

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 12, 2019

Professor Barrett Watten, PhD
English Department

Dear Professor Watten,

I am in receipt of the report of the university sponsored, independent investigation of your behavior with colleagues and students where, as I understand it, you were given ample opportunity to refute accusations against you. The findings against you include that you:

- engaged in a hostile environment/sexual harassment against a graduate student in violation of BOG Code Annotated §2.28.06, Sexual Harassment;
- engaged in inappropriate email/voice mail communications with another graduate student over whom you had direct supervision and grading authority, in violation of the principles set forth in the national AAUP “Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students;”
- engaged in targeted hostility against another graduate student, in violation of the principles set forth in the national AAUP “Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students;”
- engaged in a consensual sexual relationship with yet another graduate student where you had direct supervision and grading authority in violation of the principles set forth in the national AAUP “Statement on Professional Ethics.”

While AAUP Statements do not represent formal WSU policy, they are national standards set forth by your peers regarding the norms of behavior to be expected of responsible faculty. The findings clearly demonstrate that you have, over a period of years, conducted yourself in a manner inconsistent with the expectations of your peers both locally and nationally.

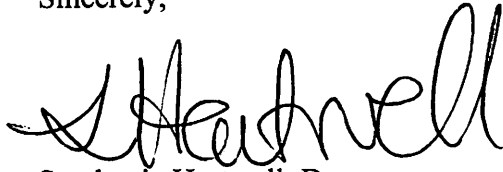
The content and details of the report itself in the context of a much longer history of incendiary behavior have compelled me to remove you from: teaching responsibilities; and access to graduate students via committee work including theses and dissertations. Additionally, your office will be moved outside of the English Department.

I will permit you to continue to Chair the two dissertations you are currently chairing in order to not negatively impact those students, but I am requesting you step away from serving as a committee member on the other two dissertations you are serving on.

These steps are not taken lightly and are based on the report's content and thorough documentation of a history of the violation of academic standards and principles expected by faculty at WSU and nationally.

You will retain your pay and benefits as well as access to campus facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Hartwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Stephanie Hartwell, Dean
Professor of Sociology
Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry