Dear Professor Hardcastle,

I see that you were contacted by Sarah Kuta, as there is now an article on the Daily Camera website in which you are quoted at some length. Some of my colleagues and I have been puzzled as to why your team sent copies of the Site Visit Report to Dean Steven Leigh and Provost Russell Moore, but I didn’t write you earlier because the Administration asked us not to do. However, now that the University has publicly released the Site Visit Report, and the Department has been told by the External Interim Chair, who has just been appointed, that we can raise questions about the Report, there seemed to be no reason not to write and to ask you, as the leader of the site visit team, why it was decided to send copies of the report to Dean Leigh and Provost Moore.

Best regards,

Michael Tooley
Dear Michael,

Thank you for writing with your questions. Our standard operating procedures is indeed to release the report only to the department because that is who normally engages us for the visit and analysis. However, in your particular case, the provost’s office and dean’s office, in partnership with your department, came to us with the visit request. Sending the report to the three units was part of the original contract, and the request to send the report to all three came to us from you all at the very beginning. I cannot speak to the dynamics at your institution that led to the request and contract coming from three units instead of one.

-- Valerie
Dear Valerie,

Many thanks for the very quick response. (I fear that I have a reputation – not totally undeserved, my colleagues would add! – for sometimes going several days without looking at my email.)

There is still a bit of a puzzle, however. As you’ll see from the document I’ve attached, and which Graeme Forbes sent along to us, there is no reference to any threefold request from the Department of Philosophy plus the Dean and the Provost. I take it then, first of all, that there must have been some later document that you sent along to Graeme, before the site visit on September 25-28, indicating that the Site Visit Report would go to the Dean and the Provost, in addition to the Philosophy Department, and on which Graeme then signed off, and, secondly, that there must also have been correspondence that you received from Provost Moore and Dean Leigh, also prior to the site visit on September 25-28, in which both the Provost and the Dean explicitly put in a request for a site visit, explaining that the visit was then being requested by the Dean, the Provost, and the Department of Philosophy.

I am therefore writing to ask if you could send along the relevant document that was sent to Graeme, along with Graeme’s letter signing off on the new arrangement, together with the relevant correspondence involving the Dean and the Provost.

Best regards,

Michael

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Dear Michael,

With all due respect, I am not going to engage in this conversation with you. We promised confidentiality for the entire process and, from my point of view, that covers all correspondence from everyone connected with the visit. You should recall, however, that when we met with you, we did indicate who would be getting the report, and that list included your Dean and Provost. You should also realize that because Colorado is a sunshine state, all your Dean or Provost had to do to get the report was ask your Chair for a copy, if he were the only one to receive it. Furthermore, the report, once issued to your university, is subject to FOI requests by anyone, since you are a public institution. But I’m sure you know all this.

I do understand your being upset at having the report released to the media and being released at a timetable not of your choosing. This might be an issue to discuss with your dean and your provost. But, perhaps, tracing the details of agreements and who did what when and why is not the best way to move forward at this time.

With best wishes,

-- Valerie
Dear Valerie,

Let me try one final letter. I’ve once again attached the document Graeme Forbes sent along to us, and in which there is no reference to any threefold request from the Department of Philosophy plus the Dean and the Provost. My question is whether there is some later document that you sent along to Graeme, before the site visit on September 25-28, indicating that the Site Visit Report would go to the Dean and the Provost, in addition to the Philosophy Department, and on which Graeme then signed off.

If there is such a document, and such a letter from Graeme Forbes, then please send those along to Graeme. Doing so cannot violate anyone’s confidentiality in any way.

Best regards,

Michael
Dear Michael,

Perhaps I was not clear in my note below. All correspondence is confidential. There are no exceptions. The site visit report itself, of which you have a copy, indicates for whom the report was made. Everyone during the interview process was also informed regarding who was getting copies of the final report, including you. Frankly, it is completely disingenuous for you to be claiming, at this late date, that we were not supposed to give the report to your Dean and Provost, or that you were caught off-guard when the report was given to upper administration, and you know this.

Now let me ask you: since this line of inquiry has become public as well, are you sure that this is what you want your department’s first and official reaction to be to the report being made public to be: the insinuation that you wanted to hush the report up?

-- Valerie

From: Michael Tooley <michael.tooley.7@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, 2 Feb 2014 22:39:03 -0700
To: Valerie Hardcastle <hardcave@ucmail.uc.edu>, Amy Ferrer <aferrer@udel.edu>
Subject: Re: The Revised Site Visit Agreement

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