

November 21, 2017

Via Email

Whitney Kenner Jones, J.D.
Equity & Compliance Investigator
Office of Global Diversity & Inclusion
P.O. Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751
wkenner@pdx.edu

Dear Ms. Kenner Jones,

I am writing in regards to the complaint that your office received on October 25, 2017 alleging that I have violated the university's Prohibited Discrimination and Harassment Policy. As you continue to investigate this complaint, I wanted to raise a number of issues that I believe merit consideration.

As you may know, I recently published an article entitled "The Case for Colonialism" in the *Third World Quarterly*. This article proved to be highly controversial and prompted many at our university to demand that I be censured in some fashion or another. Significantly, two of the three complainants of the matter you are currently investigating were among those who have publicly denounced me and have called for the university to punish me due to the views expressed in this article.

On September 22, 2017, [REDACTED] circulated a letter to several students and alumni of the Masters for Public Policy (MPP) program contending that I exhibit "a pattern of marginalizing individual students based on their race and gender in classes." Notably, however, [REDACTED] writes in her email soliciting supporting signatures that this letter is "in response to Dr. Gilley's recent article." In other words, the complaint filed with your office began as a direct reaction to my article and an attempt by some students to have me reprimanded for expressing views with which they disagree. I am attaching [REDACTED] email which was forwarded to me by another MPP student, [REDACTED], together with [REDACTED] response to [REDACTED].

Complainant [REDACTED] has also demonstrated that the complaint filed with your office is animated by the disapproval of my published academic views. In a September 14, 2017 article on remezcla.com, [REDACTED] is quoted as saying, "...It is clear that there is a lot of work to do if publishing something that is so patently offensive and devoid of academic merit does not come with concrete consequences for Gilley on the part of the University." He further states, "PSU has a responsibility, especially now to rescind Dr. Gilley's tenure and terminate his employment. This article comes on the heels of other incendiary comments that Gilley has made, and is clearly testing the limits of what is acceptable. This is, in no uncertain terms, racism."

Assuming the allegations you are investigating relate to events when I directed the MPP program over two years ago, the timing of this complaint further suggests an underlying wrongful motive on behalf of the complainants. This constitutes a misuse of administrative procedure to punish faculty who express unpopular views. Needless to say, I find this deeply disturbing.

On September 15, 2017, the Provost affirmed my rights of academic freedom in publishing the article noted above and rejected any suggestion that I have violated any terms of my employment at PSU. As she stated, "Because of our commitment to academic freedom, we acknowledge the right of faculty members to explore all avenues of scholarship and to speak and write on such matters." Having failed to get the university to take action in response to my article directly, the complainants now turn to your office in an attempt to achieve the result they desire.

While it is my desire to fully cooperate with your investigation, I strongly believe in the need to have legal counsel present on my behalf, especially in light of all these circumstances. Given that I will not have the benefit of union representation, due process requires that you grant this request. Please let me know the expected duration of your interview so that I may make arrangements accordingly. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Gilley
**Bruce
Gilley**

Digitally signed by Bruce Gilley
DN: cn=Bruce Gilley, o=Portland
State University, ou=Mark O.
Hatfield School of Government,
email=gilleyb@pdx.edu, c=US
Date: 2017.11.21 19:51:42 -08'00'

cc: Dean Stephen Percy, College of Urban & Public Affairs