

From: brian@gallyfssa.org

Date: Sunday, May 7, 2006, 11:56 pm ET

Subject: Gallaudet Prof confronts Board members in open forum

PRESS RELEASE

The following English translation of an inspirational and confrontational personal statement made using American Sign Language has been approved and accepted for release by Dr. E. Lynn Jacobowitz, a Gallaudet professor. Her comments were made in a recent open forum Friday evening, May 5, 2006, where Gallaudet Board of Trustees members Celia May Baldwin (Interim Chair) and Tom Humphries were in attendance.

To see a video of her comments, go to www.bisontv.com. Click on "Forum (Part Three, 38.9 MB)". She appears 8 minutes and 35 seconds into the clip, wearing a brown shirt. Another (blurry) video can be seen at <http://tinyurl.com/ofkxf>, which starts in the middle of her comments.

[Professor Jacobowitz came onto the stage and the audience waved their hands as a show of respect.]

QUOTE:

DR. LYNN JACOBOWITZ: [to the audience]: Thank you, thank you...

[Jacobowitz turns to the two Gallaudet Board of Trustee members, Interim Chairperson Celia May Baldwin and Dr. Thomas Humphries]: I thank you for giving up your time to come here and meet with us...

[Facing the audience] I also thank all of you for coming here. I am going to explain to you why we believe strongly that the presidential search process was totally and completely flawed.

First of all, a while back when [current] President King Jordan announced his retirement, he committed a Freudian slip by referring to Provost Fernandes as being the "next president [of Gallaudet]", and then he immediately corrected himself.

[Baldwin and Humphries appear stunned.]

JACOBOWITZ [continuing]: You can look on the DVD [to see it for yourselves]... Secondly, did you know that King Jordan sent out an e-mail announcing that his office had hired the consulting firm that was to work with the presidential search committee?

[Baldwin and Humphries shake their heads "no." Humphries interjects, claiming that the Board itself interviewed a few consulting firms and selected one.]

JACOBOWITZ [continuing]: It really was announced in a memo sent out by King Jordan that he was the one that had hired the consulting firm...[asking audience]... Am I correct?...

AUDIENCE [signing nearly in unison]: Yes, yes, yes!

JACOBOWITZ [continuing]: Thirdly, on the first night of the protest at the front of the campus [at Gallaudet]--

JACOBOWITZ [to Baldwin and Humphries]: You weren't there--

JACOBOWITZ [continuing]: King Jordan said to everyone—And I quote King Jordan verbatim--Quote: "I have a very [stressed], very [stressed] positive relationship with the Board of Trustees."--And then he said: "I represent the Board of Trustees."

[To the audience:] Do you all remember him saying that?

AUDIENCE [nearly in unison]: Yes, yes, yes!

JACOBOWITZ [to Baldwin and Humphries]: How can you say that King Jordan was neutral and then also say that he was not involved in the hiring process?

JACOBOWITZ [continuing]: I don't trust you two [pointing to Baldwin and Humphries]. I don't trust the Board of Trustees. I don't trust King Jordan. I'm very, very sorry. I used to think the world of him. I loved him. I loved him to death, because he was my professor, my academic adviser, and our dean [and president]... I used to look up to King Jordan, but now after what has happened, my trust in him and confidence in him as a person has completely collapsed and hit rock bottom. On top of that, what's worse is that you, the Board, did not listen to any of us. You didn't listen to the world. King has been twisting your arms all along.

[Jacobowitz bows her head and quietly walks off stage to a standing ovation from a full house.]

UNQUOTE

Translated by Brian Riley, Ben Bahan, Chris Heuer, E. Lynn Jacobowitz, Patti Raswant. The voice interpreter at the open form was Bobby Loeffler, who also has verified the accuracy of this translation.

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

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