

# Faux Tech Tattler

## News You Can Use

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### FT is Razing the Bar

*Dearborn McCullough*

Faux Tech President Janet Spiegel said Wednesday that students need relief from grade pressures to ensure their success beyond the college and announced a new policy eliminating grades from all academic courses.

"Grades are dated and classist," Spiegel said. "They enforce socioeconomic values that do not reflect our commitment to inclusivity and equity for all students."

"We strongly believe that attending classes and participating in classroom and on-line activities is the heart of the college experience," said Joel Welles, Faux Tech Provost and author of the new policy. "Grades simply add unnecessary stresses and have a segregating effect that we believe erodes students' self-confidence in a highly detrimental manner," said Welles. "That's why we eliminated grades."

Welles joined the college in 2017, and his first administrative act was to shift from the 10-point grading scale to the 20-point scale in which any grade of 81 or better is an A.

"Look at it this way," Welles said at the time. "If a student can do 40% of the work, he's at least as competent as most professionals in his field."

Student reaction to the new no-grades policy has been mixed.

Parkland graduate Nelson Rhodes said, "I like the idea that I won't have to worry about grades, but I'm not sure how our work will be evaluated. Does everyone pass? Do I have to do

any work to earn my degree?"

Ranita Collins, second-year nursing student, said, "This is a terrible idea. How will I know how well I'm doing in my courses? How will I know how prepared I am for licensing exams?"

"Let me get this straight," said Lashaun Bogues, accounting major, "I pay my tuition and go to class, and then at the end of the semester I get credit for the course? Whether I do any work or not? I thought this college was accredited."

"This is about equity," Spiegel said. "Students from less-fortunate homes should have the same chance at academic success as those from wealthy homes. This policy levels the playing field for those students, eliminating the advantages of privilege."

"The transcript will show a number of credit hours earned," Welles said. "The GPA and individual course grades will go away."

Most of the faculty who were willing to speak to the *Tattler* expressed their shock at the new policy.

Bill Renier, adjunct chemistry instructor, said, "I'm not sure what we're supposed to do. If we're not grading, the students won't bother to complete the work, or if they do, they will just turn something in without trying to get it right. I can't see how this helps them learn chemistry. Apparently, that's no longer important."

One faculty member who is pleased with the new policy is Professor of English Mildred Ratzenberger. "This is a great policy. Now I can stop spending all of my waking hours grading un-readable papers and focus on

the important things. I want to be sure all of my students understand the importance of voting for liberal candidates to public office, and all this writing instruction has really been cutting into that priority," Ratzenberger said.

The new policy is effective immediately. New students will have no GPA, and continuing students will be awarded an A for each course completed after the change in policy.

### School Shooter Brenda Spencer to Speak on Campus



*Photo Credit: CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation*

*Marjorie Burquist*

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the Faux Tech Excursions in the Humanities Series will present a lecture by Brenda Ann Spencer as part of its emphasis on LGBT Voices in Academe.

Spencer, who was recently paroled after 39 years in prison, will launch her national speaking tour at Faux Tech's Robert Greene Center for the Performing Arts.

Spencer's invitation to speak on campus has been controversial because of her California murder conviction for the 1979 school shooting in which she killed two adults and injured eight elementary school children and one San Diego police officer, the incident that inspired Bob Geldof and Johnnie Fingers to write their hit song, "I Don't Like Mondays."

"Why should we give this violent criminal a platform at Faux Tech?" said student Randy Huffman.

Spencer gave different reasons for shooting at the Grover Cleveland Elementary School children on the morning of January 29, 1979, including "I don't like Mondays," the children were "easy targets," and (in a 2001 parole hearing) her father abused her.

Faculty Senate President Dom Nicholas said, "This invitation is in the worst possible taste. This woman started the trend of school shootings that has gone on for forty years. The Senate opposes her presence on campus in the strongest possible terms. We're encouraging faculty to offer students extra credit to protest the event, and we believe the timing of the no grades policy is a highly suspicious administrative reaction to our position on this event."

According to Pride Club President Eartha-Ray Baily, elements of the Faux Tech Pride Club plan a counter-demonstration in support of Spencer, who became a lesbian while in prison.

"This is about equity and inclusivity," said Faux Tech President Janet Speigel. "Everyone is welcome at this college."

Spencer's lecture is scheduled to begin promptly at 7:00 PM on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are available now in the Student Activities Office. Seating is limited to 843, and security

check points will be set up at both entrances to the Greene Center at 6:30 PM.

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## **N-word Imbroglio May Spell End for SGA Pres.**

*Pearlie Sands*

SGA President Masha Peterboro said she will not resign her post as leader of Faux Tech's Student Government Association despite claims she expressed racially insensitive ideas at a recent SGA meeting.

Peterboro, a two-term SGA president from Reynolds, is accused by several SGA officers of referring to the N-word in last week's monthly leadership meeting, traumatizing several students and a full-time employee of the college.

"I simply asked a question," Peterboro said. "I asked why, if the N-word is so horrible, do I hear African-Americans use the word every day right here on campus. I was trying to understand what seems to be a glaring inconsistency in our cultural values."

Witnesses said Adam West, SGA Treasurer (un-related to the late actor), fainted at the boardroom table, upsetting three cups of coffee while Lanicia Freeman, SGA vice-president, shouted "Safe Space, Safe Space" after Peterboro asked her questions.

"I also asked why the word niggardly, which means cheap and sounds so much like the N-word, is perfectly fine," Peterboro said. "I just wanted to know; I didn't realize the SGA officers were so sensitive."

Peterboro promised to provide trigger warnings for all her official remarks in future meetings.

Gene Markum, Faux Tech's emergency counselor, said his office experienced an uptick in requests for emergency counseling on the afternoon of last week's SGA leadership meeting but refused to discuss the nature of those requests or the identities of the students and/or employees

who made them.

The *Tattler* received an anonymous e-mail agitating for Peterboro's impeachment on the grounds that she is racially insensitive and unfit to hold office.

Freeman said, "I will be happy to take over as SGA President in the event that Masha resigns, but I do not think we need to force her out at this time. She's promised to warn us before she says anything that might trigger emotional reactions, and that should be okay."

Freeman denied any knowledge of the movement to impeach Peterboro. "If I thought that was needed, I would do it openly and on the record," Freeman said.

FT's new Vice President of Inclusion, Camilla Turlington, said African-Americans use the N-word as a way of taking ownership of the word, believing that if they use the word often in conversation as interjection or term of endearment, it will remove the word's power to injure. "So far, that doesn't seem to be working, at least where white people using the term is concerned," said Turlington.

A statement from Faux Tech President Janet Speigel said, "This is about inclusion. Everyone must feel welcome here, and the N-word is the opposite of welcoming. I intend to eliminate that word at Faux Tech."

### **Do you have news for the *Tattler*?**

Send tips to the editor, Marjorie Burquist, c/o [tattler1@protonmail.com](mailto:tattler1@protonmail.com).

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