



FACULTY SENATE

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Dear Drs. Cole and Saladin,

Recent reports in the local press have suggested impropriety in the outcome of an Honor Council proceeding. These reports undermine public trust in MUSC, and also challenge the key value of academic integrity held by students, faculty and the wider community of health providers at MUSC.

The Faculty Senate understands that the Dean of Medicine has pledged a review of Honor Council policies and guidelines. While this inquiry is invaluable in minimizing or preempting future damaging controversies, the fact remains that MUSC's reputation has been sullied, and the value of its M.D. degree is in question. Allegations of a serious threat to academic integrity call for a more direct response.

Thus far, MUSC's response has focused on confidentiality protections afforded by FERPA. While correct and incontestable, this approach does not address the ethical concerns expressed by students, by faculty, and by the public.

Speaking on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and faculty who have come to me with their concerns, I respectfully request an explanation and endorsement of the Dean of Medicine's decision regarding the Honor Council recommendation. I believe that the basis upon which an Honor Council sanction was overturned can be described without compromising student identities. The integrity of the system can be restored only if the basis of that decision is known.

Such a statement, confirming the ethical propriety of the Honor Code outcome, would go a long way to fortifying student, faculty and public confidence in the Dean of Medicine and the institution as a whole. The communities you lead need to be reassured of your commitment to academic freedom and to decision-making that is independent from politics.

Thank you and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this issue,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Mund".

Angela Mund CRNA DNP
President, Faculty Senate