



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
PLATTEVILLE
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: Dennis J. Shields, Chancellor

FROM: Dominic Barraclough, ^B
Director of Graduate Studies and Academic Projects

RE: Investigation of Complaint filed by Dr. Sabina Burton by Dean Elizabeth Throop

DATE: 8 April 2015

At your request I have investigated the complaint that Dr. Sabina Burton sent to you by e-mail on April 2, 2015. Dr. Burton's complaint against Dean Elizabeth Throop is for making false allegations. Outside of the scope of this investigation was whether those false allegations constitute defamation, or how Dean Throop gathered the information that ultimately proved be false.

In large part, the information needed for this investigation was already documented within the complaint that Dean Throop filed against Dr. Burton on January 5, 2015. The only additional work required was to interview Dean Throop to confirm what had previously been reported.

After interviewing Dean Throop I can confirm the following aspects of Dr. Burton's complaint:

- 1) Dean Throop sent an e-mail to Dr. Burton on December 16, 2014 informing Dr. Burton that she was in violation of UW-Platteville policy for having cancelled her classes on Friday, December 12, 2014 without asking permission or even informing Dr. Burton's department chair. Dean Throop indicated that she would, "... be forced to pursue disciplinary measures as a result."
- 2) Dr. Burton responded to Dean Throop on December 17, 2014 saying, in part, "You are incorrect in your assertion that I canceled class." In addition, Dr. Burton solicited e-mails from students in those classes she had presumably missed to "... please reply to this e-mail with your confirmation that I did teach my class last Friday, Dec 12, 2014 to prove to Dean Throop that I did not cancel the class." It was this interaction which drew students into the dispute that Dean Throop included as part of her complaint on January 5, 2015.
- 3) Dean Throop sent an e-mail on December 19, 2014 in which she acknowledges having received student reports that conflicted with what she had earlier been informed. She clearly states that, "As a result, I withdraw my admonition to you regarding cancelling class."

In conclusion it is clear that Dean Throop did incorrectly admonish Dr. Burton for having cancelled her classes on Friday, December 12, 2014.

