



December 18, 2015

University of Missouri
Office of the Chancellor
Attention: Interim Chancellor Hank Foley, PH.D
105 Jesse Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

Chancellor Foley and Members of the Board of Curators:

We are writing today to ask that you take immediate action to address the inappropriate and criminal actions taken by Assistant Professor Melissa Click during the recent protests on the University of Missouri – Columbia campus.

As a professional representing our University, Click failed to meet the obligations she has to her supervisors, fellow professors, University students, and the taxpayers of Missouri. As an academic professional, her first goal should have been to promote a safe and stable learning environment for all students, and to represent the University to the public in a way that strengthens the image of our flagship state institution of higher education. Instead, Professor Click's comments served to inflame an already caustic situation that was clearly out of line.

The fact that, as a professor teaching in the communication department and the school of journalism, she displayed such a complete disregard for the First Amendment rights of reporters should be enough to question her competency and aptitude for her job. As a professor in the School of Journalism, Click's role should have been to remind students that we must respect the First Amendment rights of all individuals, and that the student reporters there were doing nothing more than their jobs; jobs which are soundly protected by our Constitution. Instead, Professor Click assaulted a student videographer by grabbing his camera, and called on those around her to bring in "some muscle" to help remove the reporters. It should be evident that these actions are inappropriate, illegal, and unacceptable for a faculty member of the University of Missouri. The University of Missouri expects and deserves better.

The public spotlight that is now shining on Click because of her behavior has also revealed some of the "research" she is conducting at the University. Our constituents have expressed outrage at

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the fact she is using taxpayer dollars to conduct research on “50 Shades of Grey,” “Lady Gaga,” and “Twilight.” While we recognize there may be some value in pop culture studies, her behavior has the public questioning her “research” and her unacceptable actions during the protest. What is even more insulting is that Professor Click was on a research waiver from the University of Missouri so that she didn’t have to teach classes. Rather, Professor Click spent her paid time off from teaching to assault students, harass citizens of Missouri, and work in contravention of our Constitution. Professor Click, realizing the errors in her actions, has already resigned from the School of Journalism. We believe, however, it is exceedingly difficult to justify her continued service at the University of Missouri.

While the Senators agree with the points expressed above by the House of Representatives relative to Melissa Click we want to include the conduct of Janna D. Basler, Senior Associate Director of Student Life, recently reinstated to her University job and who also participated vocally and publicly in the protest as inappropriate conduct for a staff member of the university.

For these reasons, and to help prevent future inappropriate conduct, we call on you, the leaders appointed by the state of Missouri, to take immediate action. We call on you to remove Click from her current position as assistant professor of mass media in the University’s Department of Communications and to deny her pending application for tenure. We also call on you to remove Basler from her position of Senior Associate Director of Student Life. Missourians hold our faculty and staff members to a higher standard, and we must demand from them the kind of leadership that will set a positive example for all students.

The University now has the opportunity to send a strong message that leadership can and will act quickly and decisively to root out bad behavior. We urge you to do so immediately.

Sincerely,



Senator Kurt Schaefer



Senator Ron Richard



Senator Mike Kehoe



Senator Bob Onder



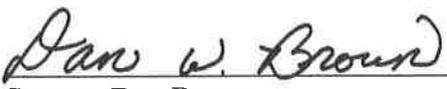
Senator Mike Cunningham



Senator David Pearce



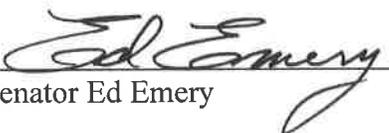
Senator David Sater



Senator Dan Brown



Senator Rob Schaaf



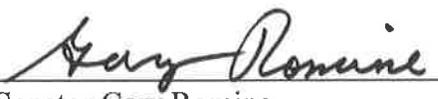
Senator Ed Emery



Senator Brian Munzlinger



Senator Dave Schatz



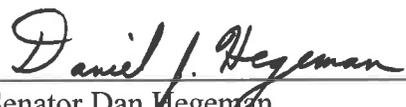
Senator Gary Romine



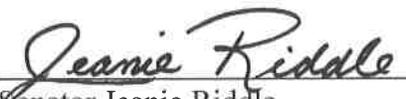
Senator Doug Libla



Senator Jay Wasson



Senator Dan Hegeman



Senator Jeanie Riddle



Senator Eric Schmitt