

Special Committee Members:

This evening, I received a copy of the letter of support for Dr. Carter drafted by the local chapter of the “W” Club. I read the letter with great concern. Alumni are a critical constituency for any university. Their contributions and support are critical to the maintenance of any institution of higher education.

However, the constituencies that make up the core of the university community extend beyond alumni. The faculty of an institution is also an important constituency; without them there could be no classes. They have strongly rebuked the leadership of Dr. Carter.

Perhaps the most important constituency on any campus is, of course, the students who currently attend the institution. Governor Susman himself told the Charleston Daily Mail that the issue before you is about “...the school and the students, not about people outside of that...” in a recent interview. If the administration has shortcomings, they have an impact upon our daily lives.

Dr. Carter most certainly possesses an impressive record of accomplishments. Many members of the “W” Club were, in all likelihood, students here themselves when these accomplishments took place. They were here for the best years of Dr. Carter’s distinguished career. He is an individual worthy of respect and praise for taking WVSU to a new level.

Despite his many achievements, Dr. Carter’s record as the president of our institution has taken a turn for the worse in the past few years. The current student body feels that shortcomings in funding, deteriorating living conditions in the dormitories, the inability to convince political leaders of our state that our institution is a good investment, declining enrollment in a period of

record enrollment across the state, and a lack of attention to customer service issues in regards to students combine to create a situation where new leadership is needed.

Our institutions shortcomings in funding are often laid at the feet of the separation of our community and technical college component. This was not a situation that was tossed on Dr. Carter at the last minute. Ample time was given by the state government to plan for this separation and make the changes necessary to close the gap it was sure to create. In a time when recruiting efforts should have been increased, Dr. Carter instead chose to maintain the status quo.

In 1991, four years into Dr. Carter's long term of service, student enrollment figures were around five thousand students. Today, we have roughly half that number. Recruiters are needed by any university to keep classes full. We currently employ two recruiters, whereas most universities have five times that number. In our last budget, we as a board had to instruct Dr. Carter to hire our second recruiter. This idea should have originated from Dr. Carter, not the board, and it should have come far sooner.

It seems that in the modern political environment, it is becoming more and more popular for those in charge of a situation to pass blame off on a predecessor or to some other individual or decision-making body instead of taking responsibility for one's own actions and addressing the problem proactively. While it is true that the state government did not approve our request for \$5 million to ease the burden of our CTC separation, we must shoulder the responsibility of how we asked for the funding. As a member of the Planning and Advancement committee in my first term of service, I was told that our request did not include a financial workup of exactly how many students we lost or how much money our institution was losing on a service agreement that was not being paid by the CTC. Instead, we simply stated that other institutions had received

these funds and we wanted equitable treatment. The situation of our separation was more extensive than the separations experienced by other institutions. In the “W” Club’s letter of support, they bring up the shadow of racism as a reason for the legislatures lack of support. We did not show the legislature a compelling case for support. That fault lies with our institution and its leader, not the West Virginia State Legislature or racial attitudes. If a more compelling case for support has been drafted, it has escaped my attention. This matter should have been seen to personally by Dr. Carter long before now.

Our campus has dormitories that are not up to the standard expected by university students of the new millennium. This has been a long standing complaint of the student body. Once again, Dr. Carter has chosen to maintain the status quo until the instant that it threatens to do serious harm to enrollment. We are currently accepting bids on a feasibility study for dormitory facilities that were needed a decade ago.

Customer service issues abound on this campus. School has been in session for two days and I have already received two complaints regarding financial aid for veteran students. Last semester, I endured three incidents with very unprofessional behavior myself. Many of my fellow students have been subjected to similar poor treatment. This attitude reflects leadership.

A change of leadership at this time would do much to alter public perception about the direction our institution is heading. While it is unfortunate that such a change may leave a lasting scar on the legacy of a man who has done much for our institution, it is my hope that this committee will realize that WVSU is about more than one man’s legacy. Moses could only lead the Israelites to the Promised Land. After his long struggle to bring them there, he could not enter. At this point in his long career, Dr. Carter can be seen as protecting a status quo that is not

productive. This stands in the face of our best traditions. To quote Dr. Carter himself, "West Virginia State College will always strive for greatness, because our heritage is not one of complacency or of maintaining the status quo. Our tradition is one of constantly striving to reach a higher standard." As a third generation legacy student and student representative to the WVSU Board of Governors, I would like to speak for my fellow students in asking Dr. Carter to accept retirement at the end of the calendar year. If such an option is unacceptable to Dr. Carter, I would like to request that this committee send a recommendation to remove Dr. Carter from his post, appoint an interim president, and begin a search for a new leader to take us into the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

 8/23/11

Kris Casdorph

WVSU Board of Governors

Student Representative

CC: Faculty