

From: ["Bob Ritter" <Ritter>](#)
To: [Jerry <Ceppos>](#)
CC:
Date: 11/4/2014 11:00:34 AM
Subject: Summary of Jack Weiss's comments
Attachments: [Jack Weiss.docx](#)

Jerry:

Here's a summary of Jack's comments this morning.

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Jack Weiss called this morning with serious concerns about the two Reveille stories on racial diversity at the law school.

He asked that we consider three concerns: inaccuracy; failure to obtain response from him or other law school officials; misquotations attributed to him in the first story.

Weiss said both recent stories were inaccurate and lacked perspective. He said diversity among faculty and students at LSU exceeds both Tulane and Loyola and ranks No. 1 among SEC law schools. He said diversity numbers have grown each year for the last several years.

Weiss said when a white student expressed concern about diversity, he convened a blue ribbon committee to address the matter. In his letter to the law school community, he said he also was concerned about diversity, but also reported what he considered progress at the school. The reporter, according to Jack, never contacted his office for comment and didn't review the letter.

In regard to this morning's story, Weiss said the racial slur issue was referred to a student honor board (not certain whether in the law school or the university at large), which exonerated the student. Weiss said he publically disagreed with the board's decision, another fact that wasn't reported.

Finally, he pointed out that the reporter failed to contact the law school for comment in this morning's story.

Weiss said issues of race must be handled with extreme care. He said the newspaper acted irresponsibly in its approach to these stories. When I asked that he meet with the editor to discuss his concerns, he at first asked me not to share his comments. When I pointed out that this was a teaching moment and pointed out that such error were taken very seriously, he said he would refer further comment to the law school's P.R. person and to Linda Bonnin at University Relations.

He also mentioned that an earlier story on the poor employment market for law school graduates failed to reflect the employment record of LSU law, which, he said, was higher than trends across the country.

Finally, he said to his knowledge the reporter had not visited the law school and that she called him between classes for comment on the first diversity story. His point was that she needed to visit with him personally to understand the issue from his perspective – which the reporting was done far too casually in light of the seriousness of the issue.