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Democratic Whip



Senate of Pennsylvania

August 17, 2015

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Dr. Richard Green  
Interim President, Lincoln University  
1570 Baltimore Pike  
Lincoln University, PA 19352

Dear Dr. Green,

By now you are undoubtedly aware of the recent negative media coverage surrounding one of your faculty members, Professor Kaukab Siddique. As detailed by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and many other national news outlets, Dr. Siddique has used the public platform of social media to express his private views on homosexuality, sexual violence against women and the Jewish community. Using coarse language and statements dripping with contempt for the aforementioned groups, this professor has (once again) brought dishonor to both himself and to Lincoln University.

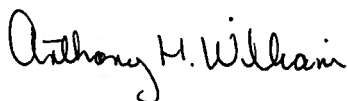
As in the past, when Dr. Siddique found himself in the spotlight for heinously denying the historical fact of the Holocaust, I am writing to urge disciplinary action for his disgusting abuse of academic freedom. While I wholeheartedly support the First Amendment and the broad deference toward academic speech, Dr. Siddique continues to cross the boundaries, adding no value to the popular conversation on race, rape culture or LGBT rights. He's even gone as far as to discount multiple reports of the atrocities committed by terrorists of the Islamic State (ISIS), referring to stories of the 2014 Sinjar Massacre and subsequent Yazidi siege as "propaganda."

According to Lincoln University's *Professional Standards for Faculty*, your institution grants tenure to distinguished scholars, an honor which guarantees yearly contract renewal "unless she or he fails to fulfill professional and contractual obligations or for reasons of professional incompetence, moral turpitude, or financial exigencies facing the University." It is my firm belief that Dr. Siddique has failed to maintain these standards, in that the publicity generated from his online discourse may cause a negative financial impact on Lincoln due to decreased enrollment and that students under his supervision may be discriminated against, or perceive they have been discriminated against, due to their gender, religion or sexual identity. Is it not professionally incompetent to deny historical fact, or to voice support for wholesale discrimination against large swaths of people? His words, broadcast widely, have created a hostile environment for all Lincoln University students, particularly during a time in which an increase in sexual assault cases coupled with recent media reports exhibiting persistent racial harassment on college campuses have led to a national demand for universities to address student

safety and intolerance. At the very least, Dr. Siddique should face a disciplinary review board to explain how his commentary promotes the mission of the university or enhances the educational environment among his students.

Academic freedom is certainly important, but so is academic integrity. Allowing a member of your faculty to continue spreading hateful, vile lies in the public arena is irresponsible; to protect him from any form of discipline for such actions is unconscionable. Hate speech has no place in the academic conversation other than in history books, where it should remain. Lincoln University deserves better from its tenured faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anthony H. Williams". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Senator Anthony H. Williams  
State Senator – 8<sup>th</sup> District