

Kessel Stelling, Jr.

Chair, Georgia Board of Regents

c/o Mr. Samuel C. Burch

Vice Chancellor Legal Affairs and Secretary to the Board

270 Washington Street, S.W.

Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Stelling,

As President of the Kennesaw State University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (KSU@AAUP), I want to thank you for your thoughtful reply to the joint letter AAUP@KSU and the KSU Faculty Senate sent in August regarding the process for selecting a new Kennesaw State President. I have attached a letter (with the permission of Dr. Zafar) sent to Interim President Davis last week reiterating those points and calling on the University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor and the Board of Regents (BOR) to conduct a national search for a qualified candidate for KSU President.

You are probably also aware of media reports on the speculation that Sam Olens, Attorney General of the State of Georgia, will be appointed as President of KSU. These reports have grown in number and frequency, and combined with other unofficial reports received by faculty and staff, suggest the conversation reflects more than mere speculation. Mr. Olens is certainly a competent individual of high integrity and deep community ties. However, reports of his possible presidential appointment are disturbing on multiple levels. First, such an appointment, made without any formal input from faculty, staff, students, or trustees of KSU, would circumvent the norms of larger institutions of higher education. Second, such an appointment would seemingly import to Georgia a troubling trend of making institutions of higher education subject to political machination, which, as our letter this summer discussed, has had negative ramifications at virtually all institutions where it has occurred.

Kennesaw State is an institution that has undergone rapid change in the last 10 years. We believe that President Papp, in spite of the poor management and financial improprieties that led to his resignation, was a stabilizing force during that time of change. His resignation, combined with the misinformation surrounding that resignation, has left the KSU community reeling. These factors-the substantial growth of KSU, an

involuntary consolidation that has yet to fully reflect a new, unified organizational culture, and the presidential transition-beg for a President with experience in higher education. An appointment of a President without a search, without formal input from affected constituencies, and who lacks experience in higher education would damage the already frayed morale of those of us at KSU who have maintained proper stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

The AAUP and the shared governance norms of higher education value transparency. In the spirit of transparency, I humbly submit three questions to the Board of Regents:

1. Does the Board of Regents intend to conduct a national search for the next Kennesaw State President?
2. What are the qualifications required for any individual to be considered for the vacancy of KSU President?
3. What is the expected timeline of any appointment to the KSU Presidency?

Since time is of the essence, it would be useful to report the answers to these questions to our constituents-the faculty, staff, and students of Kennesaw State-as soon as possible. A reply to either me (apieperl@kennesaw.edu) or Dr. Zafar (hzafar@kennesaw.edu) at your earliest convenience would be greatly valued.

Thank you for your advocacy of higher education in the State of Georgia, and for your leadership and service to the mission of the USG.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Pieper, PhD

Kennesaw State University Chapter President

American Association of University Professors

Cc: Hank M. Huckaby, University System of Georgia Chancellor

Houston Davis, Interim President, Kennesaw State University

W. Ken Harmon, Provost, Kennesaw State University

Humayun Zafar, President, Kennesaw State Faculty Senate

Victoria Smith-Butler, Chair of USG Faculty Council

Robert M. Scott, President, Georgia Conference of the AAUP

Andrew L. Pieper, PhD

Associate Professor of Political Science

Department of Political Science and International Affairs

Kennesaw State University

402 Bartow Avenue, MD 2205

Kennesaw, GA 30144

470-578-6687

<<mailto:apieperl@kennesaw.edu>> apieperl@kennesaw.ed