

February 7, 2007

Anti-protester bias at the Washington Post

Commentary:

Yesterday Susan Kinzie, a respected Washington Post reporter, wrote an article posted at 4:38 p.m. about Dr. Davila announcing no further punishment against protesters who were arrested. The online article also included information about the new PART rating as a second topic.

But later, that online article was removed from the Internet and replaced with a longer one that removed the headline about not punishing student protesters and changed the whole emphasis of the story to the OMB PART rating. The story about not punishing protesters was stuck in a small sentence at the end of the new story.

Here is the original online article from 4:38 pm with the original headline:

Gallaudet Will Not Punish Student Protesters

School for the Deaf Upgraded to "Adequate" in Federal Review

By Susan Kinzie

Washington Post Staff Writer

Tuesday, February 6, 2007; 4:38 PM

Gallaudet University president Robert Davila said in a message to the campus today that the more than 130 protesters who were arrested last fall, when the campus was shut down by people angry over the selection of the next president, would not be punished further.

Protests brought the school for the deaf to a standstill until the Board of Trustees voted in October to terminate the appointment of the unpopular incoming president. Davila was asked to serve as interim president.

Also, a review of Gallaudet University by the federal government was upgraded to "adequate" by the Office of Management and Budget, which cited actions taken to improve the overall program at the school for the deaf in Northeast Washington.

Last year the school was rated "ineffective" and the OMB noted stagnant or deteriorating performance on key measures, including graduation rates. The graduation rate, based on the number of students who complete their undergraduate degrees within six years, has been 28 percent.

School officials questioned the findings, asking to have more input in the process, and the OMB agreed to do a reassessment. The new report, issued yesterday, concluded that "Gallaudet failed to meet its goals or show adequate progress in key areas, including the number of students who stay in school, graduate, and either pursue graduate degrees or find jobs upon graduation," and that the Department of Education has developed a plan for monitoring the school.

Gallaudet gets the majority of its funding from the federal government, with a \$107 million appropriation this year.

[End of online article]

[Here is the new article that replaced it a few hours later:](#)

Government Upgrades Gallaudet's Rating but Will Monitor Concerns

By Susan Kinzie

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, February 7, 2007; B03



"This is good news for Gallaudet University," President Robert Davila said, "but we accept criticisms of our programs that continue to be valid." [Photo by Katherine Frey -- The Washington Post]

[Article:]

Gallaudet University got an improved evaluation from the federal government, rising from last year's rating of "ineffective" to "adequate" this year, largely because of plans for more stringent monitoring by the Department of Education.

The Office of Management and Budget evaluation posted online Monday was critical of the District-based school for the deaf, noting that it had not improved its performance on key measures of student success, including chronically low graduation rates. And "the Department of Education has not evaluated the federally funded programs at Gallaudet to ensure that they are addressing the needs of their service population" and achieving results, the report concluded.

But President Robert Davila, who took over leadership of the university in January after a year of turmoil, said in an e-mail that he had a good meeting yesterday with Department of Education officials and is looking forward to working with them. The report includes a detailed improvement plan agreed upon by the department and Gallaudet.

"This is good news for Gallaudet University," Davila told the campus community yesterday, "but we accept criticisms of our programs that continue to be valid." Improving graduation rates is an important goal, he said, "and we will redouble our efforts to see that it happens."

Last February, the school was rated ineffective, with problems in the number of students staying in school, graduating, and finding jobs or continuing their education after Gallaudet, as well as a lack of oversight from the Department of Education. Graduation rates have limped along well below 50 percent.

The new report concluded that "Gallaudet failed to meet its goals or show adequate progress in key areas, including the number of students who stay in school, graduate, and either pursue graduate degrees or find jobs upon graduation."

But the department has created a plan for monitoring federally funded programs at Gallaudet, according to the report. More robust oversight began in December and will intensify in April when site visits begin, said John H. Hager, assistant secretary in the department's office of special education and rehabilitative services.

An additional \$600,000 was requested for further monitoring of Gallaudet and its strategies to keep students in school and attain other goals.

Gallaudet gets nearly two-thirds of its funding from the federal government -- more than \$100 million annually.

The five potential ratings are "effective," "moderately effective," "adequate," "ineffective," and "results not demonstrated." School officials asked for a reassessment last year, wanting to provide more data.

In the meantime, after a new president was named in May to replace longtime President I. King Jordan, protests erupted, bringing the school to a standstill. The unrest ended in October after the arrests of more than 130 protesters, a march on the U.S. Capitol and the termination of the incoming president's appointment.

Davila, a popular deaf leader who once held Hager's job, was named interim president. Yesterday he announced in a campus video message that protesters who had been arrested would face no further punishment. Some had been charged with violating the student code of conduct, and those cases, being handled by the Office of Judicial Affairs, will not result in any major punishment.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/06/AR2007020601079.html>

[End of online and print articles]

(Commentary, continued:)

Obviously, to quote Shakespeare, something is rotten in "Denmark." We need to expose this blatant bias at the Washington Post once and for all. Is the Washington Post a real newspaper all of the time, or is it just a real newspaper some of the time? What is going on at the Washington Post?

The Washington Post is run by Donald Graham who is on the Federal City Council with King Jordan. This Web page explains what the Federal City Council is, who the members are, and why they exercise influence in Washington DC:

<http://www.thecommondenominator.com/mdp1ir99.html>

(PDF version: <http://gallyprotest.org/corruption.pdf>)

The Washington Post newspaper is owned by the Washington Post Company, and Donald Graham, along with his sister, who is a journalist named Lally Weymouth, possibly along with other family members such as William and Stephen Graham, who are substantial shareholders in that company. See:

<http://www.washpostco.com/history-kgraham-obituary.htm>

Donald E. Graham apparently is the immediate supervisor of Fred Hiatt, who wrote this biased column about the protest on May 15, 2006:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05/14/AR2006051400805_pf.html

This Web site identifies Graham as having influence on Hiatt's editorials:

<http://americablog.blogspot.com/2006/04/is-donald-graham-real-problem-at.htm>

But here seems to be the crux of the matter. This Web page explains how the Washington Post has deteriorated and has lost most of its integrity:

http://www.makethemaccountable.com/podvin/media/031102_ConflictOfInterest.htm

Remember, Gallaudet professor Robert E. Johnson made the observation that he saw a Washington Post editorial printed on Gallaudet letterhead without showing the Washington Post's name. That means that the entire editorial was probably written by someone at Gallaudet first, and that the Washington Post probably simply copied it and

presented it as a Washington Post editorial. See page 10 of Dr. Johnson's essay:

<http://gallyprotest.org/johnson.pdf>

See also, this long article from the Columbia Journalism Review about how Donald Graham runs the Washington Post:

<http://gallyprotest.org/graham.pdf>

Note (Dec. 13, 2015): The Washington Post newspaper was sold to Jeff Bezos in 2013.