



University of Detroit Mercy Professors' Union
4100 W. McNichols Drive, P.O. Box 19900, Detroit, MI 48219-0900

25 March 2009

Gerard L. Stockhausen, S.J., President
University of Detroit Mercy
4001 W. McNichols
Detroit, Michigan 48221-3038

On behalf of the University of Detroit Mercy Professors' Union (UDMPU), I write to express our displeasure over the process that was used in the recent decision to appoint the Interim Academic Vice President (AVP) and Provost as permanent AVP and Provost.

The UDMPU and the UDM administration have agreed to participate in a shared governance model as stipulated in Appendix A of our contract. Thus, the appointment of the AVP without faculty involvement in the process is a violation of the spirit of shared governance as well as the text of Appendix A and the contract.

We are in receipt of a letter of March 16 from the McNichols Faculty Assembly which also documents the lack of faculty involvement in the process which determined the now permanent AVP and Provost. We agree with the sentiments of this letter and would, in turn, like to emphasize that appropriate faculty bodies should always be involved in formulating and conducting the search procedures for all chief academic officers. We remind you that the faculty lodged a similar complaint when the Interim AVP was appointed. While we acknowledge that a final hiring decision is an administrative right, again—as described in Appendix A—such a decision is to be made in the spirit of shared governance and, thus, after the faculty have been consulted and allowed an opportunity for substantive input.

Before concluding, let me emphasize that our only purpose here is to discuss the violations of the process and not the substance of the final decision. We do, however, request a response to our concerns.

Sincerely,

R. Michael Canjar,
President, UDMPU

Cc: Pamela Zarkowski, Academic Vice President and Provost
Matthew Mio, President, McNichols Faculty Assembly