Please feel free to circulate this email if you wish.

On Nov 28, 2010, at 6:45 AM, Diane Ravitch wrote:

Tom,

I am sorry about your situation. There is nothing I can do to help you.

Diane Ravitch

On Sun, Nov 28, 2010 at 8:22 AM, Tom Wilde <tomwilde@mac.com> wrote:

Dear Diane Ravitch,

I'm writing to you and other faculty members of New York University Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development to bring to your attention important documents showing how the University of California, Los Angeles, terminates a student from its own Graduate School of Education: ucla-weeding101.info.

I'd be happy to answer questions you may have about any of the material on the website.

Sincerely,
Tom Wilde
Santa Monica, CA
310-601-8596
tomwilde@mac.com

Ps. My sense is that your fairly recent swapping of the "right" for the "left" (which, as you are likely aware, was characterized as a 'cataclysmic' shift in education circles) merely indicates how extremely narrow the boundaries are between these two groups admitting 'respectable' academic discourse on education; i.e., had you said something a fraction outside these fiercely policed "right-left" boundaries, your "new" voice would have been either wholly ignored or loudly ridiculed. In any case, I must add that your finally taking a public stand for public education is quite necessary (and admirable) in my view.

