

Faux Tech Tattler

News You Can Use

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Obama Named FT VP of Political Conformity

Pearlie Sands



Photo Credit: Daniel Borman

Faux Tech President Janet Speigel announced today that former US President Barrack Obama has accepted a leadership role at the college.

"I am really excited to report that President Obama will take on the responsibilities of Vice-President of Political Conformity at Faux Tech," Speigel said.

The new position, which is a part-time appointment that will pay the former president \$125,000 annually, was approved by the Board of Trustees to support its goal of making the college more inclusive and equitable.

"For security reasons, President Obama will work from his home, where he will guide the college's efforts to expand inclusivity and

equitability via e-mail and occasional video-conferences," Speigel said.

In an e-mail statement, President Obama said, "Faux Tech has always been a leader among colleges that care about inclusivity and equity for students of all ethnicities, genders, ages, and physical abilities, and I am proud to join in the fine work this college does for its community."

Obama said that confidentiality agreements with his publishers will not permit him to answer specific questions about his two-term presidency and prefers to keep all communication relevant to his position at the college.

"In the coming weeks, I'll be issuing guidance on several matters related to inclusivity and equity," Obama said. "For now, I just want to reiterate how pleased I am to be a member of the Faux Tech family and brand, and I especially want to thank my good friend, Professor Mildred Ratzenberger, for recommending me for this position," said Obama.

In an unusual move, the new position will report not to the college President, but directly to the Board of Trustees. "This doesn't mean the new position has any extra powers or authority," said Lacrezia Bitumen, Board of Trustees Chair.

Ms. Bitumen refused to elaborate about the odd organizational decision.

Professor Ratzenberger said, "I was a volunteer for his 2008 and 2012 campaigns, one of the Obama-Mamas. I thought he would be great in the new position and for the college."

Student Newspaper Shut Down for "Hate Speech"

Juan Rodriguez

In a surprising move on Wednesday, Faux Tech shut down the student newspaper, *The Faux Tech Record*, alleging that the newspaper engaged in hate speech when it reported on a student anti-abortion demonstration.

Provost Joel Welles, who shut down the paper and expelled its entire editorial staff, said, "Just because people say hateful things is no reason to publish them in a student newspaper where they can do irreparable damage. The editors had been warned several times about that, and this latest incident was the final straw. The newspaper is shut down for the term and possibly forever."

Damian Bentley, the school paper's managing editor, said he intends to file suit as soon as he can obtain an interested attorney. "This is a classic case of censorship, and our First Amendment rights have been trampled."

Welles disagrees. "The student newspaper belongs to the college, and the college leadership decides what's appropriate content. Our policy has long been that nothing is printed in the newspaper that might trigger emotional trauma in any reader, and equating abortion to infanticide is well beyond the line. I had no choice but to shut down the paper and expel the editors for ignoring repeated warnings about appropriate content for the newspaper."

Social media erupted Wednesday as news of the shutdown spread.

Linus Spillman, the student whose quote instigated the administrative action, said, "If the paper cannot print the truth, it should not exist. Social media has a wider audience anyway, so maybe those journalists should let it go. The provost cannot control social media."

The college's student code of conduct has specific guidelines for students using social media to criticize the college, giving the college power to expel students who say anything the college deems defamatory on their social media feeds.

"It's our job to protect our students and to protect the Faux Tech family and brand," said Welles.

"Dozens of students have been suspended or even expelled for posting criticism of the college to their Facebook and other social media accounts. This happens many times each semester," said Conduct Officer Tracy McKinney.

"Look. Students agree to these terms when they sign their admission applications," Welles said.

"This is about equity and inclusion," said FT President Janet Speigel. "If we print controversial ideas in the student newspaper, we alienate the students who disagree. We don't want that kind of exclusionary language in any Faux Tech publication."

"The college seems to want total control of its students' thoughts," said Bentley. "That's not America. It's not even college, which is supposed to foster dialog, not suppress it."

Spillman said, "Diversity includes those of differing political and religious ideas. It's not just about race and gender. I think it's time I found a college that makes me feel welcomed rather than oppressed by left-wing authoritarian radicals."

"The bottom line is that inclusiveness is more important than theoretical liberties like free speech and free press," said Welles. "We're living in the modern age, not the 1700s."

Editorial: *Faux Tech in Political Turmoil*

Marjorie Burquist, Editor

The news stories in this issue of *The Faux Tech Tattler* are ominous. I use the word 'ominous' carefully here.

The appointment of former US President Obama to a position whose title includes the phrase "political conformity" should sound alarm bells for anyone with a sense of history as should silencing a newspaper for doing its job of reporting the news.

I wonder what's really happening at Faux Tech and what's going through the minds of those in charge. Are they so fearful of the DoE's power to defund that they feel they must kowtow to every guidance that bureaucracy produces, or are they engaged in social re-engineering at a level not seen since Mao's Cultural Revolution, albeit in microcosm?

Whatever the case, the Faux Tech trustees have demonstrated recently an obsession with political buzzwords like equity and inclusion. Their mission and policy statements imply that these commodities have been missing at Faux Tech when in fact they have not.

What's really happening at Faux Tech and many other colleges across the nation that have embraced this trend is a systematic dismantling of academic quality in service to the flawed notion that education has been available only to the elite. This trend is further fueled by the steady rise in tuition costs that have created a generation of disaffected graduates who are crippled by student loan debt.

The institutional response has been to embrace a cultural radicalism so far from the mainstream values of our community that many students, not to mention faculty, feel alienated and rejected by the college and coerced thereby to express only the ideas deemed correct by the political

fat cats who seem to be in charge.

But the freedom of expression is fundamental to American liberty, and this includes the necessity that disagreement with current mainstream (and often personality driven) political thought be protected, not quashed. That a major college first hires a VP of Political Conformity and then, in the very same week, shuts down its student newspaper because a student expressed unpopular views within its pages should alarm everyone from one political extreme to the other.

This newspaper will stand with and support the students of *The Faux Tech Record* in every way we can. We have already contacted the ACLU and several attorneys with a great deal of experience resisting attacks on press freedoms.

Further, this newspaper rededicates itself to reporting the truth as we find it, to unearthing the facts and the motivations of the actors, and to exploring the ramifications of those things for students, faculty, and the communities the college serves.

The *Tattler* will work diligently to keep our readers thoroughly and thoughtfully informed on the issues important to all of us, or my name isn't...

Margorie Burquist.

Do you have news for the *Tattler*?

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

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