

To: Sr. Mary Reap, IHM, President, Marywood College
Sr. Patricia Ann Matthews, IHM, Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Dr. Frederick F. Fagal, Social Science Department

Date: April 17, 1995

Re: Sr. Patricia's memo of April 7, 1995 relating to my participation in the faculty forum and Sr. Mary Reap's letter of April 11 on the same topic.

Of course I must respond to your scathing denunciations of me and my alleged childish "behavior" of April 5. After you read this I hope to be rehabilitated in your eyes. I harbor the hope that each of you may, in fact, regret the tone of your memos to me. I don't want or expect an apology but do wish each of you would try to see my side of the coin. If either of you thinks we should have a personal meeting(s) to clear the air I am more than willing...

I would like to reprint the points made by Sr. Patricia and directly answer the questions posed in that memo. Sister Patricia's memo items 1 through 4 appear below in quotes and a different font.

"1. I do not believe it is polite to pass around papers in a room while people are speaking or presenting material.

Would you allow this to occur in your classroom while you are teaching?

2. Everyone in the room was given copies of the paper, except Sr. Mary Reap and myself. If you were going to put forth a position in writing, don't you think we should have been given a copy beforehand and had the opportunity to speak to it?

3. The paper carried no indication as to its author. If you stand by it as a piece of research or opinion you should have been willing to attach your name to it so people know where to address their rebuttal.

4. Sr. Mary and I were guests of the Faculty Senate. We responded to an invitation to explain the events taking place at Marywood and what we have been able to learn about the subject.

We honestly presented our concerns about the College and shared information in an open manner.

Did you respond in kind?"

I'd like to respond to each issue raised by Sr. Patricia and answer her questions (and in so doing also respond to the same points and others raised by Sr. Mary):

1. I certainly did not mean to offend either you Sr. Patricia or you Sr. Mary by (while sitting in my seat) quietly handing to one person a stack of handouts to be passed among the audience.

I taught until 1:50 p.m. that day, and after conferring with some students after class, I immediately went to LAC 111 for the meeting. I walked in around 2:07 p.m., after Sr. Mary had begun her presentation. I wanted to raise some issues at the forum, and the previous evening [or was it at 7:30 a.m. on April 5?] found time to print perhaps 10 copies of what I had written. About half the people in the room got one of those copies. I had no idea how many people would show up at the forum, but the site choice indicated a relatively low number were expected.

1a. -----How would I react to a similar situation? If a student of mine walked into class a few minutes late and quietly passed out Xerox copies of a newspaper story about environmental policy (we are studying externalities in economics), and then raised her or his hand to ask me about the “hot article” pertaining to the subject of the day, I would be thrilled. If I could not respond in an informed rational fashion I would say “Sounds interesting. I haven’t seen the article so I’ll have to spend some time with it. Let’s all read it and discuss it next time.” Also, I can’t begin to count the number of meetings/presentations I have been at where handouts were quietly passed around in the audience while someone was speaking. Often, but nowhere near always, the source of the handout has been the speaker!

I did not pass any notes to anyone at meeting. The accusation by Sr. Mary that I passed notes (like a young child) is simply false.

2. Copies to all beforehand? The invitation I received said:

OPEN FORUM

Faculty Senate is sponsoring an Open Forum with faculty and administrators regarding the possibility of beginning a Chiropractic Program at Marywood. The forum will be held on April 5th at 2:00 in Room 111 of the Liberal Arts Building.

Please attend and share your ideas.

Please accept that all I did was try to do what the invitation suggested. Nothing in there about running contrary ideas past the administration first....

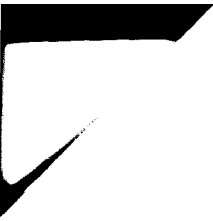
Recall my response to point 1. The short time between my hearing about the chiropractic meeting and the meeting itself barely gave me time to do some research. The time frame prevented me from distributing copies of my work to all faculty and administration. Would a mailing to the whole faculty and administration been preferable to what I did? No! Why not?

I was trying to stay fairly low key! No one at the meeting got a copy of the handout before the meeting, and not all at the meeting got copies-- but I saved one for you and gave it to you at the end of the meeting.

The issues I raised in the handout did not emerge at the meeting. If those issues had emerged, what would be the harm on your part of legitimately pleading ignorance and, if warranted, scheduling another meeting to take up the issues in the handout? In retrospect I wish I had run copies over to your offices on Wednesday morning. I do apologize for that. Wednesday is my busiest day and I was constantly busy with my regular work. Certainly no offense was intended on my part, and I predict that if you took an anonymous survey of those attending they too would not see my actions or "behaviors" as wildly (or even at all) out of line. Because intent and perception and social norms seem all important in these matters the social scientist in me would love to know the anonymous opinions of the others at the meeting-- their views about my actions, and their opinion of your views regarding my actions. I predict that most of them would find your written responses to me to be of course honestly felt on your parts but at variance with their interpretations of the same event(s). In the spirit of inquiry should we share our correspondence with those who were there and poll those who were there? I think not, some issues are best left alone, but I have tried to make a point....

3. In an attempt to protect Marywood from embarrassment, my handout purposely did not have my name on it nor any reference to Marywood. I assumed (I think correctly) that if anyone in the Marywood community asked colleagues "Who in the heck wrote this?!" the answer would soon be forthcoming. I was public and not an underhanded assassin. I had the best interests of Marywood in my heart and in my brain. I was embarrassed for Marywood and wanted to keep the issue under discussion private, hence no names on the handout for discussion. I passed out the three pages in public at the meeting, and at the end of the meeting I made a point of giving you and Sr. Mary a copy of the handout. Perhaps I am wrong on this issue, but I think not,-- and my intentions were good!
[I realize the road to hell is paved with good intentions...] ;)

Neither of you called on me during the "discussion" even though my hand was constantly raised. I interjected perhaps two brief (true) sentences pertaining to the link between The University of Bridgeport and the "Moonies" and the desperate shape The University of Bridgeport has been in for years (hence a likely reason for going chiropractic). More than one person



attending the meeting told me that it was obvious to all that I was being ignored by both of you.

4. Of course I can't deny that you had an "invitation to explain the events taking place at Marywood and what we have been able to learn about the subject." Perhaps you even sought the invitation, but I am not convinced that that means or meant that probing and perhaps uncomfortable questions couldn't be asked.

I expected an open free-flowing and wide-ranging discussion regardless of who was the guest of whom. The idea of a forum implies an open discussion and debate, and I was at least partly ready for one. If, on the other hand, your roles were to merely say "Marywood needs the money so we are going to open a chiropractic school" then why bother with a forum (other than for appearances)? A nice long memo would have done just fine! (and saved me a lot of trouble!).

Sr. Mary wrote that my handout material was "academically embarrassing in its subjective and undocumented form". The handout was meant to inspire discussion, it was not a journal article. Nothing else presented at the forum even pretended to be somewhat academic.

But as to the academic quality of the handout, I can only point to the fact that my handout began by referring to the best supportive references cited by chiropractors. I am open-minded but skeptical about chiropractic. I am not a hired gun for the "other side" but merely interested in scientific truth. I had, after all, taken it upon myself to call a librarian at the New York State Chiropractic College to get those references so I could present something from the "other side." I then quoted extensively from Consumer Reports Medicine Show (a source I had at home) and told some admitted anecdotal evidence about relatives who worked for chiropractors. I believe the relatives told stories which can be backed up in print.

I stand by the handout as a legitimate piece of work meant to inspire discussion.

Further reading I have done backs up the points I made in the handout.

According to a letter to the editor in the August 1994 Consumer Reports the Oregon legislature has cracked down on chiropractors for their never-ending treatment approach. At the Syracuse University Library I found a book [Chiropractic in America by J. Stuart Moore, Johns Hopkins University Press 1993] which backs up my relative's story about the mother's arms and the transmission of informative energy. [Moore, p. 140]. Also see the June 1994 Consumer Reports (p. 388).

I would bet money that the current chiropractic journals are full of ads for strange machines, machines I mentioned in the handout. The book by Moore is an academic work that, in part, examines the whole sociological phenomenon of chiropractic. One of the points Moore makes is that chiropractic comes in many flavors [many of them strange] and is not by any means a settled field of study. The June 1994 Consumer Reports article is also amazingly academic for that magazine -- it certainly points the reader to many of the academic sources and it tries to provide a critical review of those sources.

I also have a copy of the Rand study cited in Consumer Reports and in the videotape you showed. I am in the process of obtaining the cited Mead article. On April 10 I sent each of you copies of the June 1994 Consumer Reports review of chiropractic and copies of the follow-up letters which appeared in the August issue. *I really have tried to do some homework on this issue*. I did this so I could have some input to what I see as a crucial decision facing Marywood. Again, I meant and mean well! You're welcome to borrow any of the study materials I have!

I am not making waves for the sake of making waves, i.e. challenging authority for the sake of challenging authority. I have better things to do with my time. I'd rather read a book than get involved in campus politics -- but when it comes to educational issues I do have opinions which I have tried to share over the years. I consider myself loyal and a hard worker but I am not a "yes man"; if I think my superiors are going the wrong way on an important issue I will speak up. If an administrator makes a decision I heartily dislike I would of course protest it in private first-- but in this case I thought we were considering chiropractic "possibilities" and that "share your ideas" and the term "open forum" meant open....

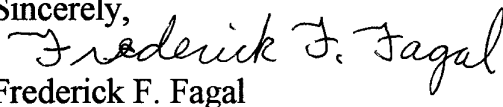
I do believe in free and untrammled open discussion that may in fact get slightly heated. Participants can be close friends after such heated

discussions. After all, there is passion behind some ideas. The logic of any position should be open to attack, and all premises need to be examined. The attacker should be given enough time to carry the day or abdicate in intellectual retreat or leave the issue unresolved but in sharper focus-- where the bone of contention is seen as not one of logic or personalities but differences among unresolvable premises and assumptions and goals and values. Bottling up discussion at a forum by obviously ignoring me, and then personally castigating one (me!) who dared to try speak up makes for a cold intellectual climate for all at Marywood.

Please realize that I am not the main issue and I don't want to be the main issue. I don't want to personalize this. I do not have to be rebutted. The ideas and concerns need to be considered, debated, rebutted, etc.. A major point you made at the forum was "we have to move quickly on this and don't have time for long study" [words to that effect]. I found this view disconcerting to say the least, considering the downside risks of a chiropractic program (these risks barely came up at the meeting). Could a deep "crash course fast track" study be undertaken? Would Marywood consider hiring an independent top-notch researcher (e.g. an established econometrician) to analyze the field? I'd even kick in \$200 toward such a study if I thought the person okay.

4. Finally, I unequivocally and proudly assert that I too have tried to honestly present my concerns about the College and that I tried to share information in an open manner.

Sincerely,



Frederick F. Fagal

Associate Professor of Economics

cc. Dr. Jane Farr, President of the Faculty Senate

[cc: recipient of the Sr. Patricia Ann Matthews memo to Fagal]

P.S. As a follower of the current national political scene it is clear that most Republicans are in favor of a national health insurance program where each individual has catastrophic health insurance backed up by medical spending accounts where unused funds revert back to the owner of the account, i.e. the individual, perhaps to go into an IRA.

Virtually every office trip to the physician or chiropractor or physical therapist would come right out of the fund and hence cause the typical consumer to buy less of the service than she or he does now. If such a plan goes through, then economists would predict harder times for chiropractors and a lowering of fees and less demand for chiropractic training. The pot of gold may not be at the end of the rainbow...