

May 12, 2006, 2:43 pm ET

PRESS RELEASE

BREAKING NEWS: Former Gallaudet administrator: Gallaudet administration lying to Congress

For Immediate Release

Former Gallaudet University administrator Bernard Holt was reached by telephone today in his Maryland home (301-649-1281, per caller I.D. on the return call), providing additional information pertaining to the copy of letter and the copy of an e-mail that was released earlier today.

Holt says that \$4 million of federal funds had been appropriated to the university by Congress, in order to hire 16 new security officers and purchase new equipment. When the money was not spent for the proper purpose, Fred Weiner, the Special Assistant to university president I. King Jordan, drafted a letter to Congress wherein he stated that the university attempted to hire new officers but was unable to.

From Mr. Weiner's statement [Weiner is pronounced with a long "i" and rhymes with "finer."]:

"While awaiting approval of federal funding, the Dept. of [Public] Safety (DPS) [spent] significant overtime among its current officers in order to provide enhanced security coverage. Since the appropriations have been approved, DPS has found it a challenge to hire people at the estimated salary level. That was used as the basis for Gallaudet University's FY 2002 request. As a result, the salary level has been raised to attract qualified personnel. We have recently hired five security officers, and with recent turnovers in the DPS, there are 14 officer vacancies that need to be filled. We also plan to hire trainers to maintain and enhance officers' skills."

Weiner asked Holt to verify a range of claims in his letter he was preparing for his letter to Congress, but Holt refused, saying that it was simply not true that the university had "found it a challenge" to hire new officers.

As Holt explains: "I went to my boss and I said, 'This isn't true', because we had already interviewed approximately 60 people and we had 16 people that were highly qualified and waiting to be hired." Holt explains further that Weiner had sent him the statement in an e-mail and asked him to verify the statement in reply.

Holt said that he refused to verify the claims in Weiner's statement and that further, the situation was such that if he didn't reply to the e-mail, Weiner could claim that Holt agreed with the statement, because Weiner had given him a chance to object, but did

not. That then would be an indirect lie on Holt's part, and would be the ethical equivalent of lying to Congress, he explains.

Holt continues: "I have the paperwork to show what I'm saying."

Holt explained that not long after refusing to agree with Weiner's statement to Congress, he was told his position was being eliminated, but that later his position was filled with someone who was already employed at Gallaudet.

Holt says that Gallaudet's Board of Trustees has never completed a single investigation into the matter, in spite of his repeated requests that they do so.

For questions about this press release, call Brian Riley at (559) 285-5268.

From earlier today:

For Immediate Release

Protesters at Gallaudet University have uncovered an e-mail written in 2004 by Bernard A. Holt, a former high-level administrator at the university to the Gallaudet Board of Trustees, in which he alleges that he was fired from his position at Gallaudet for refusing to lie to Congress about how \$4 million dollars of federal money was spent at the university. (See below.)

Also uncovered is a letter written by Holt on February 1, 2004, in which he expresses his surprise at discovering that there were no review mechanisms in place at the university set up to handle high-level complaints of such a nature.

In the letter, Holt called on the Board to investigate the possibility of corruption at Gallaudet. In his message of May 10, 2004, Holt expressed his dismay to the Board, asking why they had not contacted him and why they had ignored his complaint.

Some students are threatening to stage a walkout today, during graduation ceremonies at Gallaudet, and lead a spontaneous march to the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. Graduation is being held today, Friday, May 12, 2006, at the Field House on the Gallaudet campus. The graduates will begin the procession at 1:15 p.m.

From: Bernard Holt [mailto:baholt333@starpower.net]

Sent: Tue 5/11/2004 7:46 PM

To: Patricia.Kunkle@gallaudet.edu; Fred.Weiner@gallaudet.edu; Mercy Coogan; Michael Kaika; Slemo.Warigon@gallaudet.edu; William.Marshall@gallaudet.edu; Francis.Duffy@gallaudet.edu; Cynthia.King@gallaudet.edu, Thomas Allen; Lynne Murray; Catherine.Anderson@gallaudet.edu; William.McCrone@gallaudet.edu; Lauri.Rush@gallaudet.edu; Howard.Busby@gallaudet.edu; Jane.Dillehy@gallaudet.edu; Carol.Yeh@gallaudet.edu; Carl.Pramuk@gallaudet.edu; baholt333@starpower.net

Ms. Kunkle, please give this letter and attachments to the board. Thank you.

May 10, 2004

To the Board of Trustees:

As you meet this week, I hope you will consider my request for a full investigation of my complaints, (of which some are listed below and in the attached letters). To date, I have not heard a word from you. Below is another personal experience I have had with re-organizations at Gallaudet University.

My job as Director of Campus Police and Risk Management was abolished after I refused to lie to Congress about how 4 million dollars in additional federal appropriations was spent; and for refusing to make changes to the Simplex Camera and Access System at Central Receiving, so an administrator could go into it on weekends without being bothered by a Security response. Within weeks of refusing to lie to congress, I was called into Denise LaRue's office, and as she choked back the tears, told me my job was abolished, without an explanation, and after years of dedicated and devoted service to the job and the University, I was sent on my way like so many other older employees.

Is this the way the Board wants employees treated?

I have a few more questions you can ask the administration.

1. After the big reorganization, what excellent investigation did Denise LaRue conduct at the Transportation Department that had the administration take the department away from her, and put it back under Fred Kendrick; and now reports directly to a Vice President.
2. What ever happened to the new tractor at the NW campus before the buildings and grounds were sold? Please don't tell me it was surplus.

Respectfully,

Bernard Holt
Former Director of Campus Police, Physical Plant and Risk Management

Thursday, May 13, 2004 America Online

Bernard A. Holt

2109 Cascade Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902
(H) 301-649-1281
baholt333@starpower.net

February 1, 2004

Board of Trustees Member
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Member:

I asked Dr. I. King Jordan and the University's Board of Trustees to conduct an investigation at Gallaudet University.

Specifically, I requested the President and the Board look into the circumstances surrounding the use of \$4 million dollars in additional federal funding the University received in 2002 for security, and to review several personnel issues. I was stunned to learn the process I was trying to follow, to have my complaint investigated by the University, was seriously flawed. I found the University does not have a mechanism setup to review this level of complaint, and has refused to even discuss it with me.

At this time, I am again asking the board to investigate the entire complaint I sent Dr. I. King Jordan [sic] and the Board Chairperson; and additionally to look into the incredible, unbelievable circumstances surrounding my position being abolished as the Director/Chief of the Campus Police, Physical Plant Department, and the Office of Risk Management and Insurance; and the elimination of positions held by older employees on campus.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bernard Holt
Former Director of the Gallaudet University
Public Safety/Physical Plant Departments and
Office of Risk Management and Insurance

For more information about this press release, please call Brian Riley at (559) 285-5268.

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