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BY E-MAIL ONLY
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Dear President Hanson:

As you know, over the past few months I have been working with Anne McCarthy, the Dean of the Hamline School of Business on a proposal to create one of the most unique resources available in the country, a library of entrepreneurs and their life stories. Dean McCarthy offered me the position as an “Executive in Residence” on September 19 after receiving approval from you and the Dean of Students. We agreed on the details, including salary and benefits. In fact, Connie Keyes e-mailed the benefit description on the 20th. The only remaining formality was the executing the written contract that was finalized the week of October 18.

On October 6, I was also hired as an adjunct faculty member to teach a section of business law to undergraduate students. I actually signed all the paperwork for Kris Norman-Major on the same day. I was subsequently advised that I would be a member of the newly formed “Organizational Leadership and Public Policy Department.”

On Wednesday, November 16, I attended my first meeting of the newly formed department. The meeting was scheduled by Ms. Norman-Major. As I recall, everyone in the department was present with the exception of David Schultz. Although I introduced myself to everyone as they arrived, when the meeting began, Jim Bonilla suddenly looked at me and asked, “Tom, did you run for Governor?” I responded that, as a matter of fact, I did. Mr. Bonilla then asked if I was now a member of the Hamline faculty. I referred the question to Ms. Norman-Major. Chris then told Jim that I was joining Hamline as an Executive in Residence and that I would also be teaching a couple of courses. After Jim told Chris that he didn’t “get the memo,” she advised him there was no memo and the meeting proceeded. Although Jim did not say anything more to me or about my presence, it was clear that he was not pleased to have me on board.

On Friday night, November 18, I received a call from Dean McCarthy. She wanted me to know that after the department meeting I attended, one or more of the faculty members present left the meeting and started to organize opposition to my hiring. Dean McCarthy did not get specific about the objection. She only told me the faculty or other Hamline employees involved were few in number and that the school administration was putting together a public relations strategy to deal with their intolerant and reprehensible behavior.

I was concerned about my son Tripp, who is a Hamline freshman. Dean McCarthy understood and advised me that she expected someone would be sitting down to discuss the situation with Tripp and his teammates on the hockey team to make sure no one was mistreated. She also wanted me to be prepared in case anyone from the media contacted me over the weekend. During our conversation, Dean McCarthy told me that the final contract documents had been approved and that we could expedite formalizing our agreement the following week of Thanksgiving.

I left messages for Dean McCarthy on Monday the 21st and Tuesday the 22nd to let her know that I was available to come to St. Paul to sign the final contract. On Wednesday the 23rd, Dean McCarthy and I connected by phone and she told me that she had very bad news. Apparently, because of the very vocal few, the University was not going to honor our agreement. Obviously, this was extremely disappointing to me but I was even more disappointed by what Anne told me next . . . incredibly, because of my conservative political views I will not be allowed to teach business law to Hamline students.

After receiving the news that I was not welcome by certain Hamline faculty because of my beliefs, I told Dean McCarthy that I didn't have words to respond, but the feeling was devastating. Obviously, I have experienced unfair hatred and ridicule because of my public personality but never could I have imagined that I would be subject to persecution and intolerance on a college campus that supposedly celebrates diversity. The idea that Hamline students should not be exposed to a wide and diverse offering of ideas and the people who represent and espouse a diversity of thought, is more than just troubling.

Despite the apparent hatred and intolerance exhibited by some in your Hamline Community, I have tried to handle this in the most professional manner possible. Now it has come to my attention that there are some people at Hamline who are apparently not willing to leave well enough alone.

In the November 22nd edition of the school newspaper, a headline read: "Emmer Hired." In our phone call on the 23rd, Dean McCarthy told me that Professor David Schultz had done something unfortunate in the school paper – apparently, this article which quoted Schultz questioning my hiring - was what the Dean was referencing. Dean McCarthy told me that at least the school had managed to pull the on-line version before it was published; presumably so the article was not circulated around the Twin Cities media.

Yesterday, I was forwarded a link from someone not at all involved with the school to an article in the December 6th edition of the Hamline school newspaper. A headline in yesterday's paper reads: "Emmer Never Hired." The article is outrageous and unnecessary. The article contains numerous misstatements of fact including, "There was never a formal offer." In fact, there was a formal offer for the Executive in Residence position and I was hired as an adjunct Professor. I don't know if you have seen the article but it quotes Professor David Schultz as follows:

“Schultz said that the faculty was concerned for two major reasons, *including whether the political positions Emmer holds were incompatible with the university’s mission, specifically his stance on same-sex marriage.*”

Madam President, is there a requirement that every faculty member at Hamline conform on the issue of marriage? Is there only one point of view allowed? Is there no political or religious freedom recognized at Hamline? I thought the “mission” at Hamline University was to educate – not to inculcate. Again, this is unnecessary and, frankly, outrageous intolerance by people who claim to hold the high ground on tolerance.

I believe that I am owed an apology and a retraction. If anything is to be printed and published for public consumption, it should be the truth. I ask that you immediately order the article published yesterday to be withdrawn from the online version of the school newspaper and that the school issue the following statement:

Tom Emmer and Hamline University had an agreement in principle pursuant to which Mr. Emmer was prepared to raise significant funds for Hamline University to be used developing one of the most unique business school resources in the country. Tom Emmer was also, in fact, hired by Hamline University as an adjunct Professor to teach business law to undergraduates. Hamline University, however, decided not to honor the agreement with Mr. Emmer because of faculty members who objected to a conservative with Mr. Emmer’s political views teaching at the school.

I want to thank you and Dean McCarthy. I have found you both to be professional and class individuals. I’m sure you are as disappointed as I am. What a sad testament to freedom . . . what a sad reflection on the faculty at your university.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and I look forward to receiving confirmation that the December 6, 2011, story has been removed.

Sincerely,

Tom Emmer

cc: Dean Anne McCarthy/amccarthy02@gw.hamline.edu