

Faux Tech Tattler

News You Can Use

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Right-Sizing for Success

Pearlie Sands

Faux Tech Board of Trustees chair Lacrezia Bitumen announced this week that the college would begin a process of right-sizing to better meet its mission objectives.

"Modern colleges are lean and efficient," Ms. Bitumen said. "We must make sure that each division, each department, of the college has the right resources to perform its duties."

"Right-Sizing" is a corporate term often used in connection with workforce reduction and division closure.

"We've invested a great deal of our budget to get the best leadership team, we believe, in the state. We're going to let that team make the decisions best for the college and give them the support they need to get the job done," Bitumen said.

Ms. Bitumen refused to take questions after her brief statement to journalists.

Janet Speigel, Faux Tech President, said, "Removing barriers to student success is our first priority. That means we'll be taking a very close look at our programs, both academic and student services programs, to be sure each one is doing its part to support that priority."

"Look. We don't need six full-time history professors at Faux Tech," said Provost Joel Welles. "No one ever learns from history anyway, so there is no point in offering so many sections of a course that's not even required," Welles said.

According to public records, the college has added seven new senior

executive positions in the last two years. Those positions include a provost, three vice-presidents, and three associate vice presidents. Both Ms. Bitumen and Delores Palmer, Faux Tech Vice-President of Human Resources, refused to comment on the record about those positions.

"Right-sizing doesn't mean downsizing," said Speigel. "Many of our faculty members are qualified to tutor our students or to provide academic and personal counseling services. Right-sizing means we'll look at the resources we have and make sure they are being utilized in the most efficient ways to meet our priorities."

Speigel said the college is reviewing bids for efficiency consulting services, and once the contract is awarded, the selected firm will analyze the budget and departmental productivity and then provide recommendations for making the college more efficient.

"We're looking forward to making this college the best college in the state," said Speigel.

Lawsuit: Transgender Student Accuses College of Title IX Violation

Anderson Paige

An un-named student has served Faux Tech notice of a lawsuit claiming it violated her Title IX protections when it required her to wear longer skirts when attending classes.

According to court records, the student was told first by her professor and later by an unidentified

administrator that she must wear skirts long enough to cover her genitals.

"We have no language in the student code of conduct that specifies skirt length or requires students to wear underclothing, but the code clearly requires students to meet the standards of community decency. Here, that means they can't attend classes with their genitals exposed," said Tracy McKinney, Conduct Officer.

"I was informed today that I have been named in this lawsuit," said Dr. Mildred Ratzenberger, Professor of English. "The student was habitually wearing miniskirts to class with no underwear, and I was tired of seeing male genitalia every time I faced the students," she said.

Ratzenberger said she's considering a counter-suit. "That kind of behavior is the textbook definition of sexual harassment," she said.

The lawsuit claims the student's transgender status exempts her from the standard decency restrictions since a female-sex student wearing the same miniskirt would not be singled out in the same way.

The attorney who filed the lawsuit has not been available for comment but did release a general statement asserting that the college's position on inclusivity is a sham if a transgendered student cannot dress in the manner of the gender with which she identifies. Forcing her to adhere to a different standard is clearly gender-based discrimination and exactly the kind of bias Title IX is designed to prevent.

College Library to Close Doors Forever

Terence Postlethwaite

FT Chief Librarian Derrek Patton posted announcements on all public information boards stating that the college library will close at the end of the current term.

"We can no longer sustain the library or the salaries associated with its operation," Patton said.

The college library has been in decline since the mid-2000s. According to circulation records, only 29 books were checked out of the library in academic year 2018-2019, and 28 of those were checked out by faculty members.

"Faculty have stopped requiring students to conduct research," Patton said. "Without the support of the faculty, we can't exist in the current climate."

The college library was outsourced to a private company in 2017. "We felt that libraries were becoming obsolete," said Faux Tech President Janet Speigel. "We outsourced the library in hopes that a for-profit library would have the resources to revitalize the campus library and make it more relevant in the Internet Era. This turned out not to be the case," said Speigel.

"Look. We're spending all this money on a state-of-the-art data network that hardly ever goes down. With that kind of Internet access, no one needs a moldy old library," said Provost Joel Welles.

"We still have a lot of students using the library, but they're using it as a lounge and a computer lab," said Patton.

In 2002, the library installed 42 computer workstations for student use, and those workstations have been updated every five or six years. Two years later, the library installed 14 sofas and 22 wing chairs.

"Frankly, the librarians spend their time monitoring computer use

and ejecting students for watching Internet pornography and fondling each other on the sofas instead of helping them find reliable information sources," Patton said.

"Since all of the librarians work for the contractor, these layoffs will not impact the college's personnel budget, but canceling the library contract will have a positive impact on the budget overall," said Regina Ginsbury, Faux Tech Comptroller.

"We'll be able to use that money to remove barriers to student success, our number-one priority," said Speigel.

Patton said the library's collections will be sold at public auction on December 28th at 9:00 AM.

FT Student Wrestles 182-lb. Shark on NC Coast

Curtis Teague



Photo Credit: Dwayne Meadows

FT Student Shelton Abernathy caught an 182-pound white shark while surf fishing last weekend at Cape Lookout, NC, and he did it without a hook or line.

Abernathy was fishing for red drum at Lookout Shoals when he noticed a commotion in the surf several yards from where he was wading.

"Something was thrashing in the water off to my right," said Abernathy, a second-year horticulture major from Pilot Mountain. "I didn't know what it was, but I saw that it had my beer cooler, so I chased it down."

"He dove on it," said Penelope Pendergast, first-year nursing, Abernathy's fiancé. "I've never seen

anything like it."

"I wasn't about to let it steal my brewskis," Abernathy said.

"I wrestled with it in the surf for about 15 minutes, but eventually I was able to drag it up onto the sand to see what I had. It turned out to be a 7-foot shark that some guy on the beach said was a white shark, a great white," Abernathy said.

According to Jim Reynolds of NOAA, great white sharks are not common on NC beaches because they prefer cooler waters. In September, the surface water temperatures are usually in the low 80s, a little warmer than white sharks really prefer.

"It was probably following a school of Virginia Mullet or other migratory fish from cooler northern waters," Reynolds said.

"The really sick thing is that not only did it destroy my beer cooler, but I got fined \$1000 for killing a protected species," Abernathy said.

"It's not fair," said Pendergast. "Sharks attack people all the time. He shouldn't be fined for eliminating a threat like that."

Abernathy sustained abrasions but was otherwise unharmed during his encounter with one of the ocean's most efficient predators.

"I've learned how important it is to keep the beer cooler well away from the water when fishing a rising tide," Abernathy said.

Do you have news for the Tattler?

Send tips to the editor, Marjorie Burquist, c/o tattler1@protonmail.com.

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