

Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 1:16 am Eastern Time

PRESS ADVISORY

Members of the press reporting on the recent presidential selection process at Gallaudet University should be advised on an issue going to the credibility of Gallaudet Board of Trustees member Frank Wu.

Specifically, Mr. Wu spoke on the topic of shared governance at an August 27, 2009 meeting. An article based on his remarks appeared in the September 18, 2009 issue of "On the Green," a publication of Gallaudet University which is available to be read online. (See link below.)

In the article, Mr. Wu refers to accrediting agencies as being "authorities," however this is false information. In the United States, accrediting agencies are voluntary, non-governmental membership associations--a fact which is explicitly referred to in the About Us section of the website of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the association with which Gallaudet has entered into a voluntary association. Mr. Wu was notified of the error shortly after the article appeared online, but has apparently chosen to let the false information stand with no correction appended. A reasonable person might conclude, then, that either Mr. Wu might not be competent to fulfill his duties as a member of the Gallaudet Board of Trustees, or that he might be engaging in a course of willful deception. If either case were to be true, then Mr. Wu would be damaging his own credibility, and by extension, the credibility of the entire Gallaudet Board.

Such postulated behavior follows the pattern of the era of the prior Eighth Administration at Gallaudet when a previous president, I. King Jordan, attempted to portray, or lead members of the public into believing, that the Association of Governing Boards is an agency possessing an authoritative role, when actually the Association of Governing Boards is a non-governmental organization. The question arises then, to what extent certain members of the Gallaudet Board have changed their behavior from that time, when the Board made an irresponsible choice in the presidential selection process of 2005-2006, to now.

Members of the media should be cautioned about speaking on or off the record with certain members of the Gallaudet Board who have demonstrated, by their actions and words, a lack of credibility. Specifically, it is highly doubtful that the recent board vote for Gallaudet president was "nearly unanimous." It is also highly doubtful that the last minute decision to allow the three new Gallaudet Board members to vote for the selection of president was a mere minor housekeeping maneuver intended to bring the board into compliance with sections of the Board's by-laws which had been accidentally overlooked.

Any such claims should be disbelieved pending appropriate proof and documentation.

Link to article by Frank Wu in the Sept. 18, 2009 issue of "On the Green":

<http://pr.gallaudet.edu/otg/BackIssues.asp?ID=15976>

See also:

http://gallyprotest.org/Open_Letter_to_the_Gallaudet_Board_of_Trustees.pdf