

There are conflicting emails being sent by Administrators about what faculty can and cannot do. The activities of The Mary Turner Project (MTP), The Clothesline Project, Social Work, and Faculty Senate all support the Student, University and Regional Missions of VSU. It's a sad state of affairs if faculty can only speak out and be active regarding issues that aren't politically important, or faculty can only discuss non-issues or topics where everyone has the same belief. A University is supposed to be a place of higher learning, where people on different sides of a topic can have a discussion, challenge and share ideas, become aware of different sides of an issue, and yes, even agree to disagree. As a biologist who has done work in Antarctica and has seen the effects of global warming first hand, does this mean I can't speak out against issues and legislation regarding global warming because they are too "political" and some politicians and some members of the general public don't believe it is happening? What about when there's a move to pass legislation about intelligent design as a legitimate alternative to evolution?

### **Clarification is needed on VSU's and the BOR's policies regarding activities of faculty members.**

#### **According to BOR policy:**

##### **8.2.15.3 Political**

As responsible and interested citizens in a democratic society, USG employees are encouraged to fulfill their civic obligations and otherwise engage in the normal political processes of society. Nevertheless, it is inappropriate for USG personnel to manage or enter political campaigns while on duty to perform services for the USG or to hold elective political office at the state or federal level while employed by the USG.

Therefore, the following policies governing political activities are hereby adopted:

1. Employees may not manage or take an active part in a political campaign which interferes with the performance of duties or services for which he or she receives compensation from the USG.
2. Employees may not hold elective political office at the state or federal level.
3. Employees seeking elective political office at the state or federal level must first request a leave of absence without pay beginning prior to qualification as a candidate in a primary or general election and ending after the general or final election. If elected to state or federal office such person must resign prior to assuming office.
4. Employees may seek and hold elective office at other than the state or federal level, or appointive office, when such candidacy for or holding of the office does not conflict or interfere with the employee's duties and responsibilities to the institution or the USG.

##### **9.10.6 Use of Institutional Facilities/Property**

The policy of the Board regarding the use of institutional facilities/property shall be as follows.

###### **9.10.6.1 In Political Campaigns**

The president of each institution may authorize the use of institution facilities for political speeches. However, such use shall be limited to meetings sponsored by recognized organizations of the institution and shall be held only at places designated by the president. The use of USG materials, supplies, equipment, machinery, or vehicles in political campaigns is forbidden (BoR Minutes, 1976-77, p. 257).

#### **According to VSU policy and its Mission Statement:**

According to the Organization and Mission of VSU (Full Mission Statement is attached: Attachment A). The University Mission is "To operate the university with a focus toward human, environmental, and financial sustainability while increasing value to our local, regional, national, and international stakeholders. To expand opportunities for our students, employees, and varied community members by promoting social justice and service learning."

From VSU: <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/handbook/rights-and-responsibilities/professional-.php>

#### **Political Activities**

There are no restrictions placed upon the faculty as individuals in matters of political activity. At all times, however, faculty members are expected to be keenly conscious of the fact that they are employed by the State of Georgia and that, in a sense, they represent the State. They are expected to use forethought in their statements, decisions, and actions since these of necessity reflect on the University.

Any members of the faculty who decide to enter a political race should immediately inform the President of their intention to do so. Regents' policy requires that candidates for state and national offices request a leave of absence without pay before qualifying as a candidate and, if elected, that they resign prior to assuming office.

### **According to Faculty Senate:**

According to Faculty Senate's webpage of Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (From: <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/faculty-senate/handbook/rights-and-responsibilities/freedom.php>)

The following statement regarding Academic Freedom is included in the [Statutes of Valdosta State University](#).

Section 1. Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution.

Section 2. Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject.

Section 3. Teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution.

The word "teacher" as used in this document is understood to include the investigator who is attached to an academic institution without teaching duties (See [Statutes](#), Chapter 3, Article VI).

### **Brief History of Social Justice and Political Activities**

From these statements it appears that faculty would have the ability to be vocal on issues that follow the mission of the university and their programs. Other USG faculty and students have been involved in other social justice, lobbying, and political activities.

Examples of other social justice, lobbying, and political activities:

- The Clothesline Project that speaks out against violence against women
- Social Work Lobby Day at the Capitol
- Resolutions passed by VSU's Faculty Senate regarding the biomass plant and guns on campus (Attachment B and C)
- Open letter that was sent to the state government regarding teacher evaluations (from: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/georgia-professors-blast-teacher-evaluation-system/2012/07/09/gJQAFhSbZW\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/post/georgia-professors-blast-teacher-evaluation-system/2012/07/09/gJQAFhSbZW_blog.html); Attachment D)

So, when The Mary Turner Project with Dr. Mark George as the coordinator and the SCLC asked the state to stop supporting Confederate Memorial Day (Attachment E), this was not the first time that university members got involved in a social justice issue that affects residents of Georgia. Dr. George has his Ph.D. in Sociology and was initially hired by the Sociology Department as an Applied Sociologist. At the time when he wrote the letter he was an adjunct professor in Women and Gender Studies. According to WGST website: "Our faculty and students are both scholars and feminist activists, pursuing intellectual work and achievement with a vision of social justice". He sent this letter on June 23, and at this time he was scheduled to teach two WGST2020 courses in Fall 2014. On July 8, he gave Dr. Woodard notice because he accepted a teaching position out of state, and on July 9 Dr. Woodard contacted Dean Richards to alter WGST classes for Fall 2014 (Attachment F).

On July 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> John C. Hall, an alumnus of VSU, sent an email (see Attachment G) to Debra Ryals, the Chancellor, Tom Daniel and Mark George voicing his displeasure about the open letter. In Mr. Hall's email he argued that the MTP was engaging in political activities and is using VSU resources to do so, which goes against the tax exempt status of the VSU Foundation, a 501(c)(3). However, 501(c)(3) organizations can lobby as long as the organization does not devote substantial part of its activities to influence legislation (Attachment H). The MTP ([www.maryturner.org/](http://www.maryturner.org/)) has other

activities including: educating the public about lynchings in the United States, developing a free, searchable slave database where individuals can find information about their ancestors ([www.slavecensus.com](http://www.slavecensus.com); Attachment I), and holding an annual, public commemoration event for Mary Turner who was murdered near the border of Lowndes and Brooks counties for speaking out against the murder of her husband by a mob seeking revenge for the murder of a white plantation owner in Brooks County. Based on activities conducted by the MTP appears the MTP does NOT spend a substantial amount of time and resources on lobbying activities. In addition, while bringing up the idea of getting rid Confederate Memorial Day may be a sensitive topic so are any number of topics that the state and federal government deal (or don't deal) with.

Dr. George responded on July 18 (Attachment G p. 6) to Mr. Hall's claim to explain that the Mary Turner Project is not a lobby group and his (Dr. George's) work is not inappropriate because it works towards the goals of both applied sociology and women and gender studies.

On July 23 (Attachment G page 10), President McKinney said that Dr. George's email would be shut down, following VSU IT policy. There is a procedure to shut emails down after 45 days, but this is not routinely done, and there are a number of cases to show that this procedure is not a routine procedure (Attachment J). On July 25 President McKinney gave an update to the situation (Attachment G page 11). #4 of the update was that "Our Provost will discuss research versus political activity with any employees involved with the Mary Turner Project (and any similar initiatives) and remind them our responsibilities to BOR policy." To date to my knowledge the policy that is given is the same policy I have included at the start of this document.

Dr. George filed a complaint with the BOR, specifically Ethics and Compliance Program (attachment K). On October 22, 2014 Wesley Horne (Director of Ethics and Compliance) sent an email (attachment L) that may give Dr. George temporary access to email and courses on blazeview; Dr. George is currently awaiting the final report.

Then this Fall Dr. Tracy Woodard cancelled The Clotheline Project, which resulted in a series of articles and letters to the editor in VSU's Spectator (Attachment M). According to her Dr. Rogers told her that Women and Gender Studies program could not use state resources for political purposes. In August Dr. Woodard met with President McKinney who said that he supported what she did. She asked for clarification regarding BOR policy, and as of November 6 hadn't received clarification. According to the Chief of Staff, the issues with MTP and The Clothesline Project are unrelated.

***The activities by the Administration, USG, and state officials are confusing. Are some social justice issues or other issues that upset some people inappropriate for faculty to voice their opinion, but other activities that the same people "like" are ok? The policy needs to be clarified.***

Attachment A:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/about/facts/organization-and-mission.php>

### **Organization and Mission**

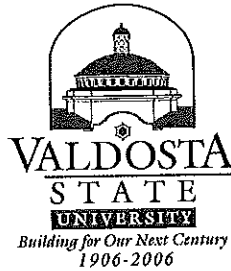
As a comprehensive institution of the University System of Georgia, Valdosta State University (VSU) is a welcoming, aware, and vibrant community founded on and dedicated to serving our communities' rich and diverse heritages. Through excellence in teaching, basic and applied research, and service, VSU provides rigorous programs and opportunities that enrich our students, our university, and our region. As such, the VSU mission consists of three interrelated parts:

- **Student Mission:** To provide a diverse student population with an inspired education, a safe learning environment, a nurturing community, and a wealth of experience that assists students in molding their futures in a creative, conscious, and caring fashion while preparing them to be lifelong learners who will meet the needs of a changing global society.
- **University Mission:** To operate the university with a focus toward human, environmental, and financial sustainability while increasing value to our local, regional, national, and international stakeholders. To expand opportunities for our students, employees, and varied community members by promoting social justice and service learning.
- **Regional Mission:** To provide our region and our home with the resources and support necessary to develop and sustain a higher quality of living, greater economic and community development, and inspired innovation that nurtures and respects our diverse population and beautiful environment while promoting academic outreach, public and private entrepreneurship, and collaboration with all regional entities.

Valdosta State University fulfills its mission by focusing on inclusion in all aspects of the educational experience.

*Developed by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, August 2013. Approved by the President's Cabinet, September 16, 2013. Approved by University Council, March 24, 2014. Approved by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, August 20, 2014.*

# Attachment B



## FACULTY SENATE

Est. 1991

<b>Chairperson</b> Patrick J. Schloss	<b>Vice Chairperson</b> Philip Gunter	<b>Executive Secretary</b> Peggy L. Moch	<b>Parliamentarian</b> Ed Walker
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### Minutes

May 19, 2011

The Faculty Senate meeting convened on Thursday, May 19, 2011 in the University Center  
Magnolia Room at 3:35 p.m.

1. Call to Order by Dr. Patrick J. Schloss.
  - Thanked Peggy for her service on Faculty Senate as Executive Secretary and presented a plaque.
  - Discussed accomplishments of this year's Senate, emphasizing Promotion and Tenure.
  - Unfortunately, Health Sciences building was vetoed by the Governor.
  - Budget looks good given current conditions.
  
2. **Approval of the minutes of the April 21, 2011 meeting of the Faculty Senate.**  
<http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/index.shtml>
  - Minutes approved.
  
3. New business
  - a. Report from the Academic Committee – Philip Gunter [pgunter@valdosta.edu](mailto:pgunter@valdosta.edu)  
See Attachment A for Minutes of May 2, 2011 Academic Committee meeting.
    - No Report. Meeting Cancelled.
  
  - b. Report from the Committee on Committees – Diane Holliman [dhollim@valdosta.edu](mailto:dhollim@valdosta.edu)
    - Committee assignments have been made and emails will be sent out soon.
    - Had outstanding support from Peggy and committee. Appreciates all who have taken on committee assignments.
  
  - c. Report from the Institutional Planning Committee – Said Fares [sfares@valdosta.edu](mailto:sfares@valdosta.edu)
    - See Attachment B for IPC's Annual Report.
  
  - d. Report from the Faculty Affairs Committee – Shani Gray [spray@valdosta.edu](mailto:spray@valdosta.edu)
    - No report.
  
  - e. Report from the Faculty Grievance Committee – Theresa Thompson [tthompson@valdosta.edu](mailto:tthompson@valdosta.edu)
    - No report.
  
  - f. Report from the Senate Executive Secretary – Peggy Moch [plmoch@valdosta.edu](mailto:plmoch@valdosta.edu)

1. Blood drive announcement. Kathy Dallas for the American Red Cross.
  - Blood Drive will be June 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm at the Student Union.
  - Appointments to give blood can be scheduled at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).
  
2. **Election of the General Faculty Representative to the Planning and Budget Council (PBC)** for the July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013 term. Dr. Brenda Dixey, chair of the Senate Nominations Committee, will provide the senate with a ballot and conduct the election for this PBC seat. Thank you to Drs. Peggy Moch, Aubrey Fowler and Said Fares for graciously agreeing to serve on this committee.
  - Nominees were Said Fares, Brian Ring, and Green Waggener. The Faculty Senate voted Said Fares to the PBC.
  
3. The Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) wants to present a resolution to the Faculty Senate for their consideration regarding Sustainable Energy Resources (Dr. Jason Allard, Chair). See **Attachment C**.
  - Gardner Rogers presented the resolution. The Faculty Senate voted to support the resolution.
  
4. Presentation of the latest draft of the Strategic Plan along with a reference guide to subcommittee input with regard to the main document (**see separate attachments below the agenda**).
  - Presented by Dr. Gunter.
  - Friendly amendment to be added:
    - To Goal 5A: “safe and healthy lifestyles and civic responsibility” to replace “healthy lifestyles and civic responsibility”.
    - To Goal 5C: “safe and fulfilling student life opportunities” replacing “student life experiences”.
  - Draft document with friendly amendment was approved.
  
5. Report from Mr. John Crawford regarding funds raised at the last senate meeting was \$2,505.00 and to date for the Dr. J. Temple Scholarship, including matching funds from the foundation is \$5,010.00! Thank you one and all for your generosity.
  
6. Special Task Force lead by Dr. Peggy L. Moch and Dr. Tracy Woodard-Myers will be put together to look into recent incidences regarding faculty members having difficulties with students in their classrooms. The task force will examine current policies and procedures, see what other similar institutions’ policies and procedures might have in place, and will report back to the senate their findings and recommendations.
  
7. **Standing Committee Yearly Reports** from the 11 Faculty Senate Standing Committees. At the May 19, 2011 Senate meeting, each standing committee chair should be prepared to give a brief oral summary of their report to the Senate. See attachments for each committee report.
  - Academic Scheduling/Procedures: Ashok Kumar**. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See **Attachment D**.
  - Academic Honors & Scholarships: Jason Kassel**. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See **Attachment E**. Late submission. Senate voted to allow report to be presented.

Athletics: Chuck Conner. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment F.

Educational Policies: Eric Nielson. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment G.

Environmental Issues: Jason Allard. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment H.

Faculty Scholarship and Research: Attila Cseh. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment I.

Library Affairs: Lars Leader. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment J.

Minority & Diversity Issues: Alicja Rieger. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment K.

Student Activities: Bradley Finson. This committee was renewed in May 2010, and will be reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment L.

Student Services: Katharine Adams. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment M.

Technology: Nathan Elliot. This committee was renewed in May 2009, and will be next reviewed for renewal in May 2012. Yearly report to be given in May 2011. See Attachment N.

4. Old Business

5. Discussion

6. Adjournment

- Dr. Gunter unanimously voted congratulations to the Men's tennis team for winning DII National Champions. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

→ of Fac. Senate Agenda

**Attachment C: EIC Resolution**

**A Resolution Defining “Renewable” Electricity Sources for Potential Adoption as a Tangible Action to Reduce Valdosta State University’s Carbon Footprint Under its 2009 Climate Commitment**

WHEREAS, Valdosta State University became a signatory to the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in May 2009, after a supportive resolution passed the VSU Faculty Senate unanimously; and,

WHEREAS, one of seven “tangible actions” that ACUPCC signatories may undertake in their long-term plan to achieve carbon neutrality is “purchasing or producing at least 15% of our institution’s electricity consumption from renewable sources”; and,

WHEREAS, biomass combustion/incineration to produce electricity has until recently been regarded as, and may be defined under state and federal tax codes as a *renewable source* of electricity; and,

WHEREAS, the incineration of woody biomass and other organic debris to produce electricity has been identified recently by the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society as a significant source of air pollutants including but not limited to nitrogen oxides and fine particulates, causing increased risks of a variety of illnesses, some life-threatening; and,

WHEREAS, biomass incineration for base-load electricity generation produces more nitrogen oxides and fine particulates per unit of power than existing coal-burning power plants, meaning it is not *clean energy*; and,

WHEREAS, recent studies indicate that biomass incineration for base-load electricity generation produces more carbon dioxide per unit of power than existing coal-burning power plants and may lead to unsustainable forestry practices and a net increase in global greenhouse gas emissions, meaning it is not *green energy*;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Valdosta State University Faculty Senate, meeting at its \_\_\_\_\_ 2011 meeting, urges that, if and when VSU decides to adopt as a ACUPCC tangible action a renewable energy portfolio for its electricity use, that it not include biomass combustion as part of that renewable portfolio, due to the above stated detrimental environmental and health effects, and instead urges investments in improved energy efficiency and truly green energy sources such as solar and geothermal, and other non-combustion, non-polluting methods as may be available.

This resolution does not necessarily represent the views of the administrators, faculty, or staff of Valdosta State University or the Georgia Board of Regents.

**References**

American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). (2007-2011).  
<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment>



Brook et al. (2004). Air pollution & cardiovascular disease. American Heart Association.  
<http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/content/full/109/21/2655>

Luyssaert et al. (2008). Old-growth forests as global carbon sinks. Nature 455:213-215.  
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Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences (2010). Biomass sustainability and carbon policy study.  
<http://manomet.org>

Searchinger et al. (2009). Fixing a critical climate accounting error. Science 326:527-528.  
<http://www.openmarket.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/searchinger-science-oct-09.pdf>

US EPA "Tailoring Rule," 40 CFR. <http://www.epa.gov/nsr/documents/20100413final.pdf>

VSU Faculty Senate meeting minutes for May 21, 2009:  
[http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/documents/Senate\\_Minutes\\_2009-05-21.pdf](http://www.valdosta.edu/facsen/meeting/minutes/documents/Senate_Minutes_2009-05-21.pdf)

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE**

**RESOLUTION**

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**A STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE CONCEALED CARRY OF FIREARMS ON CAMPUS**

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- WHEREAS, universities are unique environments that function as institutions of higher learning with a clearly stated purpose to promote and facilitate the discovery, application and dissemination of knowledge and
- WHEREAS, allowing concealed carry permit holders to bring firearms on university grounds or into classrooms threatens the progress of education and the expression of ideas by imposing lethal weaponry within a place that harbors vigorous and often heated academic discussion and
- WHEREAS, scientific research suggests human cognitive risk assessment capabilities are not fully developed before the age of twenty-five years-old, thus predisposing the majority population of college students to impaired judgment and vulnerabilities not equally represented in the population at large and
- WHEREAS, Georgia educational and law enforcement professionals believe that prohibiting firearms on college campuses, except by campus police and trained security officers, is an essential element of those schools' safety plans and
- WHEREAS, lawfully sanctioned concealed carry of firearms shifts the responsibility of protecting lives from the university police department to private individuals who lack sufficient proper training and
- WHEREAS, the University System of Georgia administration, faculty, student groups and law enforcement have repeatedly opposed measures allowing firearms on campus and
- RECOGNIZING, legislation requiring the university to adopt policies that allow the concealed carry of firearms on university grounds will impose additional monetary responsibilities, which are not met by state funding, and will likely be paid through increased tuition and fees and
- WHEREAS, no provisions have been made for the safe storage of firearms in resident halls or classrooms, nor have administrative or disciplinary policies been drafted regarding theft, accidental discharge, unintentional shootings or the likely increase of firearm use while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate of Valdosta State University is responsible for being a voice for students, faculty, staff and administration personnel on issues relating to campus safety and general well being and

WHEREAS, all students, faculty, staff and administration personnel at VSU have the right to learn and work in a safe environment free from concealed firearms and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Valdosta State University opposes any bill put forth by the State of Georgia that could prohibit universities and community colleges from banning the carrying of firearms by non-law enforcement officials on the grounds and in any building of universities and community colleges in the State of Georgia.

**From:** Michael G. Noll  
**To:** Faculty Senate  
**Subject:** Guns and HB 875  
**Date:** Monday, March 03, 2014 8:44:06 AM  
**Attachments:** VSU Faculty Senate Resolution.pdf

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Dear Colleagues.

Two years ago the Faculty Senate passed a resolution opposing any legislation that would allow concealed guns on campus (see attachment).

Currently HB 875 is in committee and will likely come up for a vote this week in Atlanta. In essence HB 875 will try to accomplish the following:

- Arm K – 12 teachers, administrators, staff or anyone authorized by a local school board to carry concealed firearms anywhere on school grounds.
- Decriminalize campus carry (making it a civil offense), prevent law enforcement from arresting gun carriers, and [only] impose up to \$100.00 fine.
- Give an opt out provision for concealed carry in houses of worship and bars.
- Force guns into state and local government buildings; libraries, city council meetings, senior centers, etc.
- Force public housing authorities to allow guns.
- Create an absolute defense for the legal use of deadly force in the face of a violent attack. This provision strengthens the state's Stand Your Ground defense.
- Repeal the entire state dealer licensing system.
- Reduce the age requirement for concealed carry from 21 to 18 for military veterans or those that have taken basic training.
- Reduce the penalty from a felony to no penalty should licensed permit holders carry guns past TSA security checkpoints at all airports including Hartsfield-Jackson International, the busiest airport in the world. Provision assigns the same penalty (misdemeanor, same as traffic ticket in Georgia) for non-license holders and license holders should they not "immediately leave the restricted access area upon notification."

I don't know about you, and as much as I can appreciate the Second Amendment, but this is utterly insane!

Please take a few minutes and contact your representatives in Atlanta ... and also share this email with others if you can.

<http://keepgunsoffcampus.org/blog/2013/06/20/georgians-contact-gov-deal-and-the-legislature-to-stop-guns-on-campus-and-other-places/>

Regards, Michael G. Noll.



affected; and

(4) Timing—Georgia is not prepared to implement this evaluation model.

Concern #1: Validity – Educational researchers strongly caution against teacher evaluation approaches that use Value-added Models (VAMs).

Georgia has already used a value-added statistical model to determine which schools were to be put on probation, closed, or turned around under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and found this model wanting. For the new teacher evaluation system, "student academic growth" will be measured with VAMs or similar models. Myriad researchers have found that value-added models (VAMs) of teacher effectiveness do not produce stable ratings of teachers. For example, different statistical models (all based on reasonable assumptions) can yield different effectiveness scores [2]. Even when models try to control for prior achievement and student demographic variables, teachers are unduly advantaged or disadvantaged based on the students they teach. Researchers have found that teacher evaluation scores can fluctuate from class to class, from year-to-year, and from test-to-test [3]. In making the decision to use VAM's, we encourage the state to consider that ten prominent researchers of assessment, teaching, and learning faculty wrote an open letter that included some of the following concerns about using student test scores to evaluate educators [4]:

- a. No evidence exists that evaluation systems that incorporate student test scores provide gains in student learning. In order to determine if there is any evidence, researchers recommend long-term, randomized, double-blind testing of such systems. Furthermore, student test scores have not been found to be a strong predictor of the quality of teaching as measured by other instruments or approaches[5].
- b. Testing companies themselves advise against the use of their instruments to evaluate educators or provide supporting evidence linking test scores to any type of teacher pay or performance model [6].
- c. Validity of the testing instruments used to evaluate the students' value-added scores is a large concern in this case. Validity refers to the degree in which an interpretation of a test score is supported by evidence. For a measure of teacher effectiveness to be valid, evidence must support the argument that the measure can actually determine the teacher effectiveness it claims to measure. This is essential. An assessment instrument must be validated before it can be used for particular purposes [7]. Assessments designed to evaluate student learning are not necessarily valid for measuring teacher effectiveness or student learning growth[8]. Using them to measure the factor is akin to using a meter stick to weigh a person; you might be able to develop a formula that links height and weight, but there will be plenty of error in your calculations.

Concern #2: Feasibility – This evaluation model is not the most responsible, realistic use of state funds and human resources.

At a time when class sizes in Georgia are being increased, teachers furloughed, staff cut, enrichment activities decreased, and school years shortened due to lack of school funding, spending so much taxpayer money on an untested, unvalidated measure is irresponsible. Furthermore, this assessment model will place an additional, unneeded burden on local school leaders, teachers, and colleges of education.

4. This assessment model places a HUGE burden on school leaders. The reduction phase of this system is a burden (due to two-year cycle in which all teachers are to be tested) to replicate content delivery and to implement a reduction of content-based research. Will evaluators, who are often principals or lead teachers, be trained to recognize effectiveness in subject matter not their own? When will this "training" actually take place and who will conduct it? Furthermore, in an effort to provide feasibility for the 25 partner school districts, many of the provisions require the districts to develop their own evaluations of teacher induction systems. In an already understaffed and overworked

school system, who will design and implement these instruments and who will pay the salaries of those hired to do so?

b. This assessment model places a HUGE burden on teachers.

A primary (and problematic) presumption of a value-added model is that a teacher's effectiveness can be identified independently through students' standardized test scores. This evaluation system makes teachers solely responsible for student success when, in reality, quite the opposite is true.

Teachers do not work in isolation because schools are learning communities where all parts contribute to student development. An evaluation system that even partially tests an individual teacher, or evaluator, on his or her own merits ignores the reality that student success is the result of the work of many in a school, including reading teachers, resource teachers, reading and English Language Learner specialists, guidance counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other personnel. Most importantly, out-of-school factors are actually more responsible for student success [9]. Non-classroom-teacher factors, including parents' income level and level of education, account for roughly 65-80% of the statistical variation in students' test scores [10]. How could we possibly begin to disaggregate each individual's effect? And why would we want to? Schools operate best when there is cooperation among all caretakers, faculty, and staff members [11] and when all are accountable for each student's learning [12]. Furthermore, teachers will be implementing the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) (www.parcos.org) assessments just as this evaluation system is introduced. Most teachers are unfamiliar with the PARCC format, items, and system, adding to an already stressful testing situation.

c. This assessment model places a HUGE burden on colleges of education.

The effective preparation of teachers requires practice time spent with mentor teachers in actual classrooms. The model of preparing to be one teacher in a classroom is not realistic. The student-teaching portion of most pre-teacher programs has been determined by some research, such as that done by the Blue Ribbon Commission of NCATE, to be one of the most important and influential parts of a teacher education program [13]. This requires districts, schools, and mentor teachers to willingly allow colleges of education to place student teachers in their classrooms. Yet, even now, many of us who spend time in schools working with students and their mentor teachers have found it increasingly difficult to find placements because of teacher and leader concerns over student test scores. Given that the new teacher effectiveness measure places so much emphasis on test scores, will student teachers still be welcomed? We fear the answer will be a resounding no.

Concern #3: Unintended consequences – Students will be adversely affected by the implementation of this new teacher evaluation system.

Our undue focus on testing affects teacher-student relationships and makes it more difficult to establish a classroom community of academically successful learners and critical thinkers.

a. Since the initiation of NCLB, a focus on test preparation to the exclusion of other content has come to be known as "narrowing the curriculum"[14]. Enrichment activities in the arts, music, civics, and other non-tested areas have diminished. Using student test scores as a measure of teacher "value" will further restrict what is taught. Educators have spoken of their lived experience with unintended consequences of the narrow curriculum from NCLB over the past decade. Children arrive in middle school without fundamental skills in reading, writing, and science. Children are not given the opportunity to explore and investigate in some way, artificially constrained to language arts, math, and science.

b. There has been and, with the implementation of these evaluations,

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Inevitably will be a further narrowing of the curriculum as teachers focus more on test preparation and drill-and-kill teaching – particularly in low-scoring schools which are largely attended by low Socio-Economic Status students and students of color [15]. By focusing on testing to the exclusion of true teaching, we further catalyze a pending civil rights battle for equal educational opportunities.

c. Teachers will subtly but surely be incentivized to avoid students with health issues, students with disabilities, students who are English Language Learners, or students suffering from emotional issues. Research has shown that no evaluation model yet developed can adequately account for all of these ongoing factors [16].

d. When student test scores take a front and center position and the livelihoods of teachers, leaders, and schools are dependent on those scores, we must stop being surprised that existing solutions of cheating Georgia is one of many states already using this kind of standardized test scores to teacher and leader evaluations will make things better? If so, how?

Concern #4: Testing – Georgia is not ready to implement a teacher evaluation model that is based on the use of student growth as a significant determinant of teacher effectiveness.

A pilot of Georgia's proposed evaluation system began in January 2012 and ended May 2012. The state has acknowledged that they intend to refine the model based on the findings of the pilot and implement a finalized iteration in Fall 2012. Unfortunately, the state has not allowed itself enough time to analyze data and evaluate the outcomes of the semester long pilot with validity and reliability. The current plan leaves only two months to analyze data from the pilot and make appropriate adjustments and assumes that the outcomes of the pilot will be valid, reliable, or even desirable. These are serious assumptions to make about an instrument that will have such a powerful effect on the lives of teachers, principals, students, and families.

For the student growth and academic achievement portion of the Teacher/Leader/Keys evaluations, the state and local schools systems must take into consideration:

a. The influence of certain student characteristics such as placement in special education, limited English-language proficiency, and residence in low-income households.

b. How they will accurately match teachers to their actual students (e.g. who gets the "credit" for student outcomes in a co-taught class, a class with a paraprofessional, a class with a change of teacher, a new student mid-year arrival, or a class with a support teacher).

c. That teachers, principals, coaches and other school leaders have to be trained in the use of student assessment for teacher evaluation and this training will take place in addition to training already planned for the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS); thus, becoming a burden to already overworked individuals.

d. That there is little point in providing value-added teacher evaluations unless they trigger continuous planning (e.g. for art or music), or work on and professional development to support through the year. The only way to ensure that there is a benefit to support through the year is to have a system that allows for ongoing feedback and support. At a time when school systems are struggling to raise test scores and cut budget, the possibility of any system having appropriate and sufficient funding to support high-quality professional development is seriously in doubt.

Further, for teachers of "non-tested subjects" (e.g. art or music), a standardized value-added student assessment does not exist. While some work is being done nationally to develop assessments for "non-tested" subjects, this work is in its infancy. Despite this fact, participating Georgia school districts must identify at least one "non-tested" assessment for every grade and every subject; determine

how student growth will be measured on these assessments, and translate the student growth from these different assessments into teacher evaluation ratings in a fair manner [17].

Our Recommendations

1. Further pilot and adjust the evaluation system before a large-scale implementation. Any annual evaluation system should be piloted and adjusted on a small scale for a length of time that provides sufficient feedback before being implemented statewide. Delaware spent years piloting and fine-tuning their system before formally putting it in place statewide. Conversely, Florida's and New York City's teacher evaluation systems made headlines when their rapid implementation led to unintended negative consequences [18].

2. Reduce or eliminate the percentage that student growth and academic achievement determine teacher or leader effectiveness and look for more valid and reliable ways to measure effectiveness.

We are aware of the complexity of developing teacher evaluation models. In the current state of standardized student-growth measures are found to be unreliable and reliable sources of information on teacher or principal performance. They should in no way play a role or should play a very limited role, in summative ratings. There are other types of instruments and evaluative programs that provide a better, more precise picture of teacher effectiveness. These measures focus on what a teacher does and how practice can be strengthened through non-value-added measures, such as paid peer mentoring of first and second-year teachers, seminars, personal portfolios and reflections, and an ongoing analysis of teacher holistic performance. One clear example of these methods may be found in the TEAM (teacher education and mentoring) program currently implemented in Connecticut, which provides provide differentiated professional learning for beginning teachers as they reflect on instructional strategies and analyze student data and outcomes [19].

Students benefit when objective feedback is part of their teachers' experience [20]. Similar frameworks for principals can serve the same purpose.

The GREATER consortium concludes that hurried implementation of teacher evaluation using student-value-added growth models will result in decreased learning, and harm to students and teachers. Further, it is a waste of our state's already limited resources to widely implement a model that has not yet been thoroughly field-tested or fully strategized. Our students see more than the sum of their test scores, and research clearly shows that an overemphasis on test scores will not result in increased learning, increased well-being, or greater success.

According to a nine-year study by the National Research Council [21], the past decade's emphasis on high-stakes standardized testing has yielded little learning progress. This is particularly troubling when we consider the cost of this emphasis to taxpayers.

We all cannot afford to lose sight of what matters the most—the academic, social, and emotional growth and well-being of Georgia's children. Our students, teachers, and communities deserve better. They deserve thoughtful, reliable, valid reforms that will improve teaching and learning for all students. It is in this spirit that we write this letter.

..

Signed (original) by 38 educational researchers across the State of Georgia, as of June 25, 2012. University affiliations are listed for identification purposes only and do not imply affiliated consent.

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1. Note: This letter was adapted from the letter written by Dr. Kevin Kumerica, University of Illinois at Chicago, which was signed by more than 80 university professors and researchers in the Chicago area.

It was also inspired by the letter written by Sean C. Fahey, Ph.D. and Carol G. Burris, Ed.D., which was signed by more than 1,400 New York State principals in opposition to New York's evaluation plan.

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By Valeri Strasz | 6:26 AM ET 07/10/2012


Recommen...  
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Needs Lacharbak link, etc. — and other, for reasons the liberal arts remain relevant

### 8. Comments


Discussion Rules

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 educationlover2k wrote:  
7/11/2012 1:31 PM EDT


God bless them! I hope the educators will listen to them rather than big money.

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 masondwyer wrote:  
7/11/2012 2:33 PM EDT

The professors have written a clear, concise policy statement, backed by research and authority. It also avoids, completely, beyond the comprehension of politicians and the reform cult.

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 edwetter wrote:  
7/11/2012 1:38 PM EDT

An Open Letter to Governor Nathan Deal and Georgia Lawmakers 6/23/2014

Dear Gov. Deal and Georgia Lawmakers,

We contact you today to respectfully call for an end to the State of Georgia's endorsement, promotion, and support of all Confederate holidays, events, and its management of historic sites and monuments related to the Confederacy. We also call for an immediate change to all state roads and highways currently named for Confederate leaders.

We make this reasonable request for the following reasons.

- **These state sponsored activities celebrate and promote a war fought to preserve the institution of slavery and the south's desire to extend this institution into Western territories.**<sup>1</sup> Georgia's own secession statement<sup>2</sup> (attached) attests to this fact, as do the secession statements of other southern states (see links at the end of this document). Scholars in Georgia's own University System also attest to this reality, if you have any doubt we encourage you to, a) review Georgia's secession proclamation, b) review the secession statements of other Confederate states, c) and/or contact Civil War scholars and historians employed by the University System of Georgia. We would be glad to put you in touch with these scholars.
- **These state sponsored activities celebrate and romanticize a government and leaders driven by the ideology of White supremacy and the belief that White people had been divinely ordained to be superior to and in charge of all other races.** Examples that demonstrate this fact, from various Confederate leaders, are provided at the end of this document.
- **These state sponsored activities celebrate and romanticize a government and leaders who refused to recognize the human and civil rights of women of all races, including but not limited to the right to vote, own property, serve on a jury, etc.**
- **Some of these state sponsored activities pay homage to and glorify men who were instrumental leaders in the terrorist organization known as the Ku Klux Klan during the era of Reconstruction (e.g. Gen. John Brown Gordon, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest).**
- **These state sponsored activities are paid for by Georgia taxpayers, including approximately 3 million Black citizens, many of whom are the descendants of the very people the Confederacy saw as sub-human and worthy of enslavement.**
- **These state sponsored activities raise serious questions about whether all Georgians can expect equal treatment and representation from lawmakers who participate in celebrating the Confederacy and think it, and the men who led it, are something to be lionized and honored.**
- **These state sponsored activities serve to actively distort the history of the Civil War and minimize the scope and scale of slavery in Georgia and the South.** Few, if any, make any mention of the fact that in 1860 four million people were the

<sup>1</sup> For an excellent text on this reality, as well as the repackaging of the Civil War by "heritage" organizations after the war, we strongly suggest reading James Loewen and Edward Sebesta's *The Confederate and Neo-Confederate Reader*.

<sup>2</sup> Slavery is referenced in Georgia's secession statement, 34 times (no mention is made of taxes or tariffs – issues many heritage organizations argue were key to the Civil War and the state of Georgia's decision to secede from the Union).

"property" of white slave owners throughout southern states. Few, if any, make any mention that at the onset of the Civil War there were at least 462,232<sup>3</sup> slaves in Georgia, a number that had increased by a minimum 10% with each passing decade. Few, if any, make any mention about the systematic brutality and abuse dealt out to enslaved people. Instead of informing the public about any of these realities, these events and sites simply serve as propaganda outlets that actively erase Georgia's reliance on and participation in chattel slavery, they romanticize the past, and glorify racist Confederate leaders.

- **These state sponsored activities obstruct social progress and show a general disregard for 3 million Black Georgians.** They do that because they romanticize an era where Black people were mere "property" (see attached Georgia Secession statement) and they fail to provide an accurate history of the scope and scale of slavery in Georgia and/or the ideology of White supremacy. In turn, the omission of both realities serves to glorify a defeated government and its assorted leaders who saw Black people as sub-human and deserving of enslavement and dehumanization.
- **These state sponsored activities obstruct economic development in the state by making Georgia look like it is lost in the 19th century in the eyes of the nation and world.** What serious 21<sup>st</sup> century companies and corporations want to bring jobs to a state where its Government romanticizes and celebrates the brutal era of slavery and white supremacy? Consequently, and in a state where 17% of its total population lives in poverty<sup>4</sup> and where the median income is \$5,000 lower than the national average<sup>5</sup>, romanticizing such a racist and barbaric era hurts Georgians of all races by inhibiting economic development and the creation of lasting, well-paying jobs.
- **Lastly, these state funded activities are a waste of State revenue and Georgia taxpayers' tax dollars.** Particularly in a time where the state needs to trim its budget, ending these activities will ultimately save the State, and its taxpayers, needed revenue for more worthy endeavors that assist all Georgian and celebrates out diverse populace.

As we make these claims, please know that we are well aware of arguments among some Georgians that these state sponsored activities embody a matter of "heritage not hate." We take issue with that argument. These state sponsored activities instead embody a matter of "hate not heritage" given the points made above. With this in mind, it is time for our state to move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and put an end to any and all state sponsored celebration, whitewashing, and distortion of this most shameful era.

Furthermore, and given that the term "heritage" is defined as "something transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor" or "something possessed as a result of one's natural situation or birth" (Merriam and Webster Dictionary), we hope that no lawmakers today "possess" or have "acquired" the beliefs that slavery needed to be preserved and extended or that White people are inherently superior to Black people. We also hope that no lawmakers today regret the fact that the Confederacy lost the Civil War and as a consequence, 4 million humans were freed from that 246 year-old "peculiar institution" known as chattel slavery?

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 1860

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

Various mythologies exist—known as the "Lost Cause," "States' Rights," and the "War of Northern Aggression" that have been created by various "heritage organizations" like the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans after the Civil War. We hope that none of our lawmakers subscribe to these romanticized mythologies nor use them to justify their endorsement of Confederate symbols, leaders, and culture. According to scholarly historians, these "heritage" organizations, and Georgia Historical Societies, were created shortly after the Civil War, as key propaganda machines whose central missions have been to redefine the purpose and cause of the Civil War (i.e. into a "Lost Cause" and/or "War of Northern Aggression" and/or a war that was about "States' Rights" mythology). We will gladly refer you to the scholars and scholarly studies that document this reality.

In accordance with the First Amendment, "heritage organizations" have the right to believe in, and promote, any mythology or propaganda they like, even if it distorts and sanitizes history and celebrates a government that sought to preserve and extend slavery, as well as the ideology of White supremacy. We understand and support their right to free speech, even if it veils truth and distorts historical fact. However, the State of Georgia should not endorse and be involved in supporting these distortions of history. Furthermore, the use of Georgians' tax dollars, particularly the tax dollars of African Americans and forward thinking Georgians of all races, for these activities is immoral and a prime example of institutionalized racism. This activity, and the State's participation and marketing of a distorted, racist history, must stop. We call on you to do that today.

As for what to do with existing monuments, historic sites, road signs, and symbols the State of Georgia currently markets and manages, allow us to offer a couple of solutions that will both end these unjust State sanctioned practices and satisfy private heritage organizations.

- Since there are a variety of organizations who are invested in preserving the various mythologies of the Civil War and who seek to lionize racist Confederate leaders, the state can give existing monuments (free of charge) to these organizations as long as they incur all costs for the removal and relocation of said monuments to their own private properties.
- Historic properties and sites that honor Confederate leaders can be purchased by these same heritage organizations at current market value. Otherwise, they should be put on the public market for sale.
- As for highway and road signs, we suggest the State simply sell them to interested heritage organizations for what these signs cost to produce.

In closing, we understand that our demands may seem to be a large undertaking given the State's long, entrenched, and institutionalized tradition of celebrating racist Confederate culture and Confederate leaders. Nevertheless, Georgia started this journey when it removed the Confederate flag as part of its state flag in 2003. Now GA needs to take additional steps along this journey.

Nonetheless, just as ending the institution of chattel slavery must have seemed overwhelming to Southern whites in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was accomplished, so this can be too. Ending slavery was worth every effort and was the right thing to do. Furthermore, correcting the state-endorsed inaccuracies of the Confederacy and instead celebrating an

inclusive history is worth all the effort it will take (and is the right thing to do). Future generations of Georgians will remember this moment as a turning point in our history.

Governor Deal, we also understand that our demands will require great moral and political fortitude on the behalf of all Georgia lawmakers. We encourage you to muster the necessary courage you will need to make these changes and know that you will have our complete support, and the support of all forward thinking, justice loving Georgians. Know that your decision and acts in this matter will also go far to determine how you and Georgia lawmakers will be remembered in history, as either visionary women and men who were justice-loving, or as people who worked to maintain a tradition of distorting, romanticizing, and promoting a horrific period in this state's history. We look forward to witnessing you demonstrate to the state and nation that you are not people who are lost in some racist past but individuals who honestly acknowledge Georgia's past transgressions, have learned from them, and are ready to move forward in the creation of a state that honors and respects all of its citizens.

Please know that we will also be reaching out to assorted corporations, businesses, non-profits, civic, and religious organizations within the state and across the nation to build support for these changes. We will also be in communication with the United States Department of Justice and the White House regarding our concerns about the capacity of elected officials who promote these activities to represent the rights and interest of all Georgians.

We thank you for your time and attention in this matter. We also thank you for being courageous enough to do the moral and just thing.

*Maria Annunzio Beale*

Mark Patrick George, PhD  
Mary Turner Project Coordinator  
(229) 234-2856

*Floyd Rose*

Rev. Floyd Rose  
Presidents Lowndes SCLC  
(229) 444-1938

**Georgia's Declaration of Secession, January 29, 1861**  
(Slavery referenced 34 times, taxes 0, tariffs 0)

The people of Georgia having dissolved their political connection with the Government of the United States of America, present to their confederates and the world the causes which have led to the separation. For the last ten years we have had numerous and serious causes of complaint against our non-slave-holding confederate States with reference to the subject of African slavery. They have endeavored to weaken our security, to disturb our domestic peace and tranquility, and persistently refused to comply with their express constitutional obligations to us in reference to that property, and by the use of their power in the Federal Government have striven to deprive us of an equal enjoyment of the common Territories of the Republic. This hostile policy of our confederates has been pursued with every circumstance of aggravation which could arouse the passions and excite the hatred of our people, and has placed the two sections of the Union for many years past in the condition of virtual civil war. Our people, still attached to the Union from habit and national traditions, and averse to change, hoped that time, reason, and argument would bring, if not redress, at least exemption from further insults, injuries, and dangers. Recent events have fully dissipated all such hopes and demonstrated the necessity of separation. Our Northern confederates, after a full and calm hearing of all the facts, after a fair warning of our purpose not to submit to the rule of the authors of all these wrongs and injuries, have by a large majority committed the Government of the United States into their hands. The people of Georgia, after an equally full and fair and deliberate hearing of the case, have declared with equal firmness that they shall not rule over them. A brief history of the rise, progress, and policy of anti-slavery and the political organization into whose hands the administration of the Federal Government has been committed will fully justify the pronounced verdict of the people of Georgia. The party of Lincoln, called the Republican party, under its present name and organization, is of recent origin, it is admitted to be an anti-slavery party. While it attracts to itself by its creed the scattered advocates of exploded political heresies, of condemned theories in political economy, the advocates of commercial restrictions, of protection, of special privileges, of waste and corruption in the administration of Government, anti-slavery is its mission and its purpose. By anti-slavery it is made a power in the state. The question of slavery was the great difficulty in the way of the formation of the Constitution. While the subordination and the political and social inequality of the African race was fully conceded by all, it was plainly apparent that slavery would soon disappear from what are now the non-slave-holding States of the original thirteen. The opposition to slavery was then, as now, general in those States and the Constitution was made with direct reference to that fact. But a distinct abolition party was not formed in the United States for more than half a century after the Government went into operation. The main reason was that the North, even if united, could not control both branches of the Legislature during any portion of that time. Therefore such an organization must have resulted either in utter failure or in the total overthrow of the Government. The material prosperity of the North was greatly dependent on the Federal Government, that of the South not at all. In the first years of the Republic the Federal Government, and manufacturing interests of the North began to seek profit and aggrandizement at the expense of the agricultural interests. Even the owners of fishing smacks sought and obtained bounties for pursuing their own business (which yet continue), and \$500,000 is now paid them annually out of the Treasury. The navigating interests begged for protection against foreign shipbuilders and against competition in the coasting trade. Congress granted both requests, and by prohibitory acts gave an absolute monopoly of this business to each of their interests, which they enjoy without diminution to this day. Not

content with these great and unjust advantages, they have sought to throw the legitimate burden of their business as much as possible upon the public; they have succeeded in throwing the cost of light-houses, buoys, and the maintenance of their seamen upon the Treasury, and the Government now pays above \$2,000,000 annually for the support of these objects. These interests, in connection with the commercial and manufacturing classes, have also succeeded, by means of subventions to mail steamers and the reduction in postage, in relieving their business from the payment of about \$7,000,000 annually, throwing it upon the public Treasury under the name of postal deficiency. The manufacturing interests entered into the same struggle early, and has clamored steadily for Government bounties and special favors. This interest was confined mainly to the Eastern and Middle non-slave-holding States. Wielding these great States it held great power and influence, and its demands were in full proportion to its power. The manufacturers and miners wisely based their demands upon special facts and reasons rather than upon general principles, and thereby mollified much of the opposition of the opposing interest. They pleaded in their favor the infancy of their business in this country, the scarcity of labor and capital, the hostile legislation of other countries toward them, the great necessity of their fabrics in the time of war, and the necessity of high duties to pay the debt incurred in our war for independence. These reasons prevailed, and they received for many years enormous bounties by the general acquiescence of the whole country.

But when these reasons ceased they were no less clamorous for Government protection, but their clamors were less heeded--the country had put the principle of protection upon trial and condemned it. After having enjoyed protection to the extent of from 15 to 200 per cent upon their entire business for above thirty years, the act of 1846 was passed, it avoided sudden change, but the principle was settled, and free trade, low duties, and economy in public expenditures was the verdict of the American people. The South and the Northwestern States sustained this policy. There was but small hope of its reversal; upon the direct issue, none at all.

All these classes saw this and felt it and cast about for new allies. The anti-slavery sentiment of the North offered the best chance for success. An anti-slavery party must necessarily look to the North alone for support, but a united North was now strong enough to control the Government in all of its departments, and a sectional party was therefore determined upon. Time and issues upon slavery were necessary to its completion and final triumph. The feeling of anti-slavery, which it was well known was very general among the people of the North, had been long dormant or passive; it needed only a question to arouse it into aggressive activity. This question was before us. We had acquired a large territory by successful war with Mexico; Congress had to govern it; how, in relation to slavery, was the question then demanding solution. This state of facts gave form and shape to the anti-slavery sentiment throughout the North and the conflict began. Northern anti-slavery men of all parties asserted the right to exclude slavery from the territory by Congressional legislation and demanded the prompt and efficient exercise of this power to that end. This insulting and unconstitutional demand was met with great moderation and firmness by the South. We had shed our blood and paid our money for its acquisition; we demanded a division of it on the line of the Missouri restriction or an equal participation in the whole of it. These propositions were refused, the agitation became general, and the public danger was great. The case of the South was impregnable. The price of the acquisition was the blood and treasure of both sections--of all, and, therefore, it belonged to all upon the principles of equity and justice.

**The prohibition of slavery in the Territories, hostility to it everywhere, the equality of the black and white races, disregard of all constitutional guarantees in its favor, were boldly proclaimed by its leaders and applauded by its followers.**

With these principles on their banners and these utterances on their lips the majority of the people of the North demand that we shall receive them as our rulers.

**The prohibition of slavery in the Territories is the cardinal principle of this organization.**

For forty years this question has been considered and debated in the halls of Congress, before the people, by the press, and before the tribunals of justice. The majority of the people of the North in 1860 decided it in their own favor. We refuse to submit to that judgment, and in vindication of our refusal we offer the Constitution of our country and point to the total absence of any express power to exclude us. We offer the practice of our Government for the first thirty years of its existence in complete refutation of the position that any such power is either necessary or proper to the execution of any other power in relation to the Territories. We offer the judgment of a large minority of the people of the North, amounting to more than one-third, who united with the unanimous voice of the South against this usurpation; and, finally, we offer the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States, the highest judicial tribunal of our country, in our favor. This evidence ought to be conclusive that we have never surrendered this right. The conduct of our adversaries admonishes us that if we had surrendered it, it is time to resume it.

The faithless conduct of our adversaries is not confined to such acts as might aggrandize themselves or their section of the Union. They are content if they can only injure us. The Constitution declares that persons charged with crimes in one State and fleeing to another shall be delivered up on the demand of the executive authority of the State from which they may flee, to be tried in the jurisdiction where the crime was committed. It would appear difficult to employ language freer from ambiguity, yet for above twenty years the non-slaveholding States generally have wholly refused to deliver up to us persons charged with crimes affecting slave property. Our confederates, with puny faith, shield and give sanctuary to all criminals who seek to deprive us of this property or who use it to destroy us. This clause of the Constitution has no other sanction than their good faith; that is withheld from us; we are remediless in the Union; out of it we are remitted to the laws of nations.

A similar provision of the Constitution requires them to surrender fugitives from labor. This provision and the one last referred to were our main inducements for confederating with the Northern States. Without them it is historically true that we would have rejected the Constitution. In the fourth year of the Republic Congress passed a law to give full vigor and efficiency to this important provision. This act depended to a considerable degree upon the local magistrates in the several States for its efficiency. The non-slaveholding States generally repealed all laws intended to aid the execution of that act, and imposed penalties upon those citizens whose loyalty to the Constitution and their oaths might induce them to discharge their duty. Congress then passed the act of 1850, providing for the complete execution of this duty by Federal officers. This law, which their own bad faith rendered absolutely indispensable for the protection of constitutional rights, was instantly met with ferocious revilings and all conceivable modes of hostility. The Supreme Court unanimously,

The Constitution delegated no power to Congress to exclude either party from its free enjoyment; therefore our right was good under the Constitution. Our rights were further fortified by the practice of the Government from the beginning. Slavery was forbidden in the country northwest of the Ohio River by what is called the ordinance of 1787. That ordinance was adopted under the old confederation and by the assent of Virginia, who owned and ceded the country, and therefore this case must stand on its own special circumstances. The Government of the United States claimed territory by virtue of the treaty of 1783 with Great Britain, acquired territory by cession from Georgia and North Carolina, by treaty from France, and by treaty from Spain. These acquisitions largely exceeded the original limits of the Republic. In all of these acquisitions the policy of the Government was uniform. It opened them to the settlement of all the citizens of all the States of the Union. They emigrated thither with their property of every kind (including slaves). All were equally protected by public authority in their persons and property until the inhabitants became sufficiently numerous and otherwise capable of bearing the burdens and performing the duties of self-government, when they were admitted into the Union upon equal terms with the other States, with whatever republican constitution they might adopt for themselves.

Under this equally just and beneficent policy law and order, stability and progress, peace and prosperity marked every step of the progress of these new communities until they entered as great and prosperous commonwealths into the sisterhood of American States. In 1820 the North endeavored to overturn this wise and successful policy, and demanded that the State of Missouri should not be admitted into the Union unless she first prohibited slavery within her limits by her constitution. After a bitter and protracted struggle the North was defeated in her special object, but her policy and position led to the adoption of a section in the law for the admission of Missouri, prohibiting slavery in all that portion of the territory acquired from France lying North of 36 [degrees] 30 [minutes] north latitude and outside of Missouri. The venerable Madison at the time of its adoption declared it unconstitutional. Mr. Jefferson condemned the restriction and foresaw its consequences and predicted that it would result in the dissolution of the Union. His prediction is now history. The North demanded the application of the principle of prohibition of slavery to all of the territory acquired from Mexico and all other parts of the public domain then and in all future time. It was the announcement of her purpose to appropriate to herself all the public domain then owned and thereafter to be acquired by the United States. The claim itself was less arrogant and insulting than the reason with which she supported it. That reason was her fixed purpose to limit, restrain, and finally abolish slavery in the States where it exists. The South with great unanimity declared her purpose to resist the principle of prohibition to the last extremity. This particular question, in connection with a series of questions affecting the same subject, was finally disposed of by the defeat of prohibitory legislation.

The Presidential election of 1852 resulted in the total overthrow of the advocates of restriction and their party friends. Immediately after this result the anti-slavery portion of the defeated party resolved to unite all the elements in the North opposed to slavery and to stake their future political fortunes upon their hostility to slavery everywhere. This is the party two whom the people of the North have committed the Government. They raised their standard in 1856 and were barely defeated. They entered the Presidential contest again in 1860 and succeeded.

incendiaries who assail it to the whole extent of their power, in spite of their most solemn obligations and covenants; because their avowed purpose is to subvert our society and subject us not only to the loss of our property but the destruction of ourselves, our wives, and our children, and the desolation of our homes, our altars, and our firesides. To avoid these evils we resume the powers which our fathers delegated to the Government of the United States, and henceforth will seek new safeguards for our liberty, equality, security, and tranquility.

and their own local courts with equal unanimity (with the single and temporary exception of the supreme court of Wisconsin), sustained its constitutionality in all of its provisions. Yet it stands today a dead letter for all practicable purposes in every non-slave-holding State in the Union. We have their covenants, we have their oaths to keep and observe it, but the unfortunate claimant, even accompanied by a Federal officer with the mandate of the highest judicial authority in his hands, is everywhere met with fraud, with force, and with legislative enactments to elude, to resist, and defeat him. Claimants are murdered with impunity; officers of the law are beaten by frantic mobs instigated by inflammatory appeals from persons holding the highest public employment in these States, and supported by legislation in conflict with the clearest provisions of the Constitution, and even the ordinary principles of humanity. In several of our confederate States a citizen cannot travel the highway with his servant who may voluntarily accompany him, without being declared by law a felon and being subjected to infamous punishments. It is difficult to perceive how we could suffer more by the hostility than by the fraternity of such brethren.

The public law of civilized nations requires every State to restrain its citizens or subjects from committing acts injurious to the peace and security of any other State and from attempting to excite insurrection, or to lessen the security, or to disturb the tranquility of their neighbors, and our Constitution wisely gives Congress the power to punish all offenses against the laws of nations.

These are sound and just principles which have received the approbation of just men in all countries and all centuries; but they are wholly disregarded by the people of the Northern States, and the Federal Government is impotent to maintain them. For twenty years past the abolitionists and their allies in the Northern States have been engaged in constant efforts to subvert our institutions and to excite insurrection and servile war among us. They have sent emissaries among us for the accomplishment of these purposes. Some of these efforts have received the public sanction of a majority of the leading men of the Republican party in the national councils, the same men who are now proposed as our rulers. These efforts have in one instance led to the actual invasion of one of the slave-holding States, and those of the murderers and incendiaries who escaped public justice by flight have found fraternal protection among our Northern confederates.

These are the same men who say the Union shall be preserved.

Such are the opinions and such are the practices of the Republican party, who have been called by their own votes to administer the Federal Government under the Constitution of the United States. We know their treachery; we know the shallow pretenses under which they daily disregard its plainest obligations. If we submit to them it will be our fault and not theirs. The people of Georgia have ever been willing to stand by this bargain, this contract; they have never sought to evade any of its obligations; they have never hitherto sought to establish any new government; they have struggled to maintain the ancient right of themselves and the human race through and by that Constitution. But they know the value of parchment rights in treacherous hands, and therefore they refuse to commit their own to the rulers whom the North offers us. Why? Because by their declared principles and policy they have outlawed \$3,000,000,000 of our property in the common territories of the Union; put it under the ban of the Republic in the States where it exists and out of the protection of Federal law everywhere; because they give sanctuary to thieves and

**A Few Examples of Confederate Leaders' Thoughts on Slavery and White Supremacy**  
(More are available on request and web links to cited documents are provided)

**Jefferson Davis<sup>6</sup> (President of the Confederacy and Slave Owner)**

In his speech *On the Subject of Slavery in the Territories*, February 13 & 14, 1850, Davis stated that.....

**A large part of the non-slaveholding States have declared war against the institution of slavery. They have announced that it shall not be extended, and with that announcement have coupled the declaration that it is a stain upon the Republic - that it is a moral blot which should be obliterated.**

In his *Speech at the Grand Ratification Meeting, Faneuil Hall*, October 11, 1858, when speaking about the Northerners arguing slavery was a sin Davis stated that.....

**.... servitude is the only agency through which Christianity has reached that degraded race, the only means by which they have been civilized and elevated.**

In his *Message to the Confederate Congress about Ratification of the Constitution*, April 29, 1861, Jefferson shared some of his thoughts on slavery when he stated that .....

**.... [slaves] had been elevated from brutal savages into docile, intelligent, and civilized agricultural laborers, and supplied not only with bodily comforts but with careful religious instruction. Under the supervision of a superior race their labor had been so directed as not only to allow a gradual and marked amelioration of their own condition, ...**

In *The Papers of Jefferson Davis: 1856-1860*, Davis stated that.....

**We recognize the fact of the inferiority stamped upon that race of men by the Creator, and from the cradle to the grave, our Government, as a civil institution, marks that inferiority.**

and that....

**African slavery, as it exists in the United States, is a moral, a social, and a political blessing.**

**We recognize the negro as God and God's Book and God's Laws, in nature, tell us to recognize him - our inferior, fitted expressly for servitude... You cannot transform the negro into anything one-tenth as useful or as good as what slavery enables them to be.**

In his *Reply to Senator William H. Seward* in the Senate Chamber, Feb. 29, 1860, Davis stated that .....

**The condition of slavery with us is, in a word, Mr. President, nothing but the form of civil government instituted for a class of people not fit to govern themselves. It is exactly what in every State exists in some form or other. It is just that kind of control which is extended in every northern State over its convicts, its lunatics, its minors, its apprentices. It is but a form of civil government for those who by their nature are not fit to govern themselves. We recognize the fact of the inferiority stamped upon that race of men by the Creator, and from the cradle to the grave, our Government, as a civil institution, marks that inferiority.**

In his *Farewell to the U.S. Senate*, January 21, 1861, Davis stated.....

**.....the sacred Declaration of Independence has been invoked to maintain the position of the equality of the races. That Declaration is to be construed by the circumstances and purposes for which it was made. The communities were declaring their independence; the people of those communities were asserting that no man was born—to use the language of Mr. Jefferson—booted and spurred, to ride over the rest of mankind; that men were created equal—meaning the men of the political community; that there was no divine right to rule; that no man inherited the right to govern; that there were no classes by which power and place descended to families; but that all stations were equally within the grasp of each member of the body politic. These were the great principles they announced; these were the purposes for which they made their declaration; these were the ends to which their enunciation was directed. They have no reference to the slave; else, how happened it that among the items of arraignment against George III was that he endeavored to do just what the North has been endeavoring of late to do, to stir up insurrection among our slaves? Had the Declaration announced that the negroes were free and equal, how was the prince to be arraigned for raising up insurrection among them? And how was this to be enumerated among the high crimes which caused the colonies to sever their connection with the mother-country? When our Constitution was formed, the same idea was rendered more palpable; for there we find provision made for that very class of persons as property; they were not put upon the equality of footing with white men—not even upon that of paupers and convicts; but, so far as representation was concerned, were discriminated against as a lower caste, only to be represented in the numerical proportion of three-fifths. So stands the compact which binds us together.**

In his *Message to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States* in Montgomery on April 29, 1861 and in reference to the fact that the slave population had swelled to 4 million in 1860, Davis stated that.....

**In moral and social condition they had been elevated from brutal savages into docile, intelligent, and civilized agricultural laborers, and supplied not only with bodily comforts but with careful religion instruction. Under the supervision of a superior race their labor had been so directed as not only to allow a gradual and marked amelioration of their condition,....**

Even after the Civil War Davis continued to purport that slavery was a just institution. In his work *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* (1881 Vol. I) Davis stated that.....

**As a mere historical fact, we have seen that African servitude among us —confessedly the mildest and most humane of all institutions to which the name "slavery" has ever been**

<sup>6</sup> Currently the State of Georgia manages the Jefferson Davis Historic Site in Fitzgerald and Georgia has named a highway in his honor (State Highway 32).

applied—existed in all the original states, and that it was recognized and protected in the fourth article of the Constitution. (p.78)

Later in this text he states that.....

*Had these Africans been a cruelly oppressed people, relentlessly struggling to be freed from their bonds, would their masters have dared to leave them, as was done, and would they have remained as they did, continuing their usual duties, or could the proclamation of emancipation have been put on the plea of a military necessity, if the fact had been that the negroes were forced to serve, and desired only an opportunity to rise against their masters? (p.303)*

Concerning the enlistment of Blacks into the Union Army.....

*The forefathers of these negro soldiers .....were born the slaves of barbarian masters, untaught in all the useful arts and occupations, reared in heathen darkness, and, sold by heathen masters, there were transferred to shores enlightened by the rays of Christianity. There, put to servitude, they were trained in the gentle arts of peace and order and civilization; they increased from a few unprofitable savages to millions of Christian laborers. Their servile instincts rendered them contented with their lot, and their patient toil blessed the land of their abode with unmeasurable riches. Their strong local and personal attachment secured faithful service to those to whom their service or labor was due. A strong mutual affection was the natural result of this life-long relation, a feeling best if not only understood by those who have grown from childhood under its influence. Never the happier dependence of labor and capital on each other. The tempter came, like the serpent in Eden, and decoyed them with the magic word of "freedom." (Vol. II 193)*

In respect to Blacks having the right to vote during Reconstruction, Davis stated that.....

*The most cruel blow that was ever struck a helpless and defenseless people was the action of the general government in placing in the hands of an ignorant, illiterate and irresponsible race of people, the ballot of a free man, giving them the same rights and privileges under the general government as were exercised by their former masters.*

Enfranchisement of Blacks was an.....

*ever present eating, cankerous sore [because the Black person] is not susceptible of higher education, he is not susceptible of higher moral culture.*

**Alexander Stephens**, *(The Vice President of the Confederacy and Slave Owner)*  
In his speech regarding *The Bill to Admit Kansas as a State Under the Topeka Constitution* (June 28, 1856) he stated that .....

*Is African slavery, as it exists in the South, either a violation of the laws of nature, the laws of nations, or the laws of God? I maintain that it is not. It has been recognized by the laws of nations from time immemorial.....*

*The negro is inferior to the white man; nature has made him so; observation and history, from the remotest times, establish the fact; and all attempts to make the inferior equal to the superior is but an effort to reverse the decrees of the Creator, who has made all things as we find them, according to the counsels of his own will. The Ethiopian can no more change his nature or his skin than the leopard his spots. Do what you will, a negro is a negro, and he will remain a negro still. In the social and political system of the South the negro is assigned to that subordinate position for which he is fitted by the laws of nature. Our system of civilization is founded in strict conformity to these laws. Order and subordination, according to the natural fitness of things, is the principle upon which the whole fabric of our southern institutions rests.*

So.....

*Let no man, then, say that African slavery as it exists in the South, incorporated in, and sanctioned by the constitution of the United States, is in violation of either the laws of nations, the laws of nature, or the laws of God!*

in his *Speech Before the Virginia Secession Convention*, April 23, 1861, Stephens shared more about his understanding of "the negro."

*The great truth, I repeat, upon which our system rests, is the inferiority of the African. The enemies of our institutions ignore this truth. They set out with the assumption that the races are equal; that the negro is equal to the white man. If their premises were correct, their conclusions would be legitimate. But their premises being false, their conclusions are false also.*

From *The Corner-Stone of the Southern Confederacy* delivered at the Atheneum, Savannah, March 22, 1861 and in reference to Thomas Jefferson, Stephens stated that ....

*The prevailing ideas entertained by him and most of the leading statesmen at the time of the formation of the old Constitution were, that the enslavement of the African was in violation of the laws of nature; that it was wrong in principle, socially, morally, and politically. It was an evil they knew not well how to deal with, but the general opinion of the men of that day was that, somehow or other, in the order of Providence, the institution would be evanescent and pass away. He continues to state..... Those ideas, however, were fundamentally wrong. They rested upon the assumption of the equality of races. This was an error. It was a sandy foundation, and the idea of a government built upon it; when the "storm came and the wind blew, it fell."*

<sup>7</sup> Currently the State of Georgia manages the A.H. Stephens Historic Site in Crawford, Georgia.



**Our new government is founded upon exactly the opposite idea; its foundations are laid, its cornerstone rests upon the great truth that the negro is not equal to the white man. That slavery subordination to the superior race—is his natural and moral condition.**

*This, our new government, is the first in the history of the world based upon this great physical, philosophical, and moral truth.*

Later in this same speech he stated that.....

**They assume that the negro is equal, and hence conclude that he is entitled to equal privileges and rights with the white man. If their premise were correct, their conclusion would be logical and just; but their premise being wrong, their whole argument fails..... They were attempting to make things equal which the Creator had made unequal.....**

Later he stated that....

**Our system commits no such violation of nature's laws. The negro by nature, or by the curse against Canaan, is fitted for that condition which he occupies in our system.**

Stephens continues to say that.....

**.....we know that it is best not only for the superior, but for the inferior race that it should be so. It is, indeed, in conformity with the ordinance of the Creator. It is not for us to inquire into the wisdom of His ordinances or to question them. For His own purposes He has made one race to differ from another, as He has made "one star to differ from another in glory.**

### **Robert Toombs<sup>8</sup>, Senator and Slave Owner**

From his speech on *Invasion of the States<sup>9</sup>* (given on the U.S. Senate floor January 24, 1860) Toombs stated that.....

**We are virtually in civil war, and these are the causes of it. It is known and felt on this floor. I feel and know that a large body of these Senators are enemies of my country. I know they and their associates have used the power which has been placed in their hands by many of the States, to assail and destroy the institutions of these confederate States. I know that under color of the liberty of speech, even in these Halls, day by day, and year after year, they have thundered their denunciations against slavery and slave-holders, against confederates and their institutions, and thus seek to apply the torch to our homesteads, and to desolate our land with servile and internecine war.**

In his speech to the Georgia Legislature, Nov. 13, 1860 Toombs shared that.....

**Since the promotion of Mr. Lincoln's party, all of them speak with one voice, and speak trumpet-tongued their fixed purpose to outlaw four thousand millions of our property in the Territories, and to put it under the ban of the empire in the States where it exists. They declare their purpose to war against slavery until there shall not be a slave in America, and until the African is elevated to a social and political equality with the white man. Lincoln indorses them and their principles, and in his own speeches declares the conflict irrepressible and enduring, until slavery is everywhere abolished.**

From his speech on *The Crisis<sup>10</sup>* (given on the Georgia Legislature floor December 7, 1860)

**Those who tell you that the Territorial question is an abstraction, that you can never colonize another Territory without the African slave trade, are both deaf and blind to the history of the last sixty years. All just reasoning, all past history, condemn this fallacy. The North understand it better — they have told us for twenty years that their object was to pen up slavery within its present limits — surround it with a border of free States, and like the scorpion surrounded by fire, they will make its sting itself to death. ....they declare slavery shall not go into the Territories. They took up arms to drive it out of Kansas.....**

Later in this speech Toombs stated that.....

**For twenty years this party has, by abolition societies, by publications made by them, by the public press, through the pulpit and their own legislative halls, and every effort — by reproaches, by abuse, by vilification, by slander — to disturb our security, our tranquility — to excite discontent between the different classes of our people, and to excite our slaves to insurrection. No nation in the world would submit to such conduct from any other nation.**

**Their main purpose of all of their hostility to slavery, is its final and total abolition. His (Lincoln) declare it; their acts prove it...**

<sup>8</sup> The State of Georgia maintains the Robert Toombs House Historic Site in Washington, Georgia

<sup>9</sup> In the speech Toombs references slavery 67 times, taxes 0 times, tariffs 1 time.

<sup>10</sup> In this speech Toombs references slavery 67 times, taxes 0 times, tariffs 1 time.

forming from twenty to thirty States of larger size than the average of the States now in the Union. This territory has now become Northern territory, and every State that comes into the Union will be a free State. We may rest assured, sir, that that is a fixed fact. The events in Kansas should satisfy every one of the truth of this. The other process is that by which some of our own slave States are becoming free States. In some of the slave States the slave population is actually on the decrease, and, I believe that in all of them it is relatively to the white population on the decrease. The census shows that slaves are decreasing in Delaware and Maryland; and that in the other States in the same parallel, the relative state of the decrease and increase is against the slave population. It is not wonderful that this should be so. The anti-slavery feeling has become so great at the North that the owners of slave property in these States have a presentiment that it is a doomed institution, and the instincts of self-interest impel them to get rid of doomed property. The consequence is, that slavery will go down lower and lower—until it gets to the bottom—the Cotton States.

What else could be expected.....

..... When it shall have reached the bottom, the time will have come when the North will have the power to amend the Constitution. And then she will amend it and abolish slavery.

In addition to saying why the South must secede, Benning also offers a number of predictions about what will happen if slavery is abolished.

....By the time that such abolition comes, the black race in those States will be double of the white. Consequently as the majority, it will then go into political power; and those States will have black governors, black judges, black legislators; black juries, black witnesses—everything black. Is it to be supposed that the white race will stand that?

.....and it is probable that the white race, being superior in every respect, may at first push the other back.

..... The consequence will be that our men will be all exterminated or expelled to wander as vagabonds over a hostile earth, and as for our women, their fate will be too horrible to contemplate even in fancy.

This is the meaning of abolition as it concerns the white race in the Cotton States.

But this is not all. The white race having been exterminated the land will go into the exclusive possession of the black, and will, in consequence, rapidly pass into the condition of St. Domingo, and become a howling wilderness. The North, looking on, will say to itself, this ought not to be, and mindful of its ancient principle, it will declare that this goodly land and the fullness thereof are the Lord's, and he made it not for these black heathen. ....And then they will take possession of it and exterminate the blacks. Thus the end will be that the Yankee will walk our soil as sole lord, having exterminated both us and our slaves.

On the problem of addressing the "evil" that Northern states don't enforce the fugitive slave laws and return escaped slaves to the southern states, Toombs shares....

### Henry Benning<sup>11</sup> (Senator and namesake of Fort Benning)

In his Address to the Virginia Assembly<sup>12</sup>, February 14, 1861 and effort to convince Virginia to join the Confederacy, Benning made the following comments.....

**What was the reason that induced Georgia to take the step of secession? That reason may be summed up in one single proposition. It was a conviction; a deep conviction on the part of Georgia, that a separation from the North was the only thing that could prevent the abolition of her slavery. This conviction was the main cause.**

..... **the North hates slavery.** And I use the expression, the North hates slavery, designedly. Hate is the feeling, and it is the whole North that bears it.

[Lincoln's] ..... **hatred of slavery equals that of any abolitionist, and, therefore, that it equals that of Sumner or John Brown.** The latter is that his action against slavery is not to be restrained by the Constitution of the United States, as interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States. If you can find any degree of hatred greater than that, I should like to see it.

.... **The Republican party, then, is the permanent, dominant party at the North, and it is vain to think that you can put it down.** It being true that the Republican party hates slavery, and that it is to be the permanent, dominant party at the North; and the majority, when permanent, being equivalent to the whole, it follows that, practically, the Republican party is the North, and, therefore, that practically the whole North hates slavery..... **Can you trust them? Even they say that slavery is a moral, social and political evil.**

..... **in the past the North has, at every instant, invariably exerted against slavery, all the power which it had at that instant.** The question merely was what was the amount of power it had to exert against it. They abolished slavery in that magnificent empire which you presented to the North; they abolished slavery in every Northern State, one after another; they abolished slavery in all the territory above the line of 36, 30', which comprised about one million square miles. They have endeavored to put the Wilmot Proviso upon all the other territories of the Union, and they succeeded in putting it upon the territories of Oregon and Washington. They have taken from slavery all the conquests of the Mexican war, and appropriated them to anti-slavery; and if one of our fugitives escapes into the States, they do all they can to make a free man of him; they maltreat his pursuers, and sometimes murder them. They make raids into your States with a view to raise insurrection, to destroy and murder indiscriminately all classes, ages and sexes, and when the perpetrators are caught and brought to punishment, half the North go into mourning. If some of the perpetrators escape, they are shielded by the authorities of Northern States—not by an irrepressible mob, but by the regularly organized authorities..... **that if in the past the North has done this, it will in the future abolish slavery, if it shall acquire the power to do so.**

.... **The North is acquiring that power by two processes, one of which is operating with great rapidity — that process is by the admission of new States. The public territory is capable of**

<sup>11</sup> Benning presided over the Georgia Secession Convention in Milledgeville and helped draft Georgia's secession statement.

<sup>12</sup> In this address Benning referenced slavery 80 times, taxes 3 times, and tariffs 7 times.

**John B. Gordon**<sup>13</sup> (Confederate General, Slave Owner, Leader in KKK During Reconstruction) In his Address Delivered Before the Thalian & Phi Delta Societies of Oglethorpe University on June 18, 1860, Gordon stated.....

*African slavery is the Mightiest Engine in the universe for the civilization, elevation and refinement of mankind—the surest guarantee of the continuance of liberty among ourselves. Then let us do our duty, protect our liberties, and leave the consequences with God, who alone can control them.*

Later he in this speech he elaborates to say....

*.....so far from admitting that negro slavery is an evil and an institution of tyranny, take the position, everywhere, that it is morally, socially, and politically right—and that it is, in truth, the hand-maid of civil liberty. Let these ideas become, as they will, universal among the Southern people and the powers of the world cannot remove from its firm basis, or prevent the progress of this Heaven-blessed institution.*

In his speech "To the Colored People" of Charleston, South Carolina, September 11, 1868, Brown stated that....

*I was opposed to your freedom. We were all opposed to your freedom. Now that's honest, isn't it? And why was this so? I'll tell you. We did not do this because we were your enemies but because we had bought you and paid our money for you.*

He continues to state that.....

*....But if you attempt to inaugurate a war of races you will be exterminated. The Saxon race was never created by Almighty God to be ruled by the African. These are truths.*

Joining us is the best attainable remedy for the fugitive slave evil. All that is left to us, as a remedy for that evil, is, it seems to me, this: to produce on this side of the line between us and the North, a state of things that will make it extremely difficult for a slave to cross that line without being intercepted; and on the other side of the line a state of things that will render the condition of any slave who may succeed in crossing it so uncomfortable, that he will, of his own accord, return to his master. Statutes—constitutional provisions, even—for the return of fugitives, are vain, so long as there is an overwhelming public opinion at the North in favor of protecting the fugitive, and maltreating his master, in spite of law and Constitution. Masters will not even pursue their slaves in the face of the peril.

Later in the speech and in reference to control of, and restrictions on expanding slavery into, recently secured Western territories Toombs states that.....

*.....separation is the best, if not the only remedy, for the territory evil. If you stay in the Union you will never get a single foot of the public land. The Homestead policy with Squatter Sovereignty, or else with the Wilmot Proviso, aided if need be, by Emigrant Aid Societies and Sharp's rifles, will give all of the public lands to the North. In the face of these dangers, no slave will ever enter any of the public territory.*

Even if in a panic the North were to agree to divide with you the territory, giving you all below a named line, you would practically get nothing. Slavery would be afraid of the North, notwithstanding its promises, and it would shrink from encountering the perils of a residence in any territory. In the Union, then, the territories are wholly lost to you. But suppose you leave the Union and join us, to be followed, as you soon will be, by the other Border Slave States, will not your chances for your share of the public lands be greatly increased? I think so. If all the slave States act in concert and demand of the North their part of the public lands, the demand will be conceded because the demand will be just, and will be one made by a power able to enforce it. And when you have in this way obtained your part of the lands, it will be yours indeed—for it will be wholly in your own power.

<sup>13</sup> John Brown Gordon currently has a statue in his honor on the lawn of the State Capital. In addition to serving as a general in the Confederacy he was an instrumental leader in the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction.

**Robert E. Lee**<sup>14</sup> (Commander of Confederate Forces and Slave Owner)

In addition to refusing to free slave his wife's inherited from her father upon his death (as her father decreed in his will), in a letter to his wife on December 27, 1856, Lee states that.....

*In this enlightened age, there are few I believe, but what will acknowledge, that slavery as an institution, is a moral & political evil in any Country. It is useless to expatiate on its disadvantages. I think it however a greater evil to the white man than to the black race, & while my feelings are strongly enlisted in behalf of the latter, my sympathies are more strong for the former (the white man). The blacks are immeasurably better off here than in Africa, morally, socially & physically. The painful discipline they are undergoing, is necessary for their instruction as a race, & I hope will prepare & lead them to better things. How long their subjugation may be necessary is known & ordered by a wise Merciful Providence.*

#### Web Links to Assorted State Secession Statements

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of the South Carolina from the Federal Union

- \* Slavery Referenced 29 times, Taxes 23, Tariffs 0  
(<https://archive.org/details/addressofpeopleo00sout>)

**MISSISSIPPI:** A Declaration of the Immediate Causes Which Induce and Justify the Secession of Mississippi from the Federal Union and the Ordinance of Secession.

- \* Slavery Referenced 7 times, Taxes 0, Tariffs 0  
(<https://archive.org/details/addresssettingo01miss>)

**GEORGIA:** Declaration of Secession, January 19, 1861

- \* Slavery referenced 36 times, Taxes 0, Tariffs 0  
([http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/csa\\_geosec.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/csa_geosec.asp))

Notes from *The Convention of the People of Georgia held in Milledgeville and Savannah in 1861*. January 16 1981,  
(<https://ia700404.us.archive.org/2/items/journalofpublics00geor/journalofpublics00geor.pdf>)

**TEXAS:** A Declaration of the Causes which Impel the State of Texas to Secede from the Federal Union (2/2/1861)

- \* Slavery mentioned 21 times, taxes 0, tariffs 0  
(<https://archive.org/details/declarationofcau000texas>)

#### Web Links for Cited Comments by Confederate Leaders

Jefferson Davis' On the Subject of Slavery in the Territories (February 13 and 14, 1850)  
(<https://archive.org/details/speechofjmdaviso00cdavi>)

Jefferson Davis' Speech at the Grand Ratification Meeting, Faneuil Hall, October 11, 1858  
(<https://archive.org/details/speechesofjmdaviso00davia>)

Jefferson Davis' Message to the Confederate Congress about Ratification of the Constitution, April 29, 1861  
([http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/csa\\_m042961.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/csa_m042961.asp))

*The Papers of Jefferson Davis: 1856--1860*  
([http://books.google.com/books?id=711r1gwqO-4C&printsec=frontcover\\_&onpage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=711r1gwqO-4C&printsec=frontcover_&onpage&q&f=false))

Jefferson Davis' Reply to William H. Seward, U.S. Senate, February 29, 1860  
(<https://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=82>)

Jefferson Davis' Farewell Address, Senate Chamber, U.S. Capitol, January 21, 1861  
(<https://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=87>)

Jefferson Davis' Message to the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States in Montgomery, April 29, 1861

<sup>14</sup> Lee was forced to free his father in-law's slaves after losing the case in court.

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th\\_century/csa\\_m042961.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/csa_m042961.asp)

Jefferson Davis' *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. (Vol. 1, 1881)  
<https://archive.org/details/riseandfallcon104davi/page>

Jefferson Davis' *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*. (Vol. 2, 1881)  
<https://archive.org/details/riseandfallcon101davi/page>

Alexander Stephens' *The Bill to Admit Kansas as a State Under the Topseka Constitution*, June 28, 1856  
[http://text.valdosta.edu:8080/jspui/bitstream/10428/1238/1/sps\\_stephens-1856-access.pdf](http://text.valdosta.edu:8080/jspui/bitstream/10428/1238/1/sps_stephens-1856-access.pdf)

Alexander Stephens' *Speech before the Virginia Secession Convention*, April 23, 1861  
<http://www.louisiana.edu/~ras2777/amgov/stephens.html>

Alexander Stephens' *The Corner-Stone of the Southern Confederacy*, March 22, 1861  
<http://www.fordham.edu/haisall/mod/1861stephens.asp>

Henry Benning's *Address to the Virginia Assembly*, February 14, 1861.  
[http://cdm.bostonathenaem.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16057coll14/id90577#img\\_view\\_contain](http://cdm.bostonathenaem.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16057coll14/id90577#img_view_contain)  
er

Robert Toombs' *Invasion of the States*, speech in the U.S. Senate, January 24, 1861  
<https://archive.org/details/invasionofstates4654foom>

Robert Toombs' *The Crisis*, speech before the Georgia Legislature, Dec. 7, 1861  
<https://archive.org/details/speechhonorbert00toom/page>

John Brown Gordons' *Progress of Civil Liberty. Address Delivered Before the Thalian & Phi Delta Societies of Olgethorpe University*, June 18, 1860  
[http://books.google.com/books?id=wix9Rv0IEC&pg=PA13&dq=John+B+Gordon,+Progress+of+Civil+Liberty,+Address+Delivered+Before+the+Thalian+%26+Phi+Delta+Societies+of+Oglethorpe+University&hl=en&sa=X&ei=IdgFU\\_vFJDJSQTZw4DqDA&ved=0CC0Q6AEwAA--h](http://books.google.com/books?id=wix9Rv0IEC&pg=PA13&dq=John+B+Gordon,+Progress+of+Civil+Liberty,+Address+Delivered+Before+the+Thalian+%26+Phi+Delta+Societies+of+Oglethorpe+University&hl=en&sa=X&ei=IdgFU_vFJDJSQTZw4DqDA&ved=0CC0Q6AEwAA--h)

John Brown Gordons' *speech To the Colored People of Charleston, South Carolina*, September 11, 1868  
<http://books.google.com/books?id=QWkzr8j2vPoC&pg=PA257&dq=John+B+Gordon,+to+the+colored+people&hl=en&sa=X&ei=PNuFU9ZmIKGxBKXRqMgB&ved=0CC0Q6AEwAA--v=onepage&q=John+B.Gordon,+to+the+colored+people&f=false>

# Attachment F

**From:** [Tracy W Meyers](#)  
**To:** [Theresa J Grove](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Fall schedule  
**Date:** Friday, November 07, 2014 9:38:44 AM

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FYI

**From:** Connie L Richards  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:02 AM  
**To:** Tracy W Meyers  
**Subject:** RE: Fall schedule

Tracy,  
This seems reasonable, especially since the classes are full and yours and Helen's are not. Go ahead.  
Connie

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**From:** Tracy W Meyers  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:56 AM  
**To:** Connie L Richards  
**Subject:** Fall schedule

Hi Connie  
Mark George has accepted a position in Portland, Oregon therefore he will not be able to teach the two afam/wgst 2020 courses we scheduled him for in the Fall. His two courses are full where as my WGST 4600 course and Helen's WGST course are low enrolled. Do you want me to cancel mine and Helen's courses and have us take Mark's two? I will probably have to also teach some independent studies so some of the students who were in the upper division courses we cancel can graduate in the Fall. Thought we should go ahead and make the changes so we can begin to work on our syllabi etc. Let me know if this is okay. Thanks  
Tracy

Sent from my Windows Phone

Attachment 6 - Emails obtained through open records.

From: John Hall <jchjrca@gmail.com>  
Date: July 11, 2014, 1:02:02 PM EDT  
To: Debra Ryals <dryals@valdosta.edu>, chancellor@usg.edu,  
Tomdaniel@usg.edu, mpageorge@valdosta.edu  
Subject: **Re: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P  
George**

Hi Debra,

Please forward this message to President McKinney:

Dear Dr. McKinney,

I wanted to bring something to your attention that I was made aware of yesterday. I am a 1982 graduate of VSC and obtained my BBA in Finance. Under Dr. Scott who is now retired I was presented the Outstanding Finance Major Award. I value my Education I received at VSC and cherish the memories. I am very concerned about the following information.

An adjunct professor named Mark Patrick George has prepared and sent an open letter to the Governor of Georgia and all of the Senate and House members in our State. I have attached the first four pages of this letter to this email.

In this letter professor George is using his title of the Mary Turner Project Coordinator. This letter was sent via email from [mpageorge@valdosta.edu](mailto:mpageorge@valdosta.edu). I have attached the copy of this email that was forwarded to me. The email address listing is very long as you can imagine. At the bottom professor George used the following:

Mark Patrick George, Ph. D.  
Mary Turner Project Coordinator  
Department of Women and Gender Studies  
Catswell Hall  
Valdosta State University  
Valdosta, GA 31698

Upon research of the Mary Turner Project I found the solicitation of funds for a tax donation. See attached page. On this page is listed the

following:

The Mary Turner Project  
c/o Valdosta State University Foundation  
1500 N. Patterson St.  
Valdosta, Georgia 31698

My point in bringing this to your attention is the fact that my college is listed and used as the source of this letter. I will not go into much detail and argue with it's contents and purpose other than to say the following:

The timing of this letter and it's contents makes this a political use of VSU's name and most likely it's resources. The Governor is up for election as we all know. I would consider this letter a message and meaning to use racial politics to affect the upcoming election. I do not write you in support for the Governor. I am an independent.

Race has been used in the political scheme of Georgia in it's history. I have been writing a book on my ancestor who served in the 41st US Congress in 1871. This period of what is called reconstruction had my ancestor initially denied his seat due to the racial environment of the time. He was challenged by the man he beat but was allowed to take his seat in spite of the protest.

While professor George speaks in his open letter of 3,000,000 black citizens I would say that he does not speak for all black Georgians. His letter is an attempt to "Fire" up the base to effect the upcoming election.

Even in 1871 blacks did not all vote the same. My research for my book shows the following from the congressional record. Misc Doc 103.

**Issac Heard** was a colored man who was a former slave. He signed his name with an X. He mentioned that he used to belong to Mr. Perfect & after emancipation took his father's name. On Harris the man shot and killed at the depot shooting he said that Harris had a bad character and was always in fusses. Heard stated that he was born and raised a Democrat. In the election in his

county of Wilkes he said that the majority of coloreds voted the Democrat party. The reason he gave was that the colored people in Wilkes County had become somewhat enlightened. "They thought it become them to look to their own country; they thought they ought to appreciate their own People." He stated that the Republican Party had placed a class of people before the colored people in Wilkes, a class that he did not believe was popular.

Therefore, I will put forth the following conclusion:

The use of Valdosta State University, it's email, it's address and it's resources should not be allowed for political purposes. If Professor George wants to proceed with his political efforts it should not be at the expense of the university. The potential negative publicity and legality of what he is doing could harm my college and I do not want that to happen.

Finally the attachment of the VSU foundation which is a 501(3)(c) to the political activities of the Mary Turner Project could have adverse effects on the very nature of the foundation and it's tax exempt status. See section 4.76-3.13.1 of the Internal Revenue Code.

I look forward to your response and the ceasing and desisting of Professor George's use of the University for his political agenda.

John C. Hall, Jr, CPA

CC: Hank Huckaby, Chancellor  
Tom Daniel, Board of Regents  
Professor George

Is VSU supporting or promoting this professor's efforts and ideas?

I am a 1982 graduate of VSC...I got my BBA in Finance. I am in the Sons of Confederate Veterans and I resent this "professor" and his comments. Valdosta State should not be employing activists like this at my Alma mater. I see Mr. George is adjunct...he is not tenured. His contract should not be renewed.

John C. Hall, Jr. CPA

John C. Hall, Jr. CPA  
307 West Gaines Street  
Dublin, Georgia 31021

Phone: 404-964-6896

<http://chircpa.blogspot.com>

An Open Letter to Governor Nathan Deal and Governor I am not



Subject: Fwd: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P George  
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2014 11:21:02 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
From: William J McKinney  
To: Hudson P Rogers, Laverne Lewis Gaskins, Thressea H Boyd, Philip D. Allen

Folks,

This one could be interesting. I see this as a simple matter of academic freedom, but it could be blown out of proportion.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2014 at 12:38 PM, Debra Ryals

<[dryals@valdosta.edu](mailto:dryals@valdosta.edu)> wrote:  
Mr. Hall, I received your email and as I said this morning Dr. McKinney is out of the office right now but will be in touch with you.

Hudson and I will be discussing tomorrow when I am back in the office.

Thressea - this is just a heads up. Would you please monitor for any media coverage - good, bad, or indifferent?

Phil - just a heads up in case he contacts any of our elected officials.

Laverne - I see this is as purely an academic freedom and first amendment issue. Neither I nor VSU are in the business of being state-supported censors. What BOR policy exists that we can stand on here?

I need to respond, but it will be very short and sweet. I have instructed Debra to tell Mr. Hall that I am out of the office and will respond when I can.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPad

Regards,

Debra

M

Subject: RE: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P George  
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2014 1:37:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
From: Laverne Lewis Gaskins  
To: William J McKinney, Hudson P Rogers, Thresssea H Boyd, Philip D. Allen  
CC: Melinda Brown Cutchens

Dear McKinney,

If the political activity in question occurred during the faculty member's personal time in his capacity as a private citizen, who happens to be employed at Valdosta State, then please consider the following draft response. Laverne

DRAFT

Mr. Hall:

I am in receipt of your correspondence of July 10, 2014, and I sincerely appreciate your commitment to the University. While I am sensitive to your concerns, this matter is fundamentally an issue of free speech. As I am sure you are well aware, our society was founded upon principles designed to encourage a free exchange of thoughts and ideas. This philosophy of free speech is supported and replicated on this campus. Please note that this fact is not offered to diminish or negate in any way your concerns. However, the same principle of free speech afforded any of our employees, is likewise fully extended to you and allows you the freedom to advocate a counter viewpoint, if you so choose. As a free and open society, we must accept the burdens and the benefits of free speech.

Thank you for your support of the University and I wish you well.

Sincerely,

Dr. William McKinney, President

Friday, August 8, 2014 9:20:57 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: FW: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P George

Date: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:19:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: William J McKinney

To: Henry M. Huckaby, Tom Daniel, Burns Newsome

Good afternoon,

I am in receipt of Mr. Hall's email below and we are looking in to this matter. We will keep you both posted, but please do not hesitate to contact me with you questions and concerns.

Have a great weekend!

Bill

Friday, August 8, 2014 9:41:59 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**Subject:** Re: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P George

**Date:** Friday, July 11, 2014 2:38:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** William J McKinney

**To:** jchjrcpa@gmail.com

Good afternoon, Mr. Hall.

I am in receipt of the materials you sent to Ms. Ryals and will be back in touch after I have had the opportunity to investigate. Let me assure you that I take all such queries quite seriously.

With many thanks, and well wishes for a great weekend!

Bill

William J. McKinney, Ph.D.  
President  
Valdosta State University

1500 N. Patterson St.  
Valdosta, GA 31698-0180  
voice: 229.333.5952  
fax: 229.333.7400



Friday, August 8, 2014 9:42:17 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**Subject:** Re: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P George

**Date:** Friday, July 11, 2014 2:39:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** John Hall

**To:** William J McKinney

Thanks Bill...you have a good one too...btw my brother graduated from nursing school at VSU....his wife also...

John C. Hall, Jr. CPA  
307 West Gaines Street  
Dublin, Georgia 31021

Phone: 404-964-6896  
<http://jchjrcpa.blogspot.com>

Date: July 18, 2014 10:21:49 AM EDT  
To: <jdillias@jmail.com>, <stancianal@usu.edu>, <chancellor@usu.edu>, <chvays@valdosta.edu>  
Cc: Floyd Rose <floyd@ross@at.net>, Tracy Meyers <tracymeyers@valdosta.edu>  
Subject: Response to Mr. John Hall's Recent Complaint

Dear Chancellor Huckaby, Mr. Daniel, President McKinney, and Mr. Hall,

In response to Mr. Hall's recent claim that I have misused Valdosta State University resources for political purposes and his desire to see me dismissed I feel the need to offer a response.

Before I do that, in his complaint Mr. Hall didn't see fit to send you a complete copy of the open letter that was sent to Gov. Deal and the Assembly. Attached you'll find that letter that includes historical data information offered in justification for our request.

As for Mr. Hall's accusations that I used VSU resources for political purposes allow me to make a couple of points.

First, I was hired by VSU in 2007 as an applied sociologist by its Applied Sociology program. As an accredited "applied and clinical sociology program," according to its own website (<http://www.valdosta.edu/~colleges/sciences/soc/sociology/vms-grad-program/>), that program holds that "At the heart of the practice of sociology is its commitment to use the insights and methods of the discipline to solve problems and change lives." Earlier on its website the program also contends that its "faculty are skilled at doing sociology from their involvement in applied research projects across community development and change, clinical intervention, program evaluation, and assisting diverse, vulnerable groups." With that mind, and in partnership with diverse and vulnerable community groups locally and across the state, our work to draw attention to the reality that Georgian's tax revenue is used to glorify individuals and a government that sought to preserve slavery and while supremacy is a prime example of "applying sociology" and "assisting diverse, and vulnerable groups." Furthermore, I hope that you all would agree that it is a "problem" the state of Georgia actively distorts its history relative to the scale and scope of slavery, in addition to expecting people of color in this state to fund the glorification of a Government and leaders who sought to keep their ancestors enslaved. In sum, the research I did and the letter I co-authored and sent to the Gov. and Assembly are part and parcel of my role, and responsibility, as an applied sociologist.

Furthermore, and noting that in 2012 I resigned my position in Sociology for ethical reasons and began working for the Women and Gender Studies Program as an Adjunct Professor, similar to the sociology program, WGST contends that "Our faculty and students are both scholars and feminist activists, pursuing intellectual work and achievement with a vision of social justice" ([http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts\\_sciences/womenandgenderstudies/](http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/arts_sciences/womenandgenderstudies/)). With this charge in mind, I contend that my recent actions and the open letter simply embody the mission of yet another program I was hired to work and teach within.

Next, and in the "tradition of omission", Mr. Hall's concerns about VSU's 501(c)3 status are conflated and he omits a significant point worthy of mention. Regarding the political restrictions on 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, according to his own IRS reference the vast majority of IRS statutes relate to political campaign involvement, the endorsing of candidates in a political campaign, and/or intervening in political campaigns. And at the same time, the IRS does make room for "issue advocacy" and states that "Section 501 (c)(3) organizations may take positions on public policy issues, including issues that divide candidates in an election for public office" (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-soi/200741.pdf>). With that in mind, our open letter does not involve itself in any political campaign and/or political campaign activities. The Mary Turner Project has not been involved in any political campaign or campaign activities. Finally, I have never used my VSU email account for any political campaign, in the service of any political candidate, or any other campaign purposes. Our open letter is simply a policy request, backed by data provided by the University System of Georgia historians, that was provided to the Gov. and every member of the General Assembly without prejudice and across party lines.

Lastly, I think it is fairly obvious (upon perusal of Mr. Hall's complaint and after a simple Google search of Mr. John C. Hall, Jr. of Dublin, Georgia) that Mr. Hall has no real concern about our alma mater, VSU's reputation, nor the use of VSU resources. Instead, Mr. Hall is simply what social science scholars have termed a "Neo-Confederate" wedded to a historically inaccurate and romanticized version of southern history. My simple offense is that our letter to the Gov. and Assembly has raised serious scholarly, critical

Friday, August 8, 2014 9:42:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Re: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P George

Date: Friday, July 11, 2014 2:52:18 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Tom Daniel

To: William J McKinney

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2014, at 2:20 PM, "William J McKinney" <[wjmcKinney@valdosta.edu](mailto:wjmcKinney@valdosta.edu)> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I am in receipt of Mr. Hall's email below and we are looking in to this matter. We will keep you both posted, but please do not hesitate to contact me with you questions and concerns.

Have a great weekend!

Bill

questions about the accuracy of the narrative, and current state activities, that he and others like him hold dear. Given Mr. Hall's purported "concern" about "political activity" at VSU and IRS statutes, I wonder if he will be lodging any other complaints about political activity that may take place at VSU and other college campuses throughout Georgia? I venture that he has not and will not. Instead, he has simply targeted me, the Mary Turner Project, and VSU because of his own political interests.

I hope this clears up any concerns you may have and if I can be of any further assistance in this matter please don't hesitate to let me know.

Mark Patrick George (VSU 89-corrected)

\*\*\*\*\*  
Mark Patrick George, Ph.D.  
Mary Turner Project Coordinator  
228-234-2866 - MTP

Subject: Fwd: Response to Mr. John Hall's Recent Complaint

Date: Friday, July 18, 2014 3:09:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: John Hall

To: William J McKinney

*Argumentum ad Hominem*

*Dr. McKinney (Bill),*

*I look forward to your resolution of this matter. Have a great weekend.*

*John*

John C. Hall, Jr, CPA  
307 West Gaines Street  
Dublin, Georgia 31021

Phone: ~~404-964-6896~~

<http://jchircoa.blogspot.com>

**Subject:** RE: What was that about an interesting phone call?  
**Date:** Monday, July 21, 2014 5:26:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Philip D. Allen  
William J McKinney  
Thanks, Bill. I will be there.

**From:** William J McKinney  
**Sent:** Monday, July 21, 2014 5:25 PM  
**To:** Philip D. Allen  
**Subject:** Re: What was that about an interesting phone call?  
**Importance:** High

I have been communicating with Mr. Hail.  
I have asked you, Hudson, Jeanne Severns and me to meet tomorrow at 1:00pm on this matter.

Thanks.

**From:** "Philip D. Allen" <pdallen@valdosta.edu>  
**Date:** Monday, July 21, 2014 4:02 PM  
**To:** "William J. McKinney" <wmckinney@valdosta.edu>  
**Subject:** What was that about an interesting phone call?

Bill,

I just heard from Tom Daniel. He advises we need to get out in front of the Mark George letter with some effort to offset the personal attack Dr. George made in his next to last paragraph. According to Tom, he was doing OK until he called out Mr. Hall at that point. I know you talked with Hudson today and though we haven't had a chance to discuss that meeting, I hope there's a response in the works that can head off a "hot" letter from a legislator or even the Governor's Office. Dr. George needs to be made aware of the damage such an attack can do to the University and be advised to steer clear of that type of inflammatory response in the future. In passing this along, I am not trying to muzzle a professor here, just keep the University's thatched roof from catching fire too....I know that is Tom's intent as well.

Please advise.

Phil  
Philip D. Allen, Assistant to the President for Government Relations and Community Engagement  
Office of the President  
Valdosta State University  
1500 North Patterson Street  
Valdosta, GA 31698  
Email: [pdallen@valdosta.edu](mailto:pdallen@valdosta.edu)  
Cell: 229.460.6111  
Office: 229.259.2586  
Fax: 229.333.7400

Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character. But if you must be without one, be without the

**From:** John Hail <[schiirco@gmail.com](mailto:schiirco@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 1:39 PM  
**To:** "ross.tolleson@senate.ga.gov" <[ross.tolleson@senate.ga.gov](mailto:ross.tolleson@senate.ga.gov)>, "William J. McKinney" <[wmckinney@valdosta.edu](mailto:wmckinney@valdosta.edu)>, "tom.daniel@usg.edu" <[tom.daniel@usg.edu](mailto:tom.daniel@usg.edu)>, "[chancellor@usg.edu](mailto:chancellor@usg.edu)" <[chancellor@usg.edu](mailto:chancellor@usg.edu)>  
**Subject:** Valdosta State Professor using University's resources for political purposes

Senator Tolleson,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss with me today the use of the State University's resources for political purposes. Below is my original correspondence with Dr. McKinney president of the university. In addition attached are the documents I originally sent complete with the email information which btw was sent to your email address from Professor George at [mpage@valdosta.edu](mailto:mpage@valdosta.edu).

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John C. Hall, Jr. CPA

**Subject:** RE: Valdosta State Professor using University's resources for political purposes

**Date:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 1:57:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Philip D. Allen

**To:** William J McKinney

Ross Tolleson is his senator...I don't know him well but I will find out what I can. Did you let Tom know or do you want me to do that?

**From:** William J McKinney

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 1:51 PM

**To:** John Hall

**Subject:** Re: Valdosta State Professor using University's resources for political purposes

Yes sir...all is well...rainy and humid!

Thanks for your patience...and by all means, call me Bill!

Best,

Bill

**From:** John Hall <jchircpa@gmail.com>

**Date:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 1:49 PM

**To:** "William J. McKinney" <wmckinney@valdosta.edu>

**Subject:** Re: Valdosta State Professor using University's resources for political purposes

Hey Dr. McKinney (Bill),

I was just seeking my state senator's input and wanted you to be aware of that. I appreciate you taking the time to look into the matter. Hope all is well in South Georgia.

John

John C. Hall, Jr. CPA  
307 West Gaines Street  
Dublin, Georgia 31021

Phone: 404-954-6896

<http://jchircpa.blogspot.com>

On Tue, Jul 22, 2014 at 1:44 PM, William J McKinney <wmckinney@valdosta.edu> wrote:

Mr. Hall,

Thank you for including me on your correspondence. As I noted at the end of last week, let me assure that my office is taking this matter most seriously, and will be in touch as soon as we have completed our due diligence.

Best regards,

Bill

**Subject:** Fwd: Response to Mr. John Hall's Recent Complaint

**Date:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 1:55:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Mark Patrick George

**To:** ross.tolleson@senate.ga.gov

**CC:** chancellor@usg.edu, William J McKinney, tomdaniel@usg.edu, Floyd Rose

Dear Sen. Tolleson,

Given Mr. Hall contacted you and shared his concerns about my role at Valdosta State University, it seems appropriate to send you my response to him and others he emailed about this matter. This may seem a bit redundant given you were sent our open letter (as a member of the Assembly) directly on 6/23 (a point I think Mr. Hall might have forgotten about?). I also encourage you to do a simple Google search on Mr. Hall to get a sense of his political and racial orientation.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mark

\*\*\*\*\*

Mark Patrick George, Ph.D.  
Mary Turner Project Coordinator  
[www.maryturner.org](http://www.maryturner.org)  
229-234-2856

**Hudson P Rogers**

**From:** William J McKinney  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2014 11:38 AM  
**To:** Hudson P Rogers  
**Subject:** Dr. George

**Importance:** High

Hudson,

Having spoken with USG Legal:

1. Please confirm with IT ASAP when Dr. George was first granted his email address, i.e. As a faculty member of an alumnus. If it was as a faculty member, then it is a simple matter of notifying that, per VSU IT policy, his email address is being turned off, as it should have been turned off 45 after termination. If it was as an alumnus, we need to inform him that he is in violation of the USG's IT use policy, and that his email is being terminated. Please move on this ASAP, as I want to communicate with the USG and to Mr. Hall as to the status of this matter by week's end.
2. With regards to the Mary Turner Project. As you can see from their web site, [www.maryturner.org](http://www.maryturner.org), this is a grass roots organization. I fully and completely support the rights of these individuals to organize and advocate in the manner in which they are doing it. That said, I wonder about the suitability of their funding running through the VSU Foundation. Frankly, the USG is now questioning it. Please (1) Ask John Crawford how much money sits in the Mary Turner Project Account, and (2) whether those funds should not be held in a private bank account/investment vehicle managed by the Mary Turner Project, and not VSU or the VSU Foundation. This might be a question for the Foundation's lawyers.

Please get back to me this afternoon.

Thanks!

**Subject:** FW: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P George  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 5:49:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** William J McKinney  
**To:** Burns Newsome, kimberly.ballard-washington@usg.edu

Good evening.

Kimberly, first of all -- thanks for your time today.

Secondly, I wanted to make certain that you all had the complete set of information in the John Hall matter.

This was the initial correspondence with my office, complete with attachments.

Note especially VSU2.pdf, an email dated June 23, 2014. Dr. George's last date of employment at VSU was May 12, 2014. While his email address was not to have expired until the end of June, I would argue that it is clearly the case that (1) since he was no longer a VSU employee, he was clearly not conducting official business and therefore cannot claim any kind of academic freedom, (2) he should not have been using any kind of official title or address belonging to VSU.

We will be shutting off his email access.

Note VSU3.pdf. This is a troubling grey area wherein I would appreciate some counsel. It comes from this web site:

[www.maryturner.org](http://www.maryturner.org)

The Mary Turner Project, as you can see, is a grass roots organization here in south Georgia. Some VSU faculty and students are involved and with that I of course have no concerns. My concern sits with the fact that contributions are run through the Valdosta State University Foundation.

<http://www.maryturner.org/contribute.html>

Mr. Hall points this out in VSU3.pdf.

This is an initiative of our Women's and Gender Studies Program, and as such would seem to make sense in terms of the work of applied sociologists. On the other hand, since the Mary Turner Project is now engaging in lobbying our elected officials, I can see where some might question its mission as related to VSU, and hence its private donations coming through our foundation.

I would really appreciate your take on all of this.

Many thanks!

Bill

10



**Hudson P Rogers**

**From:** William J McKinney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 1:45 PM  
**To:** John Hall; ross.tolleson@senate.ga.gov; tomdaniel@usg.edu; chancellor@usg.edu  
**Subject:** Re: Valdosta State Professor using University's resources for political purposes

**Categories:** Red category

Mr. Hall,

Thank you for including me on your correspondence. As I noted at the end of last week, let me assure that my office is taking this matter most seriously, and will be in touch as soon as we have completed our due diligence.

Best regards,

Bill

William J. McKinney, Ph.D.  
President  
Valdosta State University

1500 N. Patterson St.  
Valdosta, GA 31698-0180  
voice: 229.333.5952  
fax: 229.333.7400



**From:** John Hall <chicopa@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 1:39 PM  
**To:** "ross.tolleson@senate.ga.gov" <ross.tolleson@senate.ga.gov>, "William J. McKinney" <wmckinney@valdosta.edu>, "tomdaniel@usg.edu" <tomdaniel@usg.edu>, "chancellor@usg.edu" <chancellor@usg.edu>, Mark Patrick George <mgeorge@valdosta.edu>  
**Subject:** Valdosta State Professor using University's resources for political purposes

Senator Tolleson,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss with me today the use of the State University's resources for political purposes. Below is my original correspondence with Dr. McKinney president of the university. In addition attached are the documents I originally sent complete with the email information which btw was sent to your email address from Professor George at [mgeorge@valdosta.edu](mailto:mgeorge@valdosta.edu).

**Hudson P Rogers**

**From:** William J McKinney  
**Sent:** Friday, July 25, 2014 11:06 AM  
**To:** Henry M. Huckaby; Steve W. Wrigley; Tom Daniel; Burns Newsome; Kimberly Ballard-washington@usg.edu  
**Cc:** Philip D. Allen; Laverne Lewis Gaskins; Hudson P Rogers; Jeanne Royal Severns; Kimberly A. Luse  
**Subject:** Update

Good morning everyone,

Chancellor Huckaby asked that I keep him updated on the situation pertaining to Mr. Hall and Dr. George. Here is where it stands.

1. I just finished a very good phone conversation with Mr. Hall. He is satisfied with VSU's response to the matter, and had brought it to our attention as a concerned alumnus.
2. Dr. George's last date of employment with VSU was May 12, 2014. He has taken a position at another institution in Oregon.
3. Dr. George, per VSU policy, no longer has access to his valdosta.edu email address.
4. Our Provost will discuss research versus political activity with any employees involved with the Mary Turner Project (and any similar initiatives), and remind them of our responsibilities per BOR policy.

Thank you all for your assistance in this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. Have a great weekend!

Bill

William J. McKinney, Ph.D.  
President  
Valdosta State University

1500 N. Patterson St.  
Valdosta, GA 31698-0180  
voice: 229.333.5952  
fax: 229.333.7400



**Subject:** Re: Article we discussed regarding professor Mark P George  
**Date:** Friday, July 25, 2014 11:22:20 AM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** John Hall  
**To:** William J McKinney

Hey Bill,

I appreciate your time this morning. I am very pleased that Professor George and the Mary Turner Project will no longer be using Valdosta State's resources and image to advance their political agenda. By all means any group or individual can and should do this on their own just not connected to the college.

Here is my blog on the Hardy Smith House.

<http://hardysmithhouse.blogspot.com/>

Next time you are in Laurens County/Dublin give me a holler...we can do lunch and I can give you the tour!

John

John C. Hall, Jr. CPA  
307 West Gaines Street  
Dublin, Georgia 31021

Phone: 404-964-6896

<http://jchallcpa.blogspot.com>

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**Hudson P Rogers**

**From:** William J McKinney  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 5:05 PM  
**To:** Philip D. Allen  
**Cc:** Hudson P Rogers; Kimberly A Luse  
**Subject:** Re: Follow Up on Recent Open Letter to End All State Funding of Confederate Events/Holidays/Memorial Sites

Done. We had a good chat and he is fine with things.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Tom Daniel [mailto:Tom.Daniel@vsu.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 28, 2014 4:55 PM  
**To:** Philip D. Allen  
**Cc:** Amanda Seals  
**Subject:** Fwd: Follow Up on Recent Open Letter to End All State Funding of Confederate Events/Holidays/Memorial Sites

Phil,  
Please get President McKinney to call Representative Carl Rogers. I have forwarded a copy of the President's note to the Chancellor to the Chair.  
Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Carl Rogers (GGA)" <Carl.Rogers@ioausa.com>  
**Date:** July 28, 2014 at 4:08:58 PM EDT  
**To:** "Amanda Seals (amanda.seals@vsu.edu)" <amanda.seals@vsu.edu>, Tom Daniel <Tom.Daniel@vsu.edu>  
**Subject:** FW: Follow Up on Recent Open Letter to End All State Funding of Confederate Events/Holidays/Memorial Sites

Amanda & Tom,

Why is a professor I assume by the name of Mark Patrick George using a Valdosta State University email asking all of the Elected to answer Questions in regards to the Confederacy & the cost back to State .

I really wish these so call professors would teach rather than using State resources & my time reading these mails .

If he or she wants to do it on their OWN time & use their OWN email that's okay .

Would hope you all would notify the President of VSU of this .

Thanks,

Carl W. Rogers  
Vice President  
IOA  
Insurance Office of America  
770.308.2381/ Direct  
770.527.7608/ Cell  
678.450.9180/ Fax  
carl.rogers@iousa.com  
www.ioausa.com  
854 Washington Street NW  
Suite 200  
Gainesville, GA 30501

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: Mark Patrick George <[markpgeorge@valdosta.edu](mailto:markpgeorge@valdosta.edu)>  
Date: Mon, Jul 28, 2014 at 9:50 AM  
Subject: info: that might be of interest to you  
To: John Hall <[johnhpa@gmail.com](mailto:johnhpa@gmail.com)>

Hi Mr. Hall,

Given you interest in history, historical markers, and your ancestry, and as a fellow Southerner committed to truth, I thought the attached document might be of interest to you. It seems that your relative Captain Hardy Smith had a real stake in our ancestors' Confederate cause given he owned 30 slaves in 1860 ranging in age form 60 to 10 months.

Attached you'll find the 1860 U.S. Census Slave Schedule that documents the ages and sexes of his

slaves. Given that he had a Mulatto, female slave of 5 years old, you may also have Black relatives there in Laurens County?

Hope this is of use.

Mark

\*\*\*\*\*  
Mark Patrick George, Ph.D.  
Mary Turner Project Coordinator  
[www.maryturner.org](http://www.maryturner.org)  
229-234-2856

Subject: Re: info. that might be of interest to you  
Date: Monday, July 28, 2014 4:20:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
From: William J McKinney  
To: John Hall  
Mr. Hall,

This is most disturbing. I have asked IT to investigate at this point. We will keep you posted.

Sent from my iPad  
On Jul 28, 2014, at 11:15 AM, "John Hall" <[jchircpa@gmail.com](mailto:jchircpa@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hey Bill,  
I got this from Professor George this am. He is still using the .edu address from Valdosta State. I was under the impression that he was cut off from the use of university resources.  
Could you please contact him for me and have him stop communicating through University resources.

Thanks,  
John  
PS.....I am not related to the Smith Family. I just own the historic home.

John C. Hall, Jr. CPA  
307 West Gaines Street  
Dublin, Georgia 31021  
Phone: [404-964-5856](tel:404-964-5856)  
<http://jchircpa.blogspot.com>

On Mon, Jul 28, 2014 at 4:50 PM, William J McKinney <[wjcmckinney@valdosta.edu](mailto:wjcmckinney@valdosta.edu)> wrote:  
Sir, you owe me no apologies! Take care, and please be in touch.

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 28, 2014, at 4:39 PM, "John Hall" <[jchircpa@gmail.com](mailto:jchircpa@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thanks Bill I have no problem dealing with this character outside of vsu and it's resources.....sorry I had to beat this horse one more time....

On Jul 28, 2014 4:36 PM, "William J McKinney" <[wjcmckinney@valdosta.edu](mailto:wjcmckinney@valdosta.edu)> wrote:  
John,

You should no longer receive anything from Dr. George via VSU or state resources. Please keep me posted.

With thanks,

**Subject:** Re: Emails

**Date:** Tuesday, August 5, 2014 3:26:39 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** John Hall

**To:** William J McKinney

Hey Bill,

Just wanted to follow up on the Mary Turner Project and their campaign noted below from their web-site. Is the organization still behind this effort and is Valdosta State a prominent promoter?

- In partnership with the Lowndes/Valdosta Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the MTP recently launched the "Its Hate Not Heritage" campaign. That initiative seeks to end all state promotion and funding of Confederate holidays, Confederate events, the naming of roads after Confederate leaders, and the state management of Confederate historic sites. The campaign was launched with the issuing of an information visit our reaching out to relevant organizations across the south and nation for help with this initiative so we hope you will get involved and spread the word. For more information visit our

John

John C. Hall, Jr. CPA  
307 West Gaines Street  
Dublin, Georgia 31021

Phone: 404-564-6896

<http://jchitcea.blogspot.com>

## Theresa J Grove

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**From:** Mark George <markpgeorge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 10:09 PM  
**To:** Shirley H Hardin; Derrick L Carter; cmyrick@valdosta.edu; rbrinson@valdosta.edu; Thomas Aiello; Lavonna L Lovern; Feriland Tirrell Andrews; vmiles@valdosta.edu; Napoleon A Bamfo; Deborah C Morgan; John Michael Brooks; Catherine Oglesby; Kendric L Coleman; Connie L Richards; Matthew J Richard; Kendrick Germont Dyer; Mary Azar Fares; Jason M Allard; Diane S. Williams; Calvin Mckinnely Walker; Felicia A Hilson; Perry Allen Baskin; Cecilia S Barnbaum; Can Jon Denizman; Dereth Janette Drake; Weimin Feng; Barry Hojjatie; Martha A Leake; Michael G Noli; Kenneth S Rumstay; Paul C Vincent; Robert L Gannon; Theresa J Grove; Russell H Goddard; Leslie S Jones; Colleen M McDonough; James A Nienow; Deborah S Davis; Christopher C Meyers; Frederick L Downing; Christine A James; Cristobal Serran-Pagan; Anne M. Price; Diane C Holliman; Lily C Vuong; Shelly A Yankovskyy; James Walter Peterson; James T. LaPlant; Marc G Pufong; Marvin T Smith; Richard J Vodde; Mike Paluska; William J McKinney; Hudson P Rogers  
**Subject:** Fwd: VSU President William McKinney and Neo-Confederate John C. Hall Jr.  
**Attachments:** John C Hall comments.pdf; ATT00001.htm; John C. Hall 2.pdf; ATT00002.htm

FYI:

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mark George <markpgeorge@gmail.com>  
**Date:** November 6, 2014 6:54:05 PM PST  
**To:** John Ruch <johnruchatlanta@gmail.com>, Peter Schmidt <Peter.Schmidt@chronicle.com>, Jade Bulecza <jbulecza@wtxl.tv>, Winnie Wright <winnie.wright@wctv.tv>, John S Stephen <jssstephen@valdosta.edu>, Ely Yu <eyu@GPB.org>, Dean Poling <Dean.Poling@gafnews.com>, spec@valdosta.edu, "Janel (CMG-Atlanta) Davis" <Janel.Davis@ajc.com>, Rickey Bevington <rbevington@GPB.org>, "Ernie (CMG-Atlanta) Suggs" <Ernie.Suggs@ajc.com>  
**Cc:** William J McKinney <wmckinney@valdosta.edu>, Hudson P Rogers <hprogers@valdosta.edu>, chancellor@usg.edu, tom.daniel@usg.edu, carl.rogers@house.ga.gov, ross.tolleson@senate.ga.gov, Dana Williams <danawilliams@valdosta.edu>, Suzanne R Slusser <srslusser@valdosta.edu>, Terrie Romaine <tnjromaine@gmail.com>, Virginia B Sizemore <vbsizemore@valdosta.edu>, Jarrett A Wilson <jarwilson@valdosta.edu>, communitynews@ajc.com, Lavon Gant <lvgant@aol.com>, Kay Griffin <kayeliz@bellsouth.net>, mark.lastinger@gafnews.com, Region V <kmyles@naacpnet.org>, angye.morrison@gafnews.com, hlchurch413@yahoo.com, tempered3@gmail.com, Suzie Marine <Suziem@discoveryplace.org>, ciami6kgb@yahoo.com, ggnfilmproduction@yahoo.com, neka.perini@gmail.com, Mari Crabtree <mnc24@cornell.edu>, llk4235@gmail.com, lisamoyadeva@gmail.com, lindsey\_esi@yahoo.com, Linda Smith <honeyschild@me.com>, jahkiainc@aol.com, shanyra29@gmail.com, jredding1987@yahoo.com, J2lthomas <j2lthomas@gmail.com>, Je' Czaja

<theroadupward@gmail.com>, [izahner@valdosta.edu](mailto:izahner@valdosta.edu), [jgordonsu@yahoo.com](mailto:jgordonsu@yahoo.com),  
[farrahreed@gmail.com](mailto:farrahreed@gmail.com), Paul grant <[pauldgrant@comcast.net](mailto:pauldgrant@comcast.net)>,  
[runswithhorses77@gmail.com](mailto:runswithhorses77@gmail.com), [agrant0705@yahoo.com](mailto:agrant0705@yahoo.com), [lugribrad@gmail.com](mailto:lugribrad@gmail.com),  
[morganoba@gmail.com](mailto:morganoba@gmail.com), Jana Sadler <[janasadler30@gmail.com](mailto:janasadler30@gmail.com)>  
**Bcc:** Tracy Woodard <[tracywoodardmeyers5@gmail.com](mailto:tracywoodardmeyers5@gmail.com)>, Miguel Germano  
<[mnggermano@gmail.com](mailto:mnggermano@gmail.com)>, Leigh Touchton <[leigh.touchton@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.touchton@gmail.com)>, John Rogers  
<[jwrogers312@gmail.com](mailto:jwrogers312@gmail.com)>, Theresa Grove <[theresa.grove@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.grove@gmail.com)>  
**Subject: VSU President William McKinney and Neo-Confederate John C. Hall Jr.**

Dear Friends of the Mary Turner Project and representatives of the media,

In July of this year Valdosta State University President Williams McKinney, with the assistance of Provost Hudson Rogers, instructed me to cease using my VSU email account for any “political” activities. When I refused to follow that directive (because I was not violating any VSU or Board of Regents policy and because that request was an infringement on my right to free speech and academic freedom), Dr. McKinney deactivated my VSU email account without any notice. He also froze the funds of the Mary Turner Project, a racial justice organization I founded and have managed for 8 years.

In addition to violating my right to free speech and academic freedom, what is most disturbing is that Dr. McKinney’s actions were driven by a single complaint from someone named Mr. John C. Hall Jr. of Dublin, Georgia. In his complaint to Dr. McKinney, Mr. Hall claimed that I was violating university policy and Internal Revenue Service guidelines. Shortly after finding out about Mr. Hall’s complaint (because he cc’d me on it), I addressed his vacuous accusations in a lengthy email to Dr. McKinney, Provost Rogers, the Chancellor of the University System of Georgia, Vice Chancellor Tom Daniel, and Mr. Hall. In my rebuttal I addressed his accusations and claimed that Mr. Hall’s actions were motivated by the fact that he is a “Neo-Confederate,” a sociological term used to describe individuals/groups that view the 1860 secession of southern states and the Confederate government that sought to preserve and expand slavery in a favorable and usually romanticized, historically inaccurate light.

Having addressed Mr. Hall’s empty accusations and identified him as a Neo-Confederate with a hidden agenda (given his complaint was in reaction to a letter I sent to Georgia lawmakers asking them to cease funding Confederacy related activities), according to VSU administrator Philip Allen I was then accused by University System of Georgia Vice Chancellor Tom Daniel of having “attacked” Mr. Hall. Mr. Daniel also held that my rebuttal was “inflammatory.”

Given Mr. Daniel’s allegations, and since he has failed to provide me with relevant documents related to this matter (which I have repeatedly requested from him and the University System of Georgia), I now feel the need to publicly provide evidence that justifies my claim that Mr. Hall is in fact someone who is a Neo-Confederate.

Furthermore, not only is Mr. Hall someone who romanticizes a government and leaders that sought to preserve and expand the enslavement of 4 million people, he also appears to be someone that, a) would like the South to secede again, and b) holds a variety of racist views toward Black Americans (along with a variety of other antisocial, antidemocratic beliefs). Attached you will find two documents that chronicle an assortment of comments, that Mr. Hall has posted online, that exemplifies this reality. Given Vice Chancellor Daniel’s allegations, I think this information is essential for understanding why I made the claim I did. I think it also demonstrates that my comments were not a personal “attack” on Mr. Hall nor were they “inflammatory.” Instead, they were merely an accurate observation based on empirical evidence.



In closing, the fact that President William McKinney and Provost Hudson Rogers acted on the baseless accusations of someone who wants to South to again secede from U.S. and who thinks Black people are "savages" simply leaves me speechless. The fact that President McKinney and Provost Rogers have failed to provide me with a single VSU or Board of Regents policy I supposedly violated utterly frustrates me (having been a stellar faculty member at VSU for nearly 8 years). Moreover, the fact that President McKinney and Provost Rogers have most recently claimed that their actions were simply a matter of "standard" procedure for former VSU faculty simply insults my intelligence (especially since I have provided evidence to the contrary).

In the final analysis, President William McKinney and Provost Hudson Rogers disregarded my right to free speech and academic freedom when they did the bidding of someone who appears grieved by the fact that we no longer live in the 1860's and in an era where people were property.

Mark Patrick George PhD (VSU 89)

P.S. Since these events have unfolded I have learned that Mr. John C. Hall Jr. has pursued similar actions against Arizona State University History Professor Brooks D. Simpson, simply because Dr. Simpson's research/writing often offers a critical analysis of Civil War history. If you would like me to put you in touch with Dr. Simpson I will be glad to provide you his contact information.

P.S.S. It is equally sad that the Georgia Legislature's Chairperson for Higher Education in Georgia, Rep. Carl Rogers, felt the need to weigh in on this matter and accuse me of being a "so called" professor misusing state resources.

John C Hall Jr commented on ishtahbaloney.com.

February 14

Do not think this is the Amerika we grew up in. This is the era of the 2nd reconstruction in the South. It is lawless and violent. Pack a pistol...permit to carry...always look over your shoulder...travel in pairs..and don't go to where the savages live.



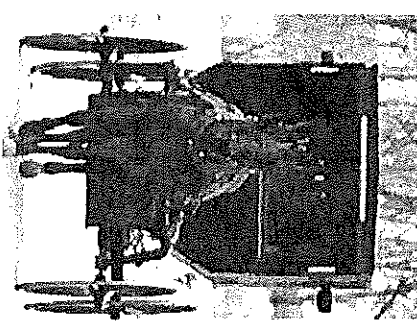
### 55-Year-Old Louisiana Man Killed In Suspected Knockout Game Attack

A 55 year old man was killed in Baton Rouge Louisiana in an apparent knockout game attack by 1 black teen and another unnamed assailant. [CLICK](#) to read

more...  
[ISTHAIBALONEY.COM](http://ISTHAIBALONEY.COM)

John C. Hall Jr commented on 'The Smoking Gun.'

Abel Lincoln said it best....."I will say then that I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races, that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any other man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race."



### Man Charged In Amish Buggy Drive-By Shooting

FEBRUARY 12—Police today announced charges have been filed against a Pennsylvania man in connection with the fatal drive-by shooting of a horse pulling an Amish buggy. Timothy Antonio Diggs, 22, is THESMOKINGGUN.COM



**John C Hall Jr** commented on Personal Liberty.

August 26, 2013

The president is responsible for this...he said if he had a son he would look like treyvon martin. That is a license to kill whites....



### The Truth Behind The Exploding Trend Of Black Mob Violence

Last week, as we learned of the assassination of Chris Lane by a trio of amoral predatory racist gangster wannabes looking for street cred, a fact was curiously missing from mainstream media accoun...  
**PERSONAL LIBERTY.COM**

Liked by 173

• 17 people like this.



Jenn Kramer I couldn't agree with you more! He made the Treyvon incident personal when he made that statement. It was as if it was "code" for black people to lash out at whites, and it would be OK. I'm not saying these types of crimes didn't occur before Treyvon, but they sure have increased since!

August 26, 2013 at 9:21am · Like 12



Aria Abrell Steve, get a clue, buy a clue, whatever but get some real information this stuff IS happening whether the national media jump on it or not, AND whether YOU wish to believe it or not - there have been a LOT of black on white assaults of late, and they...See More

August 26, 2013 at 10:00am · Like 6



Jennifer Wootton Overbee They are feeling empowered since Obama took office!

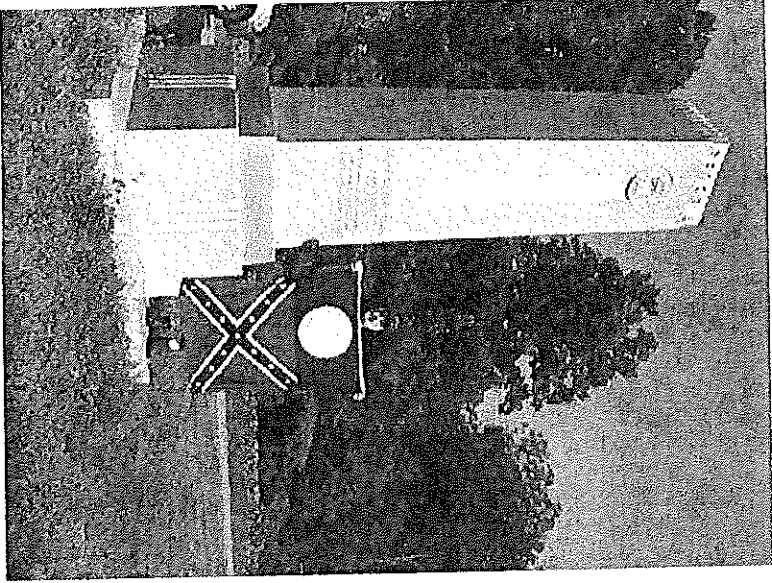
August 26, 2013 at 10:07am · Like 4



John C Hall Jr

June 26, 2015

The Georgia Monument at Gettysburg with our Georgia Flag. The one I was born under...taken down by scalawags and radical negroes.....



Scott Thompson When was this one put up? About where is it?

June 26, 2015 11:51 AM 1

• **John C Hall Jr Thanks brother....**



**John C Hall Jr**

January 21, 2013 at 1:54pm

I just turned on the volume for dear leader speaking....you fn liar...you are only an employee of the us government....I will do everything I can as an america to stop your destruction of my country... You are an impostor..non american....the hell w/ih you muslim...  
[Share](#)

13 people like this.



**Jimmy L. Shirley Jr. Really!**

January 21, 2013 at 1:54pm



**John C Hall Jr and furthermore....lol**

January 21, 2013 at 1:54pm · 1



**John C Hall Jr All in the belly of the yankee empire**

January 21, 2013 at 1:54pm · 2



**Keith Baumgardner Atlas Shrugged**

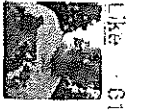


**John C Hall Jr**

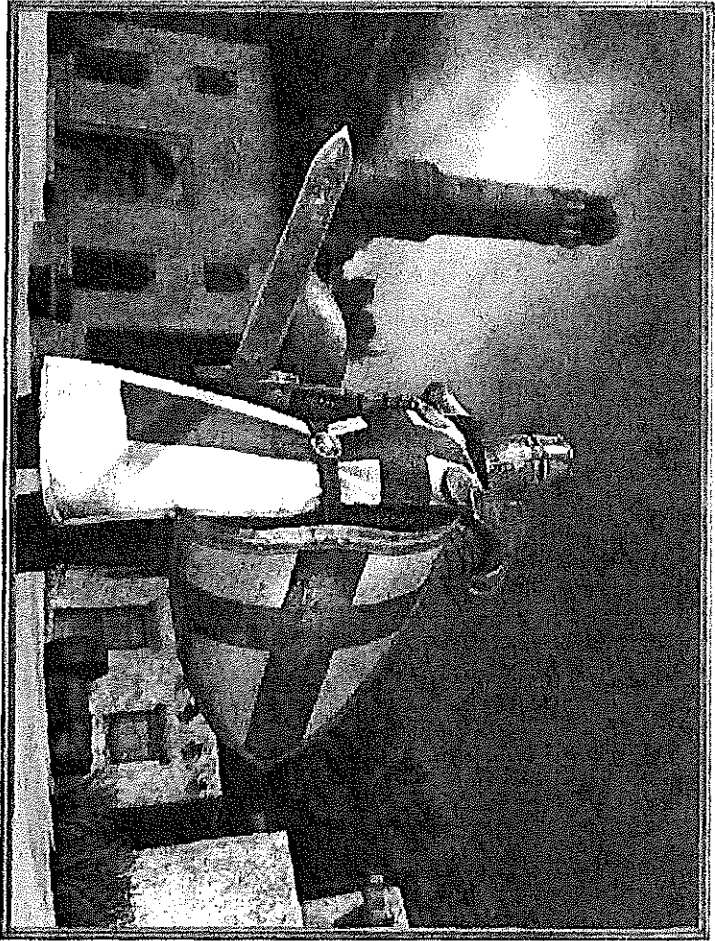
Jul 16, 2013 YouTube

If I had a father...he would look like this Mr. President... Trayvon got shot because black youth are just like this...

Gran Torino - "Spooks"



Like · 01  
**John C Hall Jr** changed his profile picture.  
May 22, 2013 ·



Share

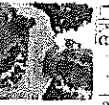
7 people like this.



**John C Hall Jr** I support the Christians in England who are defending against the muslim scourge...rise up and give the sword to the vermin!  
[May 22, 2013 at 8:53pm](#) · 1



Like · 14



**John C Hall Jr** commented on **W/DVB**.

November 20, 2012 · [Like](#)

Ok people from up nawth...no wonder we want to secede from y'all.....this chick is from Mass.....I am shocked.....NOT!



**Offensive photo taken at Arlington National Cemetery prompts Internet firestorm**

A Plymouth woman has become the subject of an Internet firestorm after a photo taken at the Arlington...  
**W/DVB COMMENT**

[Like](#) Like 13

**Michael David Wasiljov** likes this.



**Michael David Wasiljov** Disgusting.

November 20, 2012 at 9:52:16am [Like](#)



**Keith Baumgardner** Not Arlington!!!!!! What an idiot! My uncle is buried there.

November 20, 2012 at 9:52:00am [Like](#)



**Woody Highsmith** A Jane Fonda Fan....

November 21, 2012 at 9:59am · [Like](#)

- Discussion on Pamela Geller, Atlas Shrugs  
"Chickenshit?" Obama Administration Calls Israeli Prime Minister



John C Hall Jr • 7 days ago

Obolabama was groomed for this years ago...the higher powers in the muslim world wanted one of their own in the white house to bring forth power to the muslim world....funny how egypt pushed back...bet they didn't expect that....and don't forget Jarret from Iran as his top adviser...just put two and two together.....

- Discussion on BizPac Review  
Hatchet-swinging Islamist just wanted to kill white people, his father says



John C Hall Jr • 9 days ago

His son is dead...good riddance.....

- Discussion on BizPac Review  
Angry protesters target 'wealthy' whites; vandalize home, burn US flags, assault reporter, call for officer's death



John C Hall Jr • 25 days ago

Lock and load boys.....

- Discussion on Rare  
This badass female pilot is about to drop a whole bunch of bombs on ISIS



John C Hall Jr • a month ago

Angry feminists just can never be satisfied until every male is emasculated bowing down to the alter of equality.....barf

- Discussion on Occidental Dissent  
Poor Mark Patrick George



John C Hall Jr • 3 months ago

My pleasure sir!.....you must know that this varmit was not just an agitator regarding the Confederacy....he was also behind trying to keep the federal desegregation active in the valdosta city schools. He also produced a video about hating being white. All this in South Georgia!

- Discussion on Pamela Geller, Atlas Shrugs  
Jews forced to flee in front of White House



John C Hall Jr • 3 months ago

Why are the mussies always so ugly?...could it be that they wear their insides outside?

- Discussion on WCTV  
**Organizations Asking Georgia To Stop Endorsing The Confederacy**



**John C Hall Jr** • **3 months ago**

This is an attempt to fire up the base for the upcoming elections in Georgia...the governor's race and the senate race are why this has popped up..nothing more ..nothing less....as always the blacks are pawns in the power broker's hands...slavery never ended...just changed form.

- Discussion on Pamela Geller Atlas Shrugs  
**VIDEO: A Muslim at a Pro-Hamas demo or 'Palestinian State of Unrest in Atlanta'?**



**John C Hall Jr** • **4 months ago**

One more reason I left Atlanta my home town..it is not Southern anymore...now full of the people a former client from Lebanon said....breed like rats....

- Discussion on NewsOne  
**Washington And Lee Black Law Students Protest Racism On Campus | News One**



**John C Hall Jr** • **4 months ago**

This committee is made up of affirmative action students....they cant compete in the real world so the school lowered the standards to allow them to show diversity on campus. This is why they spend their time tearing down Southern symbols and not on their education. It is a free ride for them.

- Discussion on BizPac Review  
**Waitress, Red Lobster may have to pay up: customer branded racist in receipt 'hoax' sues for \$1 million**



**John C Hall Jr** • **5 months ago**

John C Hall Jr • 5 months ago  
Middle school 1973, Atlanta, Ga...the buses came and the violence began. We were afraid to go into the bathrooms because the black boys had beards...they were held back. At 55 years of age now I still remember the savagery we endured...now as an adult I teach them a lesson if they ever cross my path....karma.

• Discussion on Liberty News  
**A Gay USA... U.S. Embassy in Madrid Flies Homosexual Pride Flag With American Flag (OFFICIALLY)**



John C Hall Jr • 5 months ago  
 Not my country anymore....I live in the South.....my ancestors were right to fight these people.....secede....now!

Discussion on BizPac Review  
**Michelle Obama criticizes school 'segregation,' but her own daughters are safe at private school**



John C Hall Jr • 6 months ago  
 "let's tell the entire story in context as opposed to sitting here telling lies." Excuse me but I was there...you were not....the black kids were the savages...never once was it the other way around. My introduction to race relations was talking to a young black girl named Shirley...next thing I know her boy friend jumped me when she said.. "There he is...there the boy that been messing with me" .....That is just one story of many to tell...there were no whites ever attacking the black kids.....never at our school....we were victims.....so don't tell me I am a liar....."Skin colour doesn't define anyone and I'd be a fool to judge someone by it." .....oh contraire...every day the news shows more white people being murdered, raped.....assaulted.....black on white crime.....you are really blind and a fool.....now when a black person who is bad crosses my path I teach them a lesson...payback is a bitch...



John C Hall Jr • 6 months ago  
 When the buses came to our white schools during desegregation we white children were attacked and beaten...there were riots all the time...so when time came for my kids to go to school they never...ever went to public school...home schooled and then private christian school. Now with grandchildren on the way I will use whatever resources I have to never, ever have them go to school with the savages my brother and I had to endure as young innocent white children.

• Discussion on Southern Nationalist Network  
**'Thugs' & White Flight from Augusta, Georgia**



John C Hall Jr • 6 months ago  
 I fled Atlanta almost 7 years ago..I was born there...surprising to see pockets of white in the city in certain areas..rich yuppies who are not from Atlanta originally...for some reason they appear safe..cross the boundaries of railroad tracks and highways you go to the ghetto where the negroes live....they just don't have the same genes as whites...

- Discussion on Clash Daily  
**BOOM: 100's of Parents & Students Try to STOP Michelle Obama Speaking at Their HS Graduation**



John C Hall Jr • 7 months ago

If she was to go and speak of education to the benefit of the young people then that would be fine. However, she and her husband are narcissistic and it is always about them. They live in a bubble of anti-white, anti-america hatred that has only divided this country. Many black people I know are ashamed and step back from the royal couple. It could have been different.

- Discussion on Breitbart News Network  
**Students Demand Acknowledgement of Robert E. Lee's 'Racist and Dishonorable Conduct'**



John C Hall Jr • 7 months ago

A day of reckoning is coming to the enemies of the South. Keep pushing it and our Southern manners will turn to cold blue steel...just sayin....

- Discussion on Allen B. West  
**Ebony magazine staffer tweets racial insults at black conservative**

John C Hall Jr • 7 months ago

There has always been a divide in the black community with those who seek to get along and enjoy being american and those that want to just stay black and have a chip on their shoulder. Booker T Washington on one side and WEB Dubois types on the other. Clarence Thomas vs Al Sharpton. It takes courage for blacks to join the Booker T. Washington side while those on the other side throw darts at them. Trust me whites want to get along and those that seek the Booker T Washington side get my support...those on the other get nothing but contempt from me.

- Discussion on Cooks and Liars  
**New Georgia License Plate Marks 150th Anniversary of Sherman's March**



John C Hall Jr • 8 months ago

Two of my ancestor's slaves names were Sam and Elbert. They are mentioned the letters from 1864. One letter written to my ancestor at Johnson's Island prison states "All send their love black and white." You might want to study history a little and then make some intelligent comments rather than presenting yourself as a coxcomb.



John C Hall Jr • 8 months ago  
Since 300,000 yankees are stiff in Southern soil I am honored to get my new tag with the battle flag to remind y'all about this.....

• Discussion on Council of Conservative Citizens  
**CO Gov stays execution for racial hate crime spree killer to appease NAACP leaders**



John C Hall Jr • 9 months ago  
NAACP does not need to keep me honest. I am white and proud of it. If someone commits a crime it is based on the crime not race. The fact that more blacks commit crimes should have nothing to do with this. I say someone in prison should deal proper justice to this savage in the way he did to those innocent people.

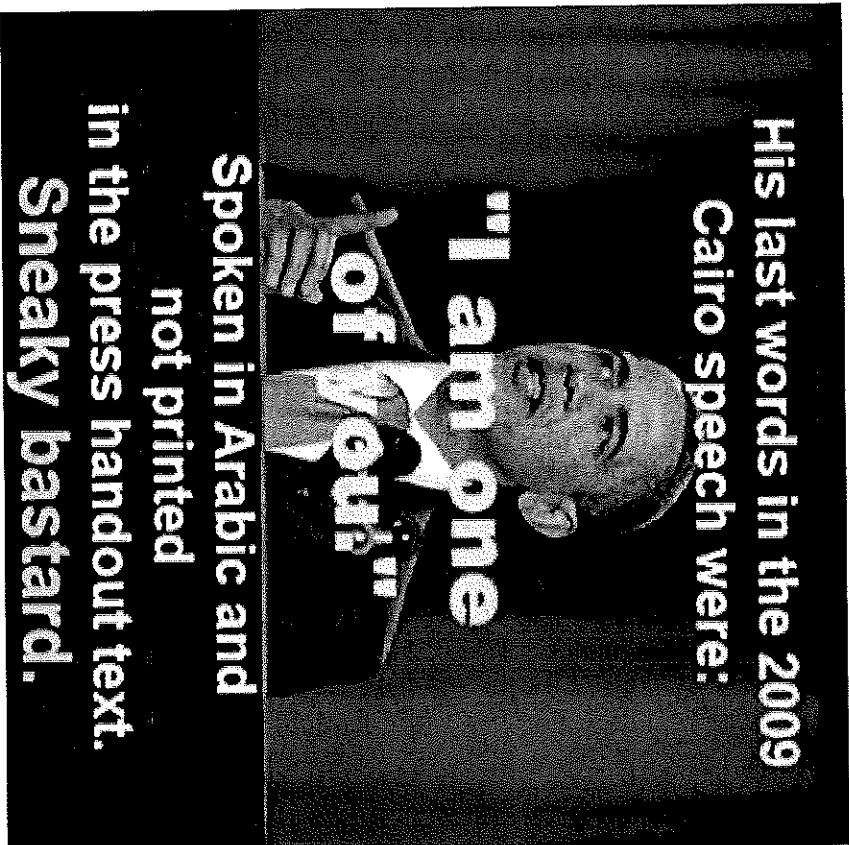
• Discussion on WNND  
**You're white, you're guilty, you're dead!**



John C Hall Jr • 2 years ago  
Who just woke up and realized what is going on? I am from Atlanta and this is nothing new...the only solution is to have a permit to carry and return fire...white liberals are guilty of feeding the mind of the black youth with hatred.



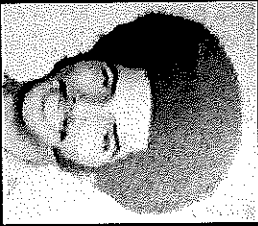
John C Hall Jr shared Brian FIS's photo.  
October 6 at 5:32am · 23  
.....you muslim



Like · Comment · Share  
👍 7 people like this.

Write a comment...





John C Hall Jr  
June 17, 2013 · 45

Holder recalled how his father talked to him years ago "about how as a young black man I should interact with the police, what to say, and how to conduct myself if I was ever stopped or confronted in a way I thought was unwarranted." .....they holder...my dad never sat down and told me how violent black people were when they were bused into our white school.....how we were beaten for the color of our skin.....who's the victim in America?

Share

👍 3 people like this.

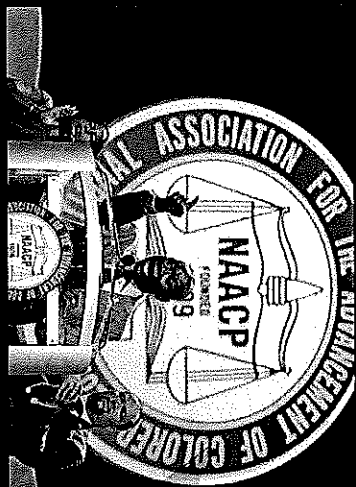


Johnny Adair I am one of the fortunate ones in that I never attended school with a black person. We didn't have to worry about a gang of blacks harassing our girl friend or taking a swing at a white person. That was unheard of in my youth.

July 17, 2013 at 7:31am · 471



Valerie Protospas I attended school with a few blacks, but I was only in class with one - and he was a class act. His family was rather wealthy - certainly wealthier than mine - and he was smart, polite and I've no doubt, went far in life. He was black, not mulatto and ... See More



John C Hall Jr  
July 18, 2013 · 45

A cancer on my county.....

Share

👍 11 people like this

👎 1 share

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Sign up for Cricket today  
Cricket.com  
Buy special Windows phone, see you a \$50 mail in rebate Cricket/259 Promotion 2013.









Attachment H

## Exemption Requirements - 501(c)(3) Organizations

To be tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, an organization must be organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes set forth in section 501(c)(3), and none of its earnings may inure to any private shareholder or individual. In addition, it may not be an action organization, i.e., it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities and it may not participate in any campaign activity for or against political candidates.

→ see Political & Lobbying Activities

Organizations described in section 501(c)(3) are commonly referred to as charitable organizations. Organizations described in section 501(c)(3), other than testing for public safety organizations, are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions in accordance with Code section 170.

The organization must not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests, and no part of a section 501(c)(3) organization's net earnings may inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. If the organization engages in an excess benefit transaction with a person having substantial influence over the organization, an excise tax may be imposed on the person and any organization managers agreeing to the transaction.

Section 501(c)(3) organizations are restricted in how much political and legislative (lobbying) activities they may conduct. For a detailed discussion, see Political and Lobbying Activities. For more information about lobbying activities by charities, see the article Lobbying Issues; for more information about political activities of charities, see the FY-2002 CPE topic Election Year Issues.

### Additional Information

- Application Process Step by Step: Questions and answers that will help an organization determine if it is eligible to apply for recognition of exemption from federal income taxation under IRC section 501(a) and, if so, how to proceed.
- Private foundations - requirements for exemption
- Tax-Exempt Status - online training available at the IRS microsite [StayExempt.irs.gov](http://StayExempt.irs.gov).

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 13-Mar-2014



see Restriction...

## Political and Lobbying Activities → see "Lobbying"

Political activities and legislative activities (commonly referred to as lobbying) are two different things and are subject to two different sets of rules and have different consequences of exceeding the limitations. The rules applied in a given situation depend on several issues:

- The type of tax-exempt organization (different rules apply to private foundations than to other section 501(c)(3) organizations),
- The type of activity (political or lobbying) at issue, and
- The scope or amount of the activity conducted.

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 22-Aug-2014

## The Restriction of Political Campaign Intervention by Section 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Organizations

Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity. Violating this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes.

Certain activities or expenditures may not be prohibited depending on the facts and circumstances. For example, certain voter education activities (including presenting public forums and publishing voter education guides) conducted in a non-partisan manner do not constitute prohibited political campaign activity. In addition, other activities intended to encourage people to participate in the electoral process, such as voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives, would not be prohibited political campaign activity if conducted in a non-partisan manner.

On the other hand, voter education or registration activities with evidence of bias that (a) would favor one candidate over another; (b) oppose a candidate in some manner; or (c) have the effect of favoring a candidate or group of candidates, will constitute prohibited participation or intervention.

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 05-Mar-2014



## Lobbying

In general, no organization may qualify for section 501(c)(3) status if a substantial part of its activities is attempting to influence legislation (commonly known as *lobbying*). A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying, but too much lobbying activity risks loss of tax-exempt status.

*Legislation* includes action by Congress, any state legislature, any local council, or similar governing body, with respect to acts, bills, resolutions, or similar items (such as legislative confirmation of appointive office), or by the public in referendum, ballot initiative, constitutional amendment, or similar procedure. It does not include actions by executive, judicial, or administrative bodies.

An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of proposing, supporting, or opposing legislation, or if the organization advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

Organizations may, however, involve themselves in issues of public policy without the activity being considered as lobbying. For example, organizations may conduct educational meetings, prepare and distribute educational materials, or otherwise consider public policy issues in an educational manner without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

### Additional information:

- Measuring lobbying activity: substantial part test → to see what is "substantial"
- Measuring lobbying activity: expenditure test

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 10-Apr-2014



## Measuring Lobbying: Substantial Part Test

Whether an organization's attempts to influence legislation, i.e., *lobbying*, constitute a substantial part of its overall activities is determined on the basis of all the pertinent facts and circumstances in each case. The IRS considers a variety of factors, including the time devoted (by both compensated and volunteer workers) and the expenditures devoted by the organization to the activity, when determining whether the lobbying activity is substantial.

Under the substantial part test, an organization that conducts excessive lobbying in any taxable year may lose its tax-exempt status, resulting in all of its income being subject to tax. In addition, section 501(c)(3) organizations that lose their tax-exempt status due to excessive lobbying, other than churches and private foundations, are subject to an excise tax equal to five percent of their lobbying expenditures for the year in which they cease to qualify for exemption.

Further, a tax equal to five percent of the lobbying expenditures for the year may be imposed against organization managers, jointly and severally, who agree to the making of such expenditures knowing that the expenditures would likely result in the loss of tax-exempt status.

Private foundations are subject to a different set of taxes on their lobbying expenditures; churches are not subject to excise taxes on excessive lobbying.

### Additional information:

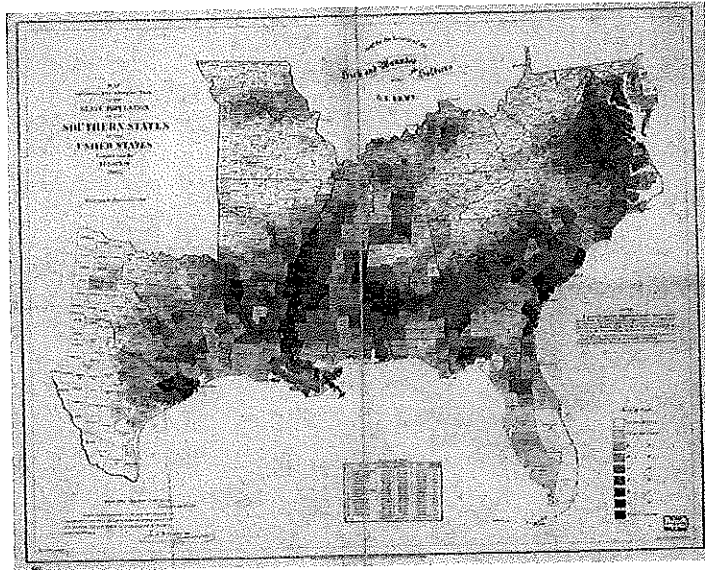
<p><u>Measuring Lobbying: Expenditure Test</u></p> <p><u>Schedule C, Form 990, Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities</u></p> <p><u>Instructions for Schedule C</u></p>
---

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 11-Apr-2014

Attachment I

a free, searchable database on slavery in the United States

# slavecensus.com



Click on image to download 1860 U.S. Census Slavery Map (large file, 5 m.b.)

[Begin Search](#)

[Volunteer](#)

An initiative of the Mary Turner Project & the Valdosta State University Archives Department  
Website © by the Mary Turner Project 2014

Attachment ✓

Given that I know a number of former VSU faculty who continue to use their VSU email accounts months after they left the university, often using them for "political" purposes, I wanted to ask you two simple questions. Given that I have been targeted with a policy that doesn't exist and the VSU community has been silent on this matter, please know that I plan share your responses with the President and USG Chancellor. If you are uncomfortable with me sharing your responses please don't respond to this email. **I totally understand your concerns and will hold no ill will toward you.**

1) Is it true that VSU automatically deactivates all former faculty members' email accounts after 45 days once they have left VSU?

2) Given that adjuncts don't have a contract over the Summer, and don't know if their classes will make until the Fall, are their email accounts automatically deactivated 45 days after the Spring term concludes?

I fully understand that some of you may have a problem with my recent actions. At the same time, if you do I hope you will let me know so I might explain myself. If you would like a complete timeline of events I'll be glad to send you the letter and documents I have submitted to the BOR.

Thank you for time.

Mark George

From: Mark George <markpgeorge@gmail.com>  
Date: August 23, 2014 2:22:49 PM EDT  
To: Removed  
Subject: **Recent VSU actions and a favor**

Dear Colleagues,

I contact you today to ask for your help.

As you likely know VSU has recently taken a number of actions against me and the Mary Turner Project. Those include deactivating my Valdosta email account, seizing the Mary Turner foundation account, and making it difficult for me to obtain open records about these events. VSU's actions came after I emailed the Gov. and General Assembly (with my VSU account) calling for an end to all state funding of Confederate holidays/events/activities.

Please know that to date VSU has also not provided me with, or directed me to, any VSU or BOR "policy" I have violated. They did refer me to a procedural statement (a link on the IT FAQ page) about the deactivation of email accounts. However, when I reviewed VSU's actual email policy there are no statements about email accounts being deactivated when people they leave the university.

They have also failed to provide me with the "policy" they say they are following to seize MTP funds. I have requested that policy, the email policy, and the specific policies on "political activity" several times now. I also personally asked the President and VSU attorney for them in a meeting this past Monday. As of this message, they have not provided them to me.

Noting this, it is fairly clear that VSU's actions have no policy basis and appear retaliatory given their timing. I can provide you Dr. McKinney's email correspondence with the BOR about this matter if you are interested. Reviewing Dr. McKinney's emails, it is also very clear that the BOR exerted a certain level of influence in this situation, changing Dr. McKinney's position from one where my actions were a matter of "free speech" and "academic freedom" to one where he ordered the deactivation of my email account and froze MTP funds.

## Theresa J Grove

---

**From:** Dana Williams <dmwilliams@csuchico.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 19, 2014 12:45 AM  
**To:** Theresa J Grove  
**Subject:** Re:

Hi Theresa! Yes, my VSU email still works, but this is my new address.  
We're well. How are you doing? What's new in Valdosta?

Hope you are good,  
Dana

On 11/18/2014 12:20 PM, Theresa J Grove wrote:  
> I'm just testing to see if your email still works. J I hope you and  
> Suzanne are doing well.  
>  
> Theresa  
>  
> Theresa J. Grove, Ph.D.  
>  
> Associate Professor  
>  
> Department of Biology  
>  
> Valdosta State University  
>  
> 1500 N. Patterson Street  
>  
> Valdosta, GA 31698  
>  
> 229-333-5336  
>  
> [tjgrove@valdosta.edu](mailto:tjgrove@valdosta.edu)  
>

--  
Dana Williams, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology  
California State University, Chico

From: "Aristotel Santas" <asantas@valdosta.edu>  
Date: August 24, 2014 8:15:17 AM EDT  
To: Tracy W Meyers <tracyw@valdosta.edu>  
Cc: Mark George <markgeorge@gmail.com>, Deborah S Davis <dsdavis@valdosta.edu>, Matthew J Richards <mjrchar@valdosta.edu>, "Connie L Richards" <clrichards@valdosta.edu>, Darrell L Ross <dross@valdosta.edu>, Marvin T Smith <mtsmith@valdosta.edu>, Paul T Riggs <priggs@valdosta.edu>, "Thomas Aiello" <taiello@valdosta.edu>, "Catherine Oglesby" <coglesby@valdosta.edu>, Mary R Block <mrblock@valdosta.edu>, "Christopher C Meyers" <cmeyers@valdosta.edu>, Kathleen S Lowney <klowney@valdosta.edu>, "Carl M Hand" <chand@valdosta.edu>, Richard J Vodde <rvodde@valdosta.edu>, "Robert L Gannon" <rgannon@valdosta.edu>, "Mark S. Blackmore" <mblackmo@valdosta.edu>, Theresa J Grove <tgrove@valdosta.edu>, Leslie S Jones <lesliesj@valdosta.edu>, Frederick L Downing <fldowning@valdosta.edu>, Christine A James <chjames@valdosta.edu>, Shani Wilfred <spgray@valdosta.edu>, Fred E Knowles <feknowles@valdosta.edu>, Marty L Williams <mlwillia@valdosta.edu>, "James T. LaPlant" <jlaplant@valdosta.edu>, Can Jon Denizman <cdenizma@valdosta.edu>, Michael G Noll <mgnoll@valdosta.edu>  
Subject: **Re: Recent VSU actions and a favor**

Hi Mark et al,  
I've been here since before there was email and have served as department head in the past. I've never heard of such a policy. It makes no sense to do this as a matter of course inasmuch as it is often necessary to contact past instructors for future work when planning teaching schedules. As you know, these schedules are due several months in advance. Automatically deactivating the accounts after such a short period would not only make it difficult to stay in touch, but create unnecessary work every time an instructor was reemployed. If it is a policy, it's enforced selectively, and as you know, selective enforcement is a key tactic in bureaucracy for punishment or retaliation.

Also, as you may recall, the reasoning that MTP violated 501c3

From: Theresa J Grove <tgrove@valdosta.edu>  
Date: August 23, 2014 3:56:35 PM EDT  
To: Tracy W Meyers <tracyw@valdosta.edu>, Mark George <markgeorge@gmail.com>, "Aristotel Santas" <asantas@valdosta.edu>, "Deborah S Davis" <dsdavis@valdosta.edu>, Matthew J Richards <mjrchar@valdosta.edu>, Connie L Richards <clrichards@valdosta.edu>, Darrell L Ross <dross@valdosta.edu>, Marvin T Smith <mtsmith@valdosta.edu>, Paul T Riggs <priggs@valdosta.edu>, "Thomas Aiello" <taiello@valdosta.edu>, "Catherine Oglesby" <coglesby@valdosta.edu>, Mary R Block <mrblock@valdosta.edu>, Christopher C Meyers <cmeyers@valdosta.edu>, Kathleen S Lowney <klowney@valdosta.edu>, "Carl M Hand" <chand@valdosta.edu>, Richard J Vodde <rvodde@valdosta.edu>, Robert L Gannon <rgannon@valdosta.edu>, "Mark S. Blackmore" <mblackmo@valdosta.edu>, Leslie S Jones <lesliesj@valdosta.edu>, Frederick L Downing <fldowning@valdosta.edu>, Christine A James <chjames@valdosta.edu>, Shani Wilfred <spgray@valdosta.edu>, Fred E Knowles <feknowles@valdosta.edu>, Marty L Williams <mlwillia@valdosta.edu>, "James T. LaPlant" <jlaplant@valdosta.edu>, Can Jon Denizman <cdenizma@valdosta.edu>, Michael G Noll <mgnoll@valdosta.edu>  
Subject: **RE: Recent VSU actions and a favor**

Also, to be technical, tenured and tenure-track faculty do not have a contact during summer months. I think the contacts for these faculty end around the second week of May.

My department communicates with adjunct faculty via email during the summer.

In addition, Archana Bhasin's VSU email account is still functional. She was denied promotion and tenure in 2012 (if I remember the year correctly).

Theresa

Theresa J. Grove, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor

From: Matthew J Richard <mjrichar@valdosta.edu>  
Date: August 23, 2014 3:35:51 PM EDT  
To: Tracy W Meyers <tmeyers@valdosta.edu>, Mark George  
<markgeorge@gmail.com>, "Aristotel Santas"  
<asantas@valdosta.edu>, "Deborah S Davis"  
<dsdavis@valdosta.edu>, Connie L Richards  
<clrichards@valdosta.edu>, Darrell L Ross <dross@valdosta.edu>,  
Marvin T Smith <mismith@valdosta.edu>, Paul T Riggs  
<priggs@valdosta.edu>, "Thomas Aiello" <taiello@valdosta.edu>,  
"Catherine Oglesby" <coglesby@valdosta.edu>, Mary R Block  
<mblock@valdosta.edu>, Christopher C Meyers  
<cmeyers@valdosta.edu>, "Kathleen S Lowney"  
<klowney@valdosta.edu>, Carl M Hand <chand@valdosta.edu>,  
"Richard J Voodde" <rvoodde@valdosta.edu>, Robert L Gannon  
<rgannon@valdosta.edu>, "Mark S. Blackmore"  
<mblackmo@valdosta.edu>, Theresa J Grove  
<tjgrove@valdosta.edu>, Leslie S Jones <lesliesj@valdosta.edu>,  
"Frederick L Downing" <fl Downing@valdosta.edu>, Christine A James  
<chjames@valdosta.edu>, Shani Wilfred <spgray@valdosta.edu>,  
Fred E Knowles <feknowles@valdosta.edu>, Marty L Williams  
<mlwillia@valdosta.edu>, James T. LaPlant" <jlaplant@valdosta.edu>,  
Can Jon Denizman <cdenizma@valdosta.edu>, "Michael G Noll"  
<mgnoll@valdosta.edu>  
Subject: **RF- Recent VSII actions and a favor**

nonpartisanship was used to cancel a VSU political forum in 1999 after a lawsuit was threatened against the university. The argument was bogus then and it is now. There was an issue of the AAUP publication Academe a few years back that addressed this question and came to the same conclusion that you did. The nonpartisanship requirement only excludes campaigning-- not criticism of political practice. I'm not sure if AAUP would have an interest in this, but it may be worth looking into it.

In any case, if this were the implications of 501c3, by parity of reasoning, Dr. Cason's visit is much more of a violation than your letter to the Georgia Assembly could be.

I myself have pledged money to MTP through the VSU Foundation in the past year and I plan to ask them to either show me that the money is in MTP's hands or refund it me. If they do not comply, I will boycott the Foundation until they do so and reinstate MTP. I hope others will do the same.

Yours in Peace,  
Ari Santas

Sent from my mobile device



From: Richard J Vodde <rvodde@valdosta.edu>  
Date: August 23, 2014 3:59:25 PM EDT  
To: Tracy W Meyers <tmeyers@valdosta.edu>, Mark George <markgeorge@gmail.com>, "Aristotel Santas" <asantas@valdosta.edu>, "Deborah S Davis" <dsdavis@valdosta.edu>, "Matthew J Richards" <mjrchar@valdosta.edu>, "Matthew J Richards" <mjrchar@valdosta.edu>, "Connie L Richards" <clrichards@valdosta.edu>, Darrell L Ross <dross@valdosta.edu>, Marvin T Smith <mismith@valdosta.edu>, Paul T Riggs <priggs@valdosta.edu>, "Thomas Aiello" <taiello@valdosta.edu>, "Catherine Oglesby" <coglesby@valdosta.edu>, Mary R Block <mrblock@valdosta.edu>, Christopher C Meyers <cmeyers@valdosta.edu>, Kathleen S Lowney <klowney@valdosta.edu>, Carl M Hand <chand@valdosta.edu>, Robert L Gannon <rgannon@valdosta.edu>, "Mark S. Blackmore" <mblackmo@valdosta.edu>, "Theresa J Grove" <tgrove@valdosta.edu>, Leslie S Jones <lesiesj@valdosta.edu>, Frederick L Downing <fdowning@valdosta.edu>, Christine A James <chjames@valdosta.edu>, Shani Wilfred <spgray@valdosta.edu>, Fred E Knowles <feknowles@valdosta.edu>, Mary L Williams <mlwillia@valdosta.edu>, "James T. LaPlant" <jlaplant@valdosta.edu>, Can Jon Denizman <cdenizma@valdosta.edu>, Michael G Noll <mgnoll@valdosta.edu>  
Subject: **RE: Recent VSU actions and a favor**

Hi Mark:  
Nice talking to you at the stop light Wednesday. one of the benefits of "small" town life. I too know numerous faculty whose e-mail accounts weren't de-activated after they left. I also know several who no longer have accounts (dont know the pattern or if there is one). I'll let you know which group i end up in after June 15.

we too, have adjuncts whose accounts have remained open during the summer. Good health in Portland. i agree with Matthew; this community's loss.

Rich Vodde PhD.; L.C.S.W.  
Professor  
Department of Social Work

From: Tracy W Meyers <tmeyers@valdosta.edu>  
Date: August 23, 2014 2:44:39 PM EDT  
To: Mark George <markgeorge@gmail.com>, "Aristotel Santas" <asantas@valdosta.edu>, Deborah S Davis <dsdavis@valdosta.edu>, "Matthew J Richards" <mjrchar@valdosta.edu>, "Connie L Richards" <clrichards@valdosta.edu>, Darrell L Ross <dross@valdosta.edu>, Marvin T Smith <mismith@valdosta.edu>, Paul T Riggs <priggs@valdosta.edu>, "Thomas Aiello" <taiello@valdosta.edu>, "Catherine Oglesby" <coglesby@valdosta.edu>, Mary R Block <mrblock@valdosta.edu>, Christopher C Meyers <cmeyers@valdosta.edu>, "Kathleen S Lowney" <klowney@valdosta.edu>, Carl M Hand <chand@valdosta.edu>, "Richard J Vodde" <rvodde@valdosta.edu>, Robert L Gannon <rgannon@valdosta.edu>, "Mark S. Blackmore" <mblackmo@valdosta.edu>, Theresa J Grove <tgrove@valdosta.edu>, Leslie S Jones <lesiesj@valdosta.edu>, Frederick L Downing <fdowning@valdosta.edu>, Christine A James <chjames@valdosta.edu>, Shani Wilfred <spgray@valdosta.edu>, Fred E Knowles <feknowles@valdosta.edu>, Mary L Williams <mlwillia@valdosta.edu>, "James T. LaPlant" <jlaplant@valdosta.edu>, Can Jon Denizman <cdenizma@valdosta.edu>, "Michael G Noll" <mgnoll@valdosta.edu>  
Subject: **RE: Recent VSU actions and a favor**

Hi Mark:  
I know personally professors and students who have left VSU whose email accounts are not deactivated per IT's stated procedure (deactivate accounts 45 days after termination). I have recently corresponded with one ex professor a year after she left VSU using her VSU email account. I also correspond with adjunct professors during the summer using their VSU e-mail accounts and they are not "employed" by VSU during the summer and their Fall courses may not make and therefore they may not be employed (under contract) in the Fall either. I think if the administration is going to enforce this policy they should do it for everyone and do it uniformly across the board. This 45 day deactivation policy IS NOT the working procedure at VSU and has not been for as long as I can remember and I have been teaching here for 20 years.

Tracy

Attachment K: Complaint

Mr. Horns,

Please consider the following a formal complaint against Valdosta State University President William McKinney. I honestly hope you will assist me and the organization I represent in resolving these issues. Know that they took place in July of this year as I was wrapping up my 8th year of teaching at VSU. I provided VSU with my verbal notice on July 8th when I informed my program director Dr. Tracy Meyers that I would not be returning to teach in the Fall as scheduled.

1) In spite of the fact that I did not violate any VSU or University System of Georgia policy, President McKinney deliberately interfered with my right to free speech and academic freedom when he personally ordered the deactivation of my VSU email account on July 28th, 2014. He did this in response to my sending two email communications to the Governor of Georgia and General Assembly calling for an end to state funding of Confederate activities. He now states that this action was a "standard" practice for former faculty although a) countless former VSU faculty continue to use their VSU email accounts, b) VSU has no policy on the deactivation of email accounts for former faculty, and c) I provided him with formal statements and evidence from VSU faculty that no such policy exists. In short, it appears that his actions were deliberate, retaliatory and again, not supported by any VSU or USG policy, nor my violation of any VSU or USG policy.

In addition to violating my right to free speech and academic freedom, Dr. McKinney's unannounced deactivation of my email also created enormous chaos for me in terms of information and contacts I no longer have access to a) coordinate two of the MTP initiatives and b) stay in contact with colleagues and professional in my field from all over the country.

2) Based on no existing VSU or University System of Georgia policy, VSU President William McKinney also seized the funds (\$247,50) of the Mary Turner Project (MTP). Today he refuses to release those funds to the MTP's partner organization Save Our Children where our work continues. As the founder of MTP and as its coordinator, in a meeting with President McKinney on August 18th, 2014 I was told that he saw "no problem" transferring the MTP funds if I asked Dr. Tracy Woodard Meyers (Dir. of WGST) to put in the appropriate paperwork. In turn, Dr. Meyers submitted that request and VSU nevertheless refused to release the funds. The MTP was then told that we needed to simply insure that those funds would go to the purpose their donated for (the work of the MTP). In turn, I provided Dr. McKinney with documentation (9/12/14 - see attached MTP funds) from the President of Save Our Children insuring that those funds would go to continue the work of the MTP. Nonetheless, Dr. McKinney continues to hold those funds.

To date, and though its been requested multiple times, Dr. McKinney has also not provided the MTP with the "policy" he has used to seize our resources.

3) Valdosta State College has repeatedly failed to comply with Georgia Open Records law by quoting and charging inflated open records fees (see attached Coppage Email Exchanges). In short, I (and others) have been quoted a rate of more than \$41.00 an hour and

changed \$31.00 per hour only to find out (in email communications involving Dr. McKinney) that past requests have been charged \$15.00 an hour. Furthermore, and in accordance with Georgia Open Records law, Valdosta State University now refuses to identify who their open records person is and how much that person is compensated (see attached Coppage 2 email).

If you would like or need any evidence to substantiate my claims please let me know and I will provide it to you.

Again, I hope that you will take this matter seriously and help us resolve it as soon as possible.

Mark Patrick George (VSU 89)

Mary Turner Project Coordinator

(229) 234-2856

[www.maryturner.org](http://www.maryturner.org)

Attachment L

**Theresa J Grove**

---

**Subject:**

FW: Concerns at VSU

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mark George <[markpgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:markpgeorge@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** October 22, 2014, 6:05:29 PM EDT  
**To:** John Rogers <[jwrogers312@gmail.com](mailto:jwrogers312@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Concerns at VSU

Latest developments.....

m

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Wesley Horne <[Wesley.Horne@usg.edu](mailto:Wesley.Horne@usg.edu)>  
**Date:** Wed, Oct 22, 2014 at 11:15 AM  
**Subject:** Concerns at VSU  
**To:** "Mark George ([markpgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:markpgeorge@gmail.com))" <[markpgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:markpgeorge@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** "L L. Gaskin" <[llgaskin@valdosta.edu](mailto:llgaskin@valdosta.edu)>

Hello Dr. George,

Thank you for your time this morning. As we discussed, Valdosta State University will provide you with any contacts from your e-mail account and any e-mails and attachments that are not privileged under state or federal law. I have already spoken to VSU attorney, Ms. Laverne Gaskins, and she understand that this information will be provided to you at no cost. We will endeavor to provide the bulk of these records in an electronic format. We will also explore how we might be able to provide you with course material you developed that you stored on D2L.

In reference to the Mary Turner Project, VSU indicated its willingness to work with Reverend Floyd Rose so that the remaining foundation funds can be used in furtherance of the MTP. I understood that Reverend Rose and Dr. Hudson had already spoken about this matter and were proceeding accordingly. When we spoke earlier today you were concerned that this might be an imposition on Reverend Rose. Let me know if this is no longer an acceptable way to use the remaining funds. As we discussed, the remaining funds must be used in accordance with state and IRS rules with respect for the donor's expectations and in support of the mission of VSU.

Finally, in reference to the open records request you sent to VSU on August 4, 2014, we reviewed the invoice provided to you and the associated costs to the state from processing your request. Based upon this review, we did not find that you were overcharged for the records you

were provided. To the contrary, you were not charged for two hours of retrieval time by a VSU IT technician.

As we discussed, we are working to conclude a review of processes and procedures related to this matter in response to a request by President McKinney. At the conclusion of this review, we would also be willing to share this with you. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Wesley Horne


Director of Ethics & Compliance

Board of Regents – University System of Georgia

Office: (404) 962-3034

Cell: (404) 796-1672

Attachment M




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## Domestic abuse project hung out to dry

Oct 23rd, 2014 | By [Jordan Hill](#)  
| Category: [2014-10-22](#), [Fall 2014](#), [News](#)

*Written By: Jordan Hill*

The Women's and Gender Studies program and VSU administrators are airing a different type of dirty laundry this year.

Because of a dispute between WGST and VSU's top administrators, the program will not hang T-shirts on clotheslines to create awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence for the first time in 14 years.

The Clothesline Project began at VSU in 2000 when Dr. Tracy Meyers, director of Women's and Gender Studies and the Clothesline Project, was a professor in the sociology department. Students made T-shirts of their story or someone else's story of abuse/violence as a class assignment. When Dr. Meyers became the interim director of the WGST program in 2005, she began displaying them publicly on the Front Lawn and the Pedestrian Mall.

According to Dr. Meyers, VSU President William McKinney and Provost Hudson Rogers told her in separate meetings that she could not hang the shirts on VSU property because of a Board of Regents policy.

However, according to Dr. Kimberly Luse, VSU's Chief of Staff, that directive was never given.

"No one in administration has been involved in any decision related to this important event," she said.

Dr. Meyers disputes Dr. Luse's comment.

"I was told in July by Dr. Rogers that I, as the director of the Women's and Gender Studies program, could not use state resources for political purposes," she said.

Dr. Meyers inferred those state resources to be computers, email accounts, campus structures, etc. According to Dr. Meyers, Dr. Rogers told her she needs to use her personal email account to participate in social justice actions and to do so as a private citizen because using state resources for such political endeavors is against BOR policy.

The discussion between Dr. Meyers and Dr. Rogers came about after VSU adjunct professor Dr. Mark George sent an email from his VSU account to the governor and general assembly per a social justice action.

VSU received complaints about Dr. George, citing violations of the BOR policy that forbids employees to use state resources for political purposes. Eventually, VSU shut down Dr. George's email account. Dr. George argued that their decision was politically motivated.

Dr. Meyers then wrote a letter to Dr. McKinney on Aug. 25 after her meeting with Dr. Rogers, explaining her disappointment in VSU's decision regarding Dr. George's political efforts.

"Dr. Rogers stated I could sign these types of petitions (taking action on behalf of issues concerning women, etc.), but I should do so using a personal email account and as a private citizen, not the director of WGST," Dr. Meyers wrote to Dr. McKinney. "If we follow this logic, then that means the WGST program will not be allowed to display the Clothesline Project.

"Social justice is part of the WGST program's identity, it is part of our mission, and it is now a part of the University's mission," she wrote.

Dr. Meyers said that letter prompted a meeting with Dr. McKinney in August.

In the meeting, Dr. McKinney said he would ask the BOR attorney for the policy that does not allow the Clothesline Project to take place. Dr. Meyers said she never received that policy.

On Tuesday, Dr. Luse emailed a BOR policy that refers to political processes to Dr. Meyers.

According to Dr. Meyers, the policy that Dr. Luse produced only discusses political campaigning.

"It doesn't address the policy that the provost and president spoke to me and Dr. George about this summer," she said.

Dr. Meyers believes the policy that supports the decision is different than what Dr. Luse produced to her. The policy Dr. Luse presented refers to political campaigning rather than the use of employees' email for political activity.

"Everything that the WGST program does is political," Dr. Meyers explained. "I am very disappointed that the WGST program and my fellow activist scholars are not allowed to carry out our departmental, university, and professional organizations' mission of social justice work because of what comes down to a BOR policy that has yet to be produced. I find myself at a loss for words to describe how unfortunate I believe this situation to be."

Dr. Luse said no one in the administration has been involved in the decision to ban the Clothesline Project at VSU.

"For the record, the administration has always been and continues to be staunch supporters of the Clothesline Project," she said. "The focus should remain on the positive impact it has for raising awareness for these important issues. It would be irresponsible not to keep that focus or to erroneously report that the president, provost, or anyone in administration would not support this good work."

The WGST program tied the clotheslines up and hung signs explaining why the clotheslines had no T-shirts as usual.

Dr. McKinney and Dr. Rogers were not available for comment on Wednesday. All inquiries were directed to Dr. Luse.

The BOR Policy that Dr. Luse cited:

1. Employees may not manage or take an active part in a political campaign which interferes with the performance of duties or services for which he or she receives compensation from the System.
2. Employees may not hold elective political office at the state or federal level.
3. A candidate for or holder of an elective political office at the state or federal level may not be employed or hold a faculty, staff, or other position at an institution of the System, with or without compensation.
4. Employees seeking elective political office at the state or federal level must first request a leave of absence without pay beginning prior to qualification as a candidate in a primary or general election and ending after the general or final election. If elected to state or federal office such person must resign prior to assuming office.
5. Employees may seek and hold elective office at other than the state or federal level, or appointive office, when such candidacy for or holding of the office does not conflict or interfere with the employee's duties and responsibilities to the institution or the System."

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Tags: [Jordan Hill](#)

## One Comment to "Domestic abuse project hung out to dry"



1. *Jessica Tucker* says:

**October 25, 2014 at 3:47 am**

Would this also include not being able to have the annual Vagina Monologues that are performed every spring? This also is a very political statement that everyone including students and faculty are involved in. I'm not seeing a clear difference in the statements being made about that and the statements being made about the t shirt project.

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## Letter to the Editor: Faculty awaits clarification on BOR policy

Oct 30th, 2014 | By | Category: [2014-10-29](#), [Letter to the Editor](#), [Opinion](#), [Spotlight](#)

I write in support of your article "Domestic abuse project hung out to dry".

I was in the Faculty Senate Meeting when this issue was raised by Dr. Tracy Meyers, Director , WGST. Dr. Meyers told the Senate what she had been told relative to the clothesline project and that it could be deemed political activity that is prohibited by the BOR.

The Provost was there. He did not comment, confirm or dispute the statements made by Dr. Meyers. I took that THEN, and still do TODAY, to mean that her assertions were accurate.

The Faculty Senate has been anxiously awaiting clarification on this issue and, to date, has received none.

Lynn Adams, PhD, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor

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## Letter To The Editor: Director of Clothesline Project clears the air on BOR policy disagreement

Nov 6th, 2014 | By | Category: [2014-11-6](#), [Fall 2014](#), [Letter to the Editor](#), [Opinion](#)

On June 23, Dr. Mark George, adjunct professor for the Women's and Gender Studies program (WGST), used his VSU email to send a letter to the governor and General Assembly asking them to "no longer endorse, promote, and support Confederate holidays, events, and historic sites." Dr. George's social justice action was conducted on behalf of the Mary Turner Project (MTP) for which he is the coordinator. MTP is an anti-racism organization that Dr. George and VSU students started while he was a tenure track professor in the Sociology Department (2008).

During the week of July 16 I received a visit from Provost Dr. Rogers to talk about Dr. George. Dr. Rogers said Dr. George had used "state resources for political purposes" and that was not allowed per BOR policy. I explained the WGST program does social justice work per our program's and university's mission and the faculty identify as "activist scholars." I stated that I send letters to the governor and other elected officials all the time concerning battered and sexually assaulted women. He said I could do that as a "private citizen using my g-mail account" but "not as the WGST director" and I could "not use my VSU account" —"state resources for political purposes." I said WGST wouldn't be able to do any social justice work (clothesline project, etc.) because everything we do is political.

In August I wrote a letter to President McKinney which resulted in a meeting. I told Dr. McKinney the WGST program would not be able to do any social justice work (Clothesline project, etc.). He stated "I like what you do." I said if there is a policy stating that we can't use "state resources for political purposes" and Dr. George's anti-racism social justice action was not allowed the other WGST social justice actions were just as political and could not be allowed either. I stated it would not be fair to allow social justice actions which gain positive attention for the university and are politically correct but to deny actions that are controversial and gain negative attention. I stated the only BOR policy that I could find talked about political campaigning and endorsing candidates and had nothing to do with what Dr. George did or what I do. He stated he would contact the BOR attorney to get the policy so we could clarify what is allowed. I still have not received the policy.

On October 21 the chief of staff, Dr. Kimberly Luce, contacted me after she was contacted by a Spectator reporter concerning the Clothesline Project. Dr. Luce contends that the two actions "are unrelated issues." They are not unrelated! They are **BOTH** political social justice actions. If one is unacceptable per a policy, then both are. The administration cannot have it both ways. If they say there is a policy that prohibits the "use of state resources for political purposes" and warranted the actions taken against Dr. George then they need to produce the policy.

Tracy Woodard, Ph.D.  
Director, Women's and Gender Studies  
Professor of Sociology

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### One Comment to "Letter To The Editor: Director of Clothesline Project clears the air on BOR policy disagreement"





1. *Dee Tait* says:

**November 7, 2014 at 3:30 pm**

I am a long-time (45 years) member of this community and a participant in the Mary Turner Project. My education comes from Berry College, Rome GA and Georgia Military College and Valdosta State University, both in Valdosta GA. My thanks to Dr. Tracy Woodward, VSU Director of Women's and Gender Studies, for her efforts to bring clarification concerning any Georgia Board of Regents policy that prohibited Dr. Mark George, then a VSU professor, from doing the work he did on the Mary Turner Project and doing it from Valdosta State University. Until this issue is resolved, I, as I feel certain many other participants in the MTP, will remain interested in being pointed to this Georgia Board of Regents rule and its clarification as it applies to this project.

Dee Tait

**Reply**

## Leave a Comment

Name (required)

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Website