



State of Indiana

Senate

Senator Dennis K. Kruse
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March 10, 2014

Dr. Jo Ann Gora, President
Members of Board of Trustees
Ball State University (BSU)
Muncie, IN 47306

Dear President Gora and Board of Trustees:

We are writing because serious questions have been raised about whether academic freedom, free speech, and religious liberty have been respected by BSU in its treatment of Prof. Eric Hedin, its subsequent establishment of a speech code restricting faculty speech on intelligent design, and its cancellation of Prof. Hedin's "Boundaries of Science" honors class, previously scheduled for this semester.

We are concerned about whether improper procedures were followed while investigating Prof. Eric Hedin's course, and whether an ad hoc committee appointed to investigate him was filled with persons with conflicts of interest, who were predisposed to be hostile to his viewpoint.ⁱ Because BSU thus far has refused to release the committee's report and Prof. Hedin's response to it, we feel unable to judge whether the investigation was fair and impartial.

We are also concerned about the cancellation of Hedin's class and the policy you announced last summer restricting faculty speech on intelligent design. We are disturbed by reports that while you restrict faculty speech on intelligent design, BSU authorized a seminar that teaches "Science Must Destroy Religion."ⁱⁱ Your policy banning professors from expressing their views on intelligent design raises many troubling questions. One of the most important is: *Does the policy forbid science professors from explaining either their support or rejection of intelligent design in answer to student questions about intelligent design in class?*

We ask you to respond in writing to the above question by the end of business on **Monday, March 24, 2014**. In order to determine if legislative action is required, we feel obligated to investigate whether BSU has acted in accord with state educational policy, legal requirements, and BSU's own published standards. Additional questions will follow in a subsequent letter.



We remain grateful for your commitment and hard work in educating the next generation in our state. However, we must underscore the seriousness with which we view the concerns that have been raised.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis K. Kruse".

Dennis K. Kruse
State Senator, District 14

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Holdman".

Travis Holdman
State Senator, District 19

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Walker".

Greg Walker
State Senator, District 41

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Thompson".

Jeffrey Thompson
State Representative, District 28

¹ See criticisms of BSU's actions in Eric D. Kelly, "Ball State Fumbles Handling of Hedin Case," *The Star Press* (August 1, 2013); Daniel Murphy, "Ball State Fails to Follow Proper Procedure," *The Star Press*, (August 21, 2013); Seth Slabaugh, "Group Claims Prof Review Panel Bias," *The Star Press* (July 2, 2013).

² Seth Slabaugh, "Group Claims BSU Course Endorses Atheism," *The Star Press* (September 12, 2013).