

**From:** Soniat, Karen <Karen.Soniat@law.lsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 28, 2014 12:51 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack <jmweiss@law.lsu.edu>  
**Cc:** Pucheu, Tiffany <tiffany.pucheu@law.lsu.edu>; Hood, Christina  
<Christina.Hood@law.lsu.edu>  
**Subject:** Ltr to Editor, Oct. 28, 2014 RE. Diversity Article  
**Attach:** Ltr to Editor, Oct. 28, 2014 RE. Diversity Article.docx

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DRAFT attached.

KS

HOOD0000082

Mr. Chandler Rome  
Editor, *The Daily Reveille*  
B39 Hodges Hall, LSU  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express concern over incorrect quotes and those placed out of context in the October 27, 2014, article by your reporter titled, "Law Center Appoints Diversity Task Force to Combat Lack of Diversity." The reporter paraphrased my quotes and failed to accurately portray my comments. The headline of the article also misrepresents my letter to the LSU Law Community of October 23 regarding the appointment of a Diversity Task Force. Over the past month, your headline writers have twice mischaracterized Law Center accomplishments or actions, and factual errors in two stories have given readers inaccurate information relative to diversity accomplishments and our highly positive employment outcomes for Law Center graduates. Comparison to Southern University Law Center, an HBCU, is not an appropriate comparison, and had your reporter obtained comparison numbers for other Louisiana Law schools, she would have found that enrollment of students of color at LSU Law .... (fill in) (do you want to include some stats??)

In the first quote, the writer left out an important portion of my comment -- herein underlined -- which was, "If there are ways we can do a better job for our students, no one is more anxious to find out what those ways are than the faculty and Administration of the Law Center." The omission of my preceding words leaves the reader with a totally different take on the current state of diversity affairs at LSU Law. The omission, taken together with the inflammatory use of the word, "combat" in the headline, would leave readers to conclude that the Law Center has failed to act aggressively to recruit students and faculty of color, or that extreme problems exist in regard to the culture of inclusiveness at the Center. Your writer failed to note that the number of African American students has almost tripled since 2007 and that overall minority students have almost doubled in the same timeframe. Also of note, since 2002, the diversity of our tenured and tenure-track faculty members has increased from 11 percent to 22 percent women and from 6 percent to 11 percent minority faculty members

Similarly, a second quote is taken "in part," and out of context. My quote should have read, "All of the hiring decisions we make are a function of budgetary constraints and setting priorities, but I would certainly consider such a hire [Vice Chancellor for Diversity or Student Affairs] if the task force recommended it." I also added that, "it's a long way from a suggestion in a [student] letter to a recommendation of a distinguished task force."

In general, the article fails to acknowledge the enormous progress made toward fostering a truly diverse community at the LSU Law Center. We always strive to improve our numbers, with the goal of providing an educated, diverse group of talented graduates to Louisiana's legal community. The road to genuine diversity is long and winding, and I believe, the journey is one that will never be truly complete. I am confident, however, that the Law Center will welcome the creative and constructive suggestions of the new task force as to how we at the Law Center might move further and more quickly along that winding road within the confines of our budget

HOOD0000083

and the realities of the competitive world around us.  
Jack M. Weiss, Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center

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](#)

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**Jerry:**

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

**Bob Ritter**

Director of Student Media  
Professional-In-Residence  
Louisiana State University

225.773.7820  
[rwritter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu)



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.

**Archived:** Friday, June 12, 2015 8:39:10 AM  
**From:** Jerry Ceppos  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2014 3:58:38 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** Re: Reveille  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Let me nose around.  
Jerry Ceppos

Dean

Manship School of Mass Communication

213 Journalism Building

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

(o): 225 578 9294

(f): 225 578 2125

Jceppos@lsu.edu

[www.manship.lsu.edu](http://www.manship.lsu.edu) <<http://www.manship.lsu.edu>>

On 11/4/14, 3:39 PM, "Weiss, Jack" <jmweiss@law.lsu.edu> wrote:

>No word from the editor...

>

>Sent from my iPhone

WEISS0000593

From: ["Bob Ritter" <Ritter>](#)  
To: [Jerry <Ceppos>](#)  
CC:  
Date: 11/4/2014 5:22:38 PM  
Subject: Re: Reveille

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Jerry: Chandler is in his news meeting. I'll corral him when he comes out.  
I fully brief Chandler and Tim this morning just before 10:30.

My understanding was that Chandler would follow up with Jack when he got out of your class.

Bob Ritter  
Director of Student Media  
Professional-In-Residence  
Louisiana State University

225.773.7820  
rwritter@lsu.edu

On 11/4/14, 3:59 PM, "Jerry Ceppos" wrote:

>Im not sure how to handle this other than to stay out of it. Thoughts?  
>Jerry Ceppos  
>  
>Dean

>  
>Manship School of Mass Communication  
>  
>213 Journalism Building  
>  
>Louisiana State University  
>  
>Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
>  
>(o): 225 578 9294  
>  
>(f): 225 578 2125  
>  
>Jceppos@lsu.edu  
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>www.manship.lsu.edu  
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>  
>On 11/4/14, 3:39 PM, "Weiss, Jack" wrote:  
>  
>>No word from the editor...  
>>  
>>Sent from my iPhone  
>

**From:** Chandler Rome [mailto:[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2014 5:14 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** Daily Reveille Letter

Hi Jack,

By way of introduction, my name is Chandler Rome and I am the editor in chief of The Daily Reveille. In meeting with Bob Ritter today, I was informed that you weren't pleased with our story in today's paper and I hope to address your questions. I apologize for the length of time it took me to get in touch with you -- classes and election night hoopla kept me preoccupied until now.

First and foremost, in the interest of full disclosure, Brittany Clark (the reporter who has worked both stories) is a first semester reporter. This in no way exonerates her of shortcomings or lack of depth in reporting, but we must remember she is learning the craft as she goes. And it is apparent that in certain aspects, I have failed in teaching her the intricacies of reporting.

There is no way to sugar coat this. Brittany should have requested an interview with you for the story that ran today and that's a misstep that she has admitted to. In speaking with her regarding the incident, she said she was more preoccupied with "turning the story around" to fill the newspaper. This is a flawed logic of thinking in any newsroom and I have not done a good enough job of dispelling that logic in my newsroom. I pride myself on having thorough, fair, and objective content and I'm not sure today's story reflects my policies. A phone call or email to your office would have allayed some of your complaints and would have made for a more thorough, well-reported story told from both sides.

In reference to your complaint that you were misquoted in Brittany's first story, Brittany said she recorded the conversation you two had and transcribed your comments directly -- a longstanding newsroom policy that she followed correctly. If you could further elucidate where you believe you were misquoted so that I may take a closer look, that would be helpful.

I apologize for my shortcomings in overseeing the depth of reporting of this story and I would invite a face-to-face meeting so that I can both apologize in person and we can speak about diversity in the Law Center in an open manner. I urge you to remember that while The Daily Reveille prides itself on being more than a student newspaper, its staff is comprised of just that -- students. My staff and I continue to learn and flourish on a daily basis and this incident will serve as a learning experience for all.

I would love to meet in person with you, something Dean Ceppos said you would also like to engage in. Please let me know what time would be feasible and I can work around my schedule to ensure we have a productive conversation.

SONIAT0000832

Also, feel free to contact me by email at [crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com) or phone at [225-754-2070](tel:225-754-2070).

Regards,

Chandler Rome

--

Chandler Rome

Editor-in-Chief

The Daily Reveille

[225.754.2070](tel:225.754.2070) (C)

Twitter: @Chandler\_Rome

--

Chandler Rome

Editor-in-Chief

The Daily Reveille

225.754.2070 (C)

Twitter: @Chandler\_Rome

SONIAT0000833

**From:** Soniat, Karen <Karen.Soniat@law.lsu.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 4, 2014 6:41 PM  
**To:** crome35@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Weiss, Jack <jmweiss@law.lsu.edu>  
**Subject:** Information we discussed today  
**Attach:** Jack Weiss 11-20-12 email to All Students, Law Center on Matter of Community Concern.docx; Data, % Students of Color; African American Students; Comparison to Selected LA Law Schools and SEC.pptx; Appt of Diversity Task Force.pdf

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Chandler,

The Chancellor and I look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible regarding steps *The Reveille* plans take to correct the facts and assertions in your recent stories about the Law Center's diversity and employment outcomes.

Attached, please find the following:

1. Chancellor's email to students regarding the 2012 Halloween incident (reported on so poorly in today's *Reveille*). If you need to see the actual email, I'll be happy to forward.
2. The real data regarding the Law Center's diversity statistics in comparison to selected LA law schools and the SEC
3. Chancellor's letter – sent to all students/faculty/and to alumni - in regard to the appointment of a Diversity Task Force.

Sincerely,

Karen Soniat

**Karen M. Soniat, Ph.D.**

Director, Communications and External Relations

LSU Law Center

225/578-8645 direct

225/938-7763 cell

225/578-0733 office

Suite 400

Mailing Address:

LSU Law Center Office of Alumni Relations

110 LSU Union Building

Baton Rouge, LA 70803-0106

**LSU LAW**  
*Far more  
than a common law school*

HOOD0000053

**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2012 4:25 PM  
**To:** [Broadcast law students@lsu.edu](mailto:Broadcast_law_students@lsu.edu)  
**Cc:** LISTSERV - LAWCTR-ALRT-L  
**Subject:** A Matter of Community Concern

Dear Students:

Ordinarily I would speak with you in person about the matter that follows-- at a town hall meeting or in a similar setting. Because both exams and Thanksgiving are upon us, however, and because I do not believe this message should be delayed, I am using e mail to communicate with you at this time. There will be opportunity for in person discussion at a later date if that is necessary.

As many of you no doubt are aware, there was an ugly incident at a student Halloween party that resulted in a near altercation between two male students of different races. Although some of the facts appear to be contested, it is undisputed, as far as I know, that one of the students hurled a vicious racial epithet at the other in the course of their confrontation. The target of this racial slur filed an ethics complaint alleging that he had been assaulted and demeaned by the conduct of his fellow student. A screening panel of students, constituted under newly revised procedures recommended by a student-faculty committee and approved only last month by a vote of the faculty, determined, after a preliminary inquiry, that there was an inadequate basis under the Code of Student Professional Responsibility to proceed with a full hearing on the matter.

From all that I understand, the determination of the ethics screening panel represented its interpretation of the "law of the school". Reasonable minds might disagree. Nevertheless, as a law school community committed to studying and respecting the rule of law, we must stand by the determination of the screening panel in this case, subject to any recognized procedure for revisiting or overturning that determination that likewise would be consistent with our respect for the rule of law. As a community, we may well (and entirely appropriately) apply our critical thinking skills to improve the Code of Student Professional Responsibility and the screening/adjudication process going forward, but I do not think that it is open to me, as Chancellor, or our community as a whole, to discard or supersede the determination reached by a body duly constituted under our currently applicable procedures.

All of this said, there is no question about the reprehensible business of a face-to-face racial slur directed at a fellow student, or at any member of our law school community, or for that matter, at anyone at all. Words of this kind can inflict injury and humiliation more lasting and more serious, even, than many physical blows. Both as Chancellor and as one member of this law school community, I condemn unequivocally the use of this hateful word in the circumstances of the Halloween party incident. To be sure, there are serious constitutional issues surrounding the use of "hate speech" in other, very different contexts. But a one-on-one racial taunt delivered in person, with

HOOD0000054



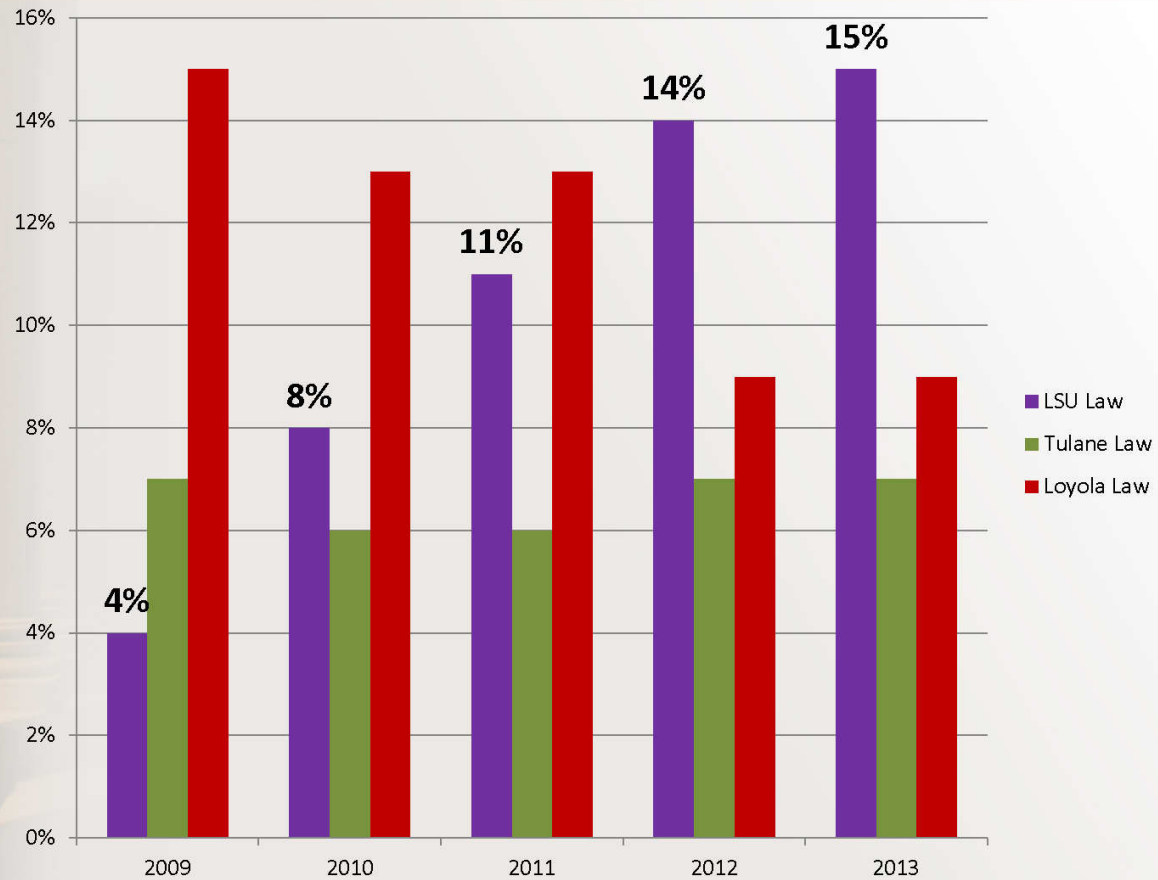
physical conflict a distinct and immediately looming possibility, enjoys no constitutional protection; it is, even for one passionately devoted to free speech, a classic example of "fighting words". The Supreme Court declared such speech outside of the boundaries of constitutional protection some 70 years ago.

I hope that, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we can look beyond this sad incident and treat it as a temporary aberration from the atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect to which we all aspire and that we have all worked hard to create. Let us return to work thankful in the knowledge that we are united both in our respect for the rule of law and our determination to continue building a law school community, and a world, that reflects the better angels of our nature, not the demons of the past.

With my sincere regards for a peaceful, safe, and happy Thanksgiving break.

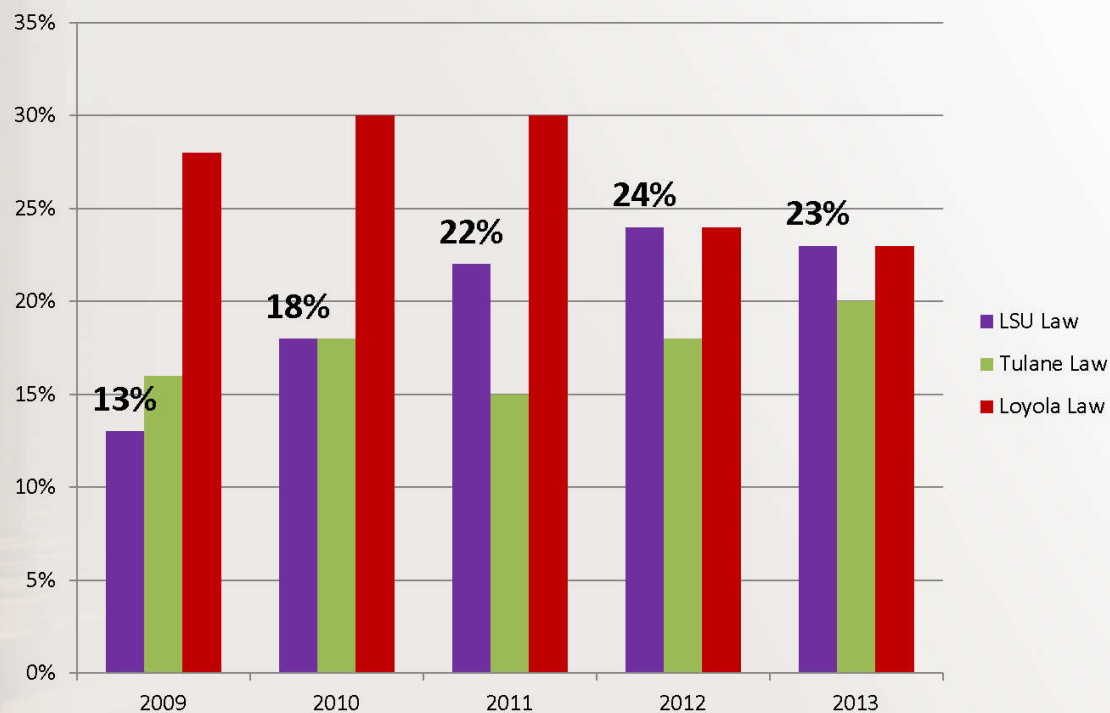
Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

## Distribution: % African American Students at Selected Louisiana Law Schools



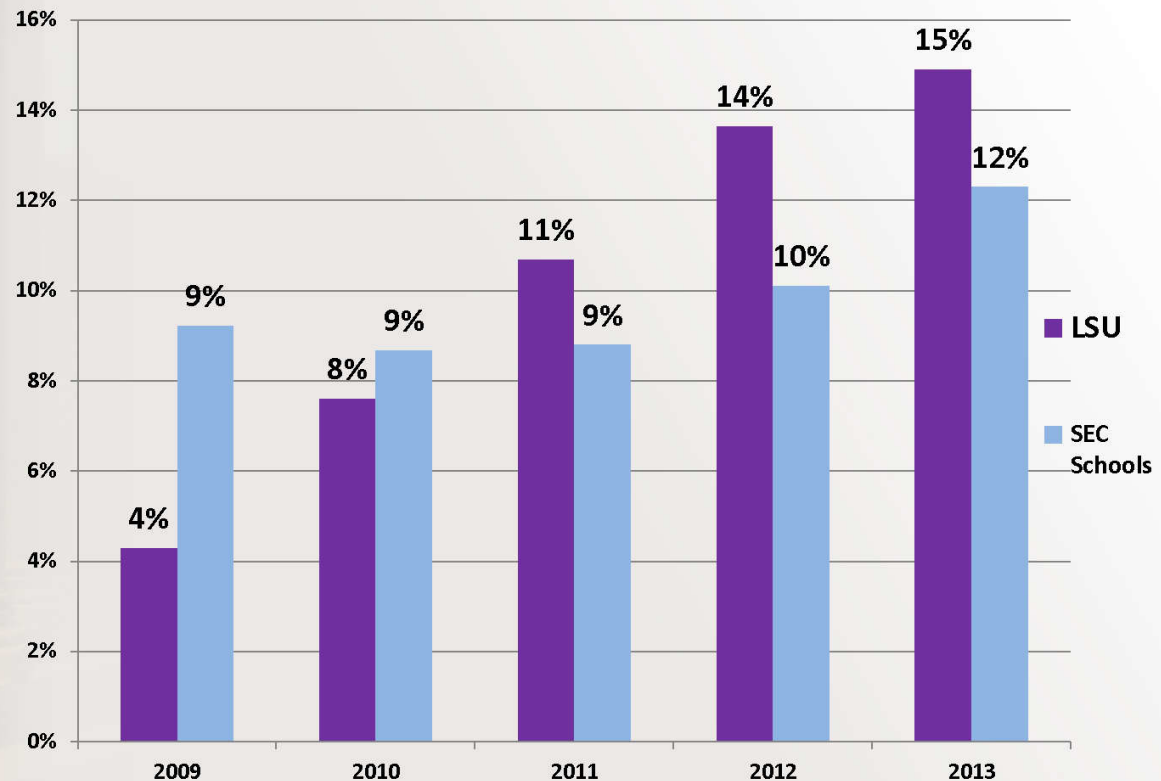
Full Time, JD, includes African American Only

## Distribution: % Students of Color at Selected Louisiana Law Schools



Full Time, JD, includes all races except Caucasian

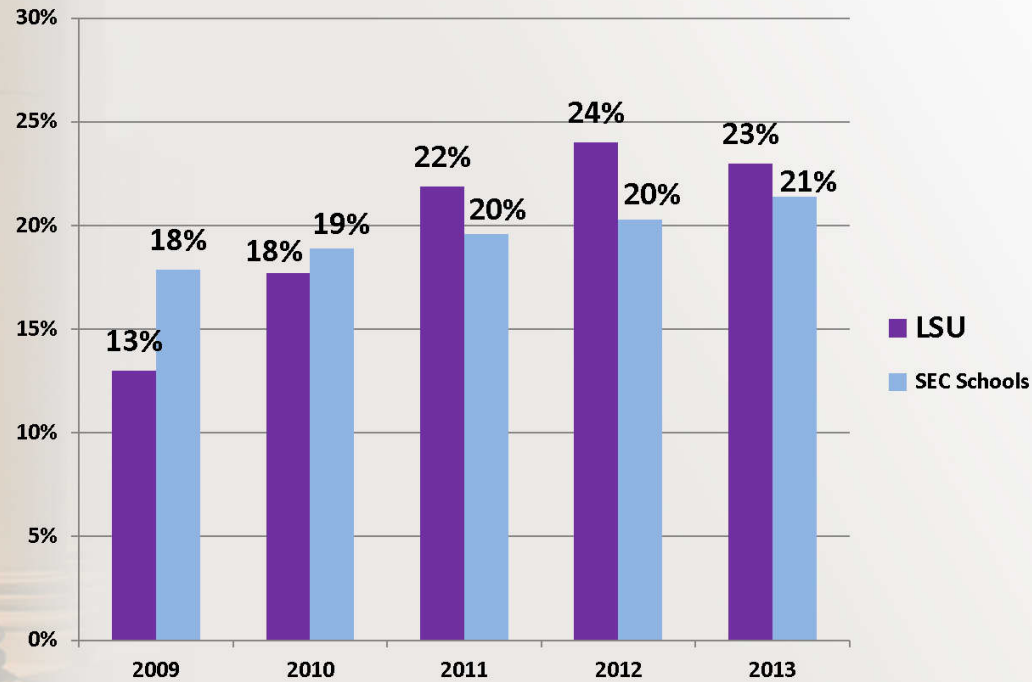
## Distribution: % African American Students at LSU vs. SEC Law Schools



Full Time, JD, includes African American Only

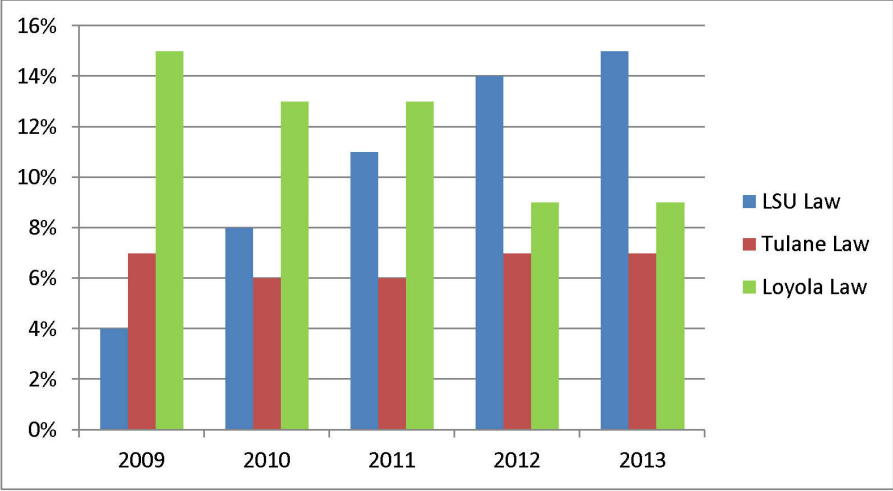
SEC figure represents the aggregate average of % African Americans, among all SEC Schools

# Distribution: % Students of Color at LSU vs. SEC Law Schools

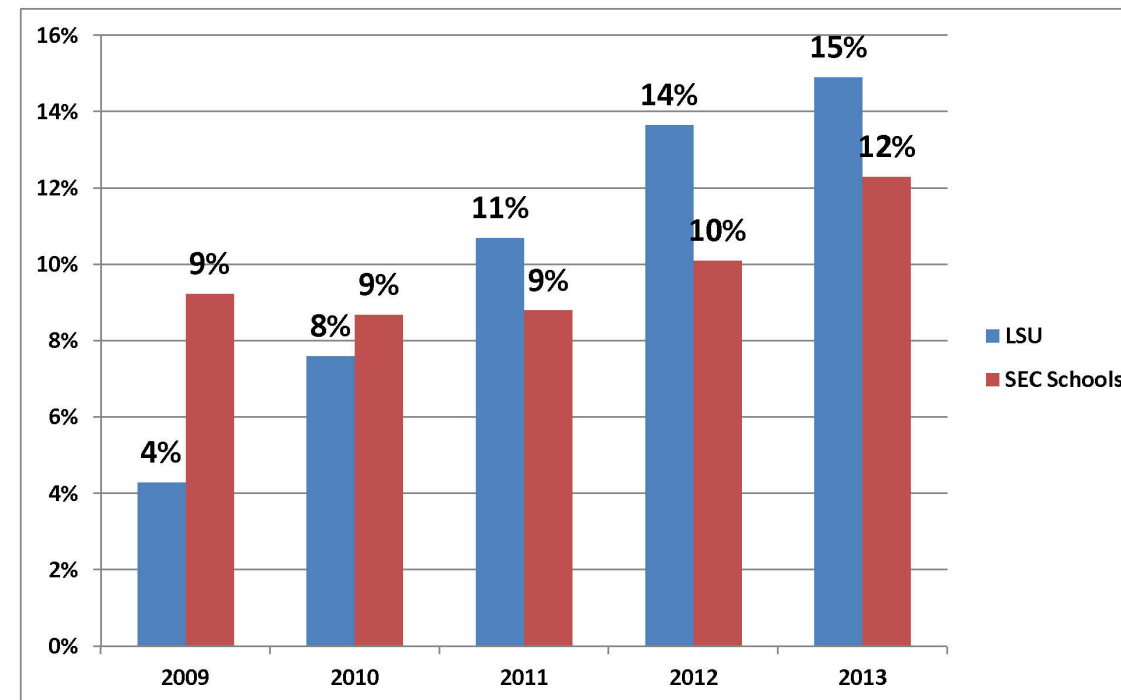


Full Time, JD, includes all races except Caucasian  
SEC Figure represents the aggregate average of %  
Students of Color, among all SEC schools

	LSU Law	Tulane Law	Loyola Law
2009	4%	7%	15%
2010	8%	6%	13%
2011	11%	6%	13%
2012	14%	7%	9%
2013	15%	7%	9%




	LSU	SEC Schools
2009	4%	9%
2010	8%	9%
2011	11%	9%
2012	14%	10%
2013	15%	12%







TO: LSU Law Community

FROM: Jack M. Weiss   
Chancellor

DATE: October 23, 2014

RE: Appointment of Diversity Task Force

I am today appointing a broadly based task force including students, Law Center faculty and staff, and graduates of the Law Center to address the concerns expressed in Mr. Alagood's letter of October 20, 2014 and seconded by Mr. Hairston. The charge of the task force will be to consider and make recommendations to the faculty and the Administration of the Law Center on means by which the Law Center can "help [all students, including] minority students succeed, foster camaraderie among all students, and promote better understanding of one another's cultures and experiences," to quote from Mr. Hairston's recent e mail to me.

The task force will be chaired by Darrel J. Papillion (LSU Law '94), founding partner of Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens, LLC. Mr. Papillion is the current President of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and a longtime adjunct professor at the Law Center. Other members of the task force (in alphabetical order, with current faculty standing committee appointments indicated) will be:

- Kenneth Barnes, '15, President, LSU Student Bar Association
- Molly Brannon, '15, President, LSU Legal Association of Women
- Professor John M. Church (Chair, Faculty Appointments; Chair, Apprenticeship Week; Promotion & Tenure (elected); International Student Programs)
- Andrew Hairston, '16, President, LSU Black Law Students Association
- LSU Law Director of Admissions Jake Henry
- Ashley Jackson, '15, President, LSU Outlaw
- Hon. Bonnie F. Jackson, '78, Judge, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court
- Professor Robert E. Lancaster (Chair, Clinical Legal Education; Faculty Appointments)
- Professor Christina M. Sautter (Chair, Student Educational Policies; Legal Writing and Academic Success)
- Professor Margaret S. Thomas (Admissions; Faculty Appointments)
- Professor Christopher J. Tyson (Faculty Appointments; Legal Writing and Academic Success)
- Monica Vela-Vick, (U. Michigan Law '07; associate, Walters, Papillion)
- LSU Law Librarian Beth Williams (Legal Writing and Academic Success; Faculty Scholarship; Law Review & Energy Law Journal)



I anticipate that the task force will begin its work shortly and that it will provide its report and recommendations early in 2015.

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It is important that the work of the new task force be viewed in its proper context. The faculty and Administration of the Law Center are strongly committed to diversity in all its many aspects. In recent years, the Law Center has made enormous progress toward fostering a truly diverse community.

In particular, since 2007, the diversity of the Law Center student body has increased dramatically. In fall 2007, approximately 4% of our students were African-American students; by 2014, that number had tripled, to 12%. Students of color, who constituted 13% of the student body in 2007, now constitute 21% of the current student body. Whereas as recently as 2007 both of these enrollments at LSU Law substantially trailed that of Louisiana's two non-historically black law schools, Tulane and Loyola, by 2013—the most recent year for which comparative data is available-- on a percentage basis, African-American enrollment at LSU Law substantially exceeded that of each of the other two schools. In 2013, overall percentage enrollment of students of color at the Law Center was about equal to that of Loyola Law and greater than that of Tulane Law.

Likewise, when compared to law schools at other Southeastern Conference universities, African-American enrollment at LSU Law went from less than half the average of our SEC peers as recently as 2009 to several percentage points above that average in 2013 (15% vs. 12%). Our enrollment of all students of color showed the same substantial upward trend vis a vis our SEC peers, from 13% (5% lower than the SEC average) in 2009 to 23% in 2013 (two percentage points above the SEC average of 21%).

During roughly the same time span, the Law Center has substantially increased the diversity of our faculty. Since 2007, the Law Center has hired twelve tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Of these, two are African-American and four are women. Two of these women were recently awarded tenure and promoted to full Professor of Law. The other two women have both been promoted to Associate Professor of Law. In 2002-03, out of a tenured/tenure-track faculty of 36, only 4 were women (11%) and 2 were minorities (6%). In 2009-10, out of a tenured/tenure-track faculty of 35, the number of women had increased to 7 (20%) and the number of minority professors remained at 2. Today, the Law Center employs 36 tenured and tenure-track faculty members; 8 (22%) are women and 4 are minorities (11%).

These figures do not take account of the women and minority members of our non-tenure track faculty and staff. They also do not reflect the offers we have extended to women and minority faculty candidates that have not been accepted. No doubt, as the Law Center faculty and Administration are well aware, increasing the diversity of our faculty remains an important goal. Given our financial constraints and the competitive marketplace for talented minority law teachers, it is a goal that can be reached only incrementally and over time. There is much further

progress to be made in diversity faculty hiring and the faculty is engaged actively in interviewing a number of such candidates at this time.

In addition to the Law Center's successes in increasing the numerical diversity of its students and faculty, it is important to recall the many other recent milestones we have witnessed in realizing our shared dream of a truly inclusive law school community. In 2009, the late Judge Ralph E. Tyson was recognized as the Law Center's Distinguished Alumnus and a conference room named for him to commemorate his many contributions to the community and to the law. Judge Bonnie Jackson was similarly honored in 2012. In 2013, Chief Justice Bernette Johnson was recognized as the Law Center's honorary Order of the Coif inductee and Commencement speaker. In 2012, Chief Judge Brian Jackson was our Coif inductee, as was Judge Ernestine Gray in 2008 and Judge Tyson in 2011. In 2009, the Law Center hired an African-American woman in the vital role of Director of Admissions. She was succeeded in 2010 by our current Director, Jake Henry, also an African-American. And, most encouragingly, African-American and other students of color have been elected by their fellow students in recent years to such leadership positions as Student Bar President, Chair of the Law Center Ethics Committee, multiple class presidencies, Moot Court and Trial Advocacy board, and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Energy Law and Resources. (In fact, this year, 3 of the 4 executive officers of the SBA are African-American students.) Students of color routinely serve as Law Center Ambassadors assisting us with the recruitment of admitted students.

The road to a genuinely diverse community is long and winding—indeed, the journey is one that will never be truly complete. I am confident that our faculty will welcome the creative and constructive suggestions of the new task force as to how we at the Law Center might move further and more quickly along that long and winding road within the limitations of our budget and the realities of the competitive world around us. In thinking about the road we have yet to travel, however, I trust that no one will lose sight of the great distance we have come to get to this point in time and history, yet still very much committed to move even further in the right direction.

JMW:ch

cc: **BY EMAIL**

Dr. F. King Alexander, President, LSU System

Dr. Stuart R. Bell, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, LSU

Dr. Dereck Rovaris, Sr., Vice Provost for Diversity, LSU

Kenneth Barnes, Jr., Executive President, LSU Law Center Student Bar Association

Andrew Hairston, President, LSU Law Center Black Law Students Association

**Archived:** Thursday, June 11, 2015 3:13:33 PM  
**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 12:36:56 PM  
**To:** Jerry Ceppos  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Importance:** Normal

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Yes; a long phone conversation, a couple of e mails, and meeting today with the editor at 1:45. Thanks for your help in getting the conversation started. Best. Jack

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

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**From:** Jerry Ceppos [<mailto:jceppos@lsu.edu>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 12:01 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** <no subject>

Jack:

Did you ever hear from the Reveille?

Jerry

**Jerry Ceppos**  
Dean  
Manship School of Mass Communication  
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Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
(o): 225 578 9294  
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WEISS0000385

**Archived:** Thursday, June 11, 2015 3:40:05 PM  
**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2014 3:56:33 PM  
**To:** Soniat, Karen; Pucheu, Tiffany  
**Subject:** FW: A Matter of Community Concern  
**Response requested:** No  
**Importance:** Normal

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FYI

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

---

**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 20, 2012 4:25 PM  
**To:** Broadcast\_law\_students@lsu.edu  
**Cc:** LISTSERV - LAWCTR-ALRT-L  
**Subject:** A Matter of Community Concern

Dear Students:

Ordinarily I would speak with you in person about the matter that follows-- at a town hall meeting or in a similar setting. Because both exams and Thanksgiving are upon us, however, and because I do not believe this message should be delayed, I am using e mail to communicate with you at this time. There will be opportunity for in person discussion at a later date if that is necessary.

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From all that I understand, the determination of the ethics screening panel represented its interpretation of the "law of the school". Reasonable minds might disagree. Nevertheless, as a law school community committed to studying and respecting the rule of law, we must stand by the determination of the screening panel in this case, subject to any recognized procedure for revisiting or overturning that determination that likewise would be consistent with our respect for the rule of law. As a community, we may well (and entirely appropriately) apply our critical thinking skills to improve the Code of Student Professional

WEISS0000386

Responsibility and the screening/adjudication process going forward, but I do not think that it is open to me, as Chancellor, or our community as a whole, to discard or supersede the determination reached by a body duly constituted under our currently applicable procedures.

All of this said, there is no question about the reprehensible business of a face-to-face racial slur directed at a fellow student, or at any member of our law school community, or for that matter, at anyone at all. Words of this kind can inflict injury and humiliation more lasting and more serious, even, than many physical blows. Both as Chancellor and as one member of this law school community, I condemn unequivocally the use of this hateful word in the circumstances of the Halloween party incident. To be sure, there are serious constitutional issues surrounding the use of "hate speech" in other, very different contexts. But a one-on-one racial taunt delivered in person, with physical conflict a distinct and immediately looming possibility, enjoys no constitutional protection; it is, even for one passionately devoted to free speech, a classic example of "fighting words". The Supreme Court declared such speech outside of the boundaries of constitutional protection some 70 years ago.

I hope that, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, we can look beyond this sad incident and treat it as a temporary aberration from the atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect to which we all aspire and that we have all worked hard to create. Let us return to work thankful in the knowledge that we are united both in our respect for the rule of law and our determination to continue building a law school community, and a world, that reflects the better angels of our nature, not the demons of the past.

With my sincere regards for a peaceful, safe, and happy Thanksgiving break.

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

WEISS0000387



**Archived:** Thursday, June 11, 2015 3:14:19 PM

**From:** Hood, Christina

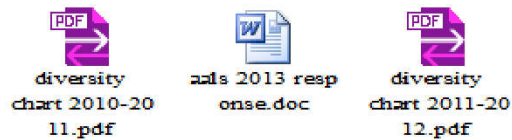
**Sent:** Thursday, October 23, 2014 10:41:09 AM

**To:** Weiss, Jack

**Subject:** AALS info: Emailing: Diversity Chart 2010-2011, AALS 2013 response, Diversity Chart 2011-2012

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:** [Diversity Chart 2010-2011.pdf](#) ; [AALS 2013 response.doc](#) ; [Diversity Chart 2011-2012.pdf](#) ;



Attached is the letter to AALS. The same charts from the ABA file are in this file. Also attached are 2 additional charts that were specifically required by AALS. I have them in WordPerfect only for some reason. I can recreate them in Word if you need me to.

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**AALS Full-Time Law Faculty Diversity Chart  
2010-2011**

Name of Law School	LSU Law Center												
Category	Total	African American		Asian American		Caucasian		Hispanic/Latino		Native American		Other	
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Tenure/Tenure Track	32	1	2			7	22						
Deans, Administrators, Librarians	12	2				3	7						
Long-term Contracts such as Clinical not on tenure track	3						3						
Legal Writing not on tenure track	6				1	5							
Other Long Term Contract Faculty (if any)	0												
Other (Specify below. Do not include Part-time. Do not count a person twice.)	0												
Totals	53	3	2		1	15	32						

Other Category	
----------------	--

Other Diversity	
-----------------	--

**VIA E MAIL AND U.S. MAIL**

January 30, 2013

Susan Westerberg Prager  
Executive Director  
Association of American Law Schools  
1201 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20036-2717

Re: LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center

Dear Ms. Prager:

By letter of February 29, 2012, you informed us that the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools ("AALS") has some concerns about the Law Center's compliance with AALS Bylaw 6-3(c), which requires that member schools seek to maintain a faculty that is diverse with respect to race, color, and gender. The Executive Committee requested "a progress report on compliance or steps taken to bring [the Law Center] into compliance with the Association's membership requirements." To this end, the Executive Committee asked that the Law Center "report on and evaluate [its] efforts for increasing faculty diversity in academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12, as well as the actions the law school intends to take in subsequent years to acquire and maintain a diverse faculty."

The Law Center fully recognizes and embraces the values represented by Bylaw 6-3(c). Moreover, the Law Center has consistently disputed any suggestion that it is not fully in compliance with Bylaw 6-3(c). It continues to do so here. Without limiting the foregoing, this letter responds to the request that the Law Center explain the steps it has taken to produce and ensure diversity among its faculty.

The Law Center's commitment to diversity is amply demonstrated by its record between 2002-03, when the Law Center began its previous review by the AALS, and 2011-12 at the near close of the most recent AALS review. In 2002-03, there were 43 members of the full time faculty, including those faculty who also were administrators. Only 2 were members of minority groups, and 10 were women. In 2011-12, 5 of 45 members of the full time faculty were members of minority groups, and 14 were women. Indeed, these numbers were up from 2009-10 when the Law Center submitted its self-study that began the most recent review. Of the 41

**WEISS0000390**



persons on the faculty in 2009-10, the number of minority and women faculty were 2 and 10, respectively. The following table summarizes the numbers:

	<b>Total Full Time Faculty</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Minorities</b>
2002-03	43	10 (23.26%)	2 (4.65%)
2009-10	41	10 (24.39%)	2 (4.88%)
2011-12	45	14 (31.11%)	5 (11.11%)

Beyond this, women constituted 10 of 35 of faculty who in 2011-12 were tenured or on the tenure track. Women constituted 7 of 35 faculty who were tenured or on the tenure track in 2009-10. In 2002-03, there were 4 of 36 who were tenured or on the tenure track. Minority faculty were 4 of 35, 2 of 35, and 2 of 36 with tenure or on the tenure track in 2011-12, 2009-10, and 2002-03, respectively. The following chart summarizes the numbers:

	<b>Total Tenure/Tenure Track Faculty</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Minorities</b>
2002-03	36	4 (11.11%)	2 (5.56%)
2009-10	35	7 (20.00%)	2 (5.71%)
2011-12	35	10 (28.57%)	4 (11.43%)

These numbers, more detail concerning which can be found in Tables A-E, attached, demonstrate a consistent upward trend, for both women and minorities, both in raw numbers and percentages.

These concrete results have not occurred by accident. In addition to participating in the AALS recruitment process and advertising for faculty positions, the Law Center engages in affirmative outreach, outside of the AALS recruitment process, to identify candidates who may be of interest. The appointments committee keeps a constant watch for lateral candidates, with a special eye for minority candidates who have a connection to Louisiana. This attention was responsible in part for bringing a senior lateral minority professor to the Law Center in 2009. Since 2008, at least one member of the appointments committee has taken on the task of inquiring of federal judges and judges of the Louisiana Supreme Court about former clerks who hold good promise. Through this process, candidates, many of them minorities, have been brought to the attention of the appointments committee. Although no offers have been extended, one candidate has been the subject of a screening interview.

Similarly, the Chancellor's office as well as members of the faculty appointments committee make discrete inquiries among the practicing bar both inside Louisiana and out of state to identify practitioners with sophisticated practice experience and an academic bent who might be interested in moving into the academy. One member of the faculty regularly makes it a

point to identify, encourage, and guide junior minority lawyers who are interested in the academy. Those efforts converged in 2010 and enabled us to identify and hire a promising junior minority candidate to the tenure track that year.

As noted, the Law Center makes inquiries outside the ordinary AALS process to identify potential teachers among the members of the Louisiana bar. This is especially so with respect to candidates with a particular interest in Louisiana's private civil law. These inquiries are not specific to minority candidates, but are more general. Since 2008, these efforts have resulted in the hiring of two female members of the tenure track faculty who were identified and hired outside of the AALS recruiting process.

The Law Center's efforts are detailed not only in the "AALS Full-Time Faculty Diversity Chart" for 2010-11 and 2011-12, as required by your letter, but also in Tables A-D, attached as part of this response. 5 of the 14 women on the faculty in 2011-12 had joined the faculty since 2008, and only 2 of these 5 were recruited through the AALS process. 4 of the 5 minorities on the faculty had joined the faculty since 2008, and none of these 4 was recruited through the AALS process. Indeed, of the 17 persons who had joined the faculty since 2008, only 3 have emerged through the AALS process. The following chart summarizes the numbers:

<b>Faculty Hires, 2008-2012</b>				
	<b>All Faculty</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Minorities</b>
AALS Process	4	2	2	0
Other Outreach	13	10	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	17	12	5	4

The Law Center certainly plans to continue participation in the AALS process and in the practice of advertising outside of that process. Advertising will be extended, however, to include publications that would be of special interest to minority candidates, such as the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education. These might include publications of the National Bar Association and Hispanic Bar Association, for example, as well as the publications of discrete local chapters where there might be a large number of potential candidates. Law Center efforts will include active participation at annual or other meetings of specialty bar associations that appeal to minority lawyers and women lawyers. The Law Center will formalize affirmative outreach to judges for their counsel about former clerks, and expand such outreach to include professors at law schools recognized as feeder institutions to the legal academy. And the Law Center will encourage informal contacts among the faculty with practicing lawyers, aimed at the development of potential interest in the legal academy generally and the Law Center in particular.

Susan Westerberg Prager  
Page 4  
January 30, 2013

We are happy to provide additional information if needed.

Very truly yours,

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor

JMW:ch

cc: Dr. William L. Jenkins  
Interim President, Louisiana State University System

Attachments

WEISS0000393

Table A: All Full Time Faculty, 2011-12

	Name	Tenure Status	Minority Status	Gender	Hired Since 2008
1	Marlene Allgood	contract, LR&W		F	
2	Paul R. Baier	tenured			
3	Grace Barry	contract, LR&W		F	
4	Joseph T. Bockrath	tenured			
5	James W. Bowers	tenured			
6	Jeffrey C. Brooks	contract, Clinic & Skills			✓
7	Jennifer Camero	contract, LR&W		F	✓
8	Andrea Beauchamp Carroll	tenured		F	
9	Elizabeth R. Carter	tenure track		F	✓
10	John M. Church	tenured			
11	William R. Corbett	tenured			
12	Christine A. Corcos	tenured		F	
13	John J. Costonis	tenured			
14	William E. Crawford	tenured			
15	John Devlin	tenured			
16	Raymond T. Diamond	tenured	✓		✓
17	Mark Glover	contract, LR&W			✓
18	Darlene C. Goring	tenured	✓	F	
19	Philip Hackney	tenure track			✓
20	Wendell H. Holmes	tenured			
21	H. Alston Johnson, III	contract			✓
22	Cheney C. Joseph, Jr.	tenured, Vice Chancellor			
22	Andrew Kim	contract, LR&W	✓		✓
23	P. Raymond Lamonica	tenured, system general counsel			
24	Robert E. Lancaster	LT contract, Clinic & Skills			
25	Alain A. Levasseur	tenured			
26	Ken Levy	tenure track			
27	Hector Linares	contract, Clinic & Skills	✓		✓
28	Lee Ann Wheelis Lockridge	tenured		F	
29	Melissa T. Lonegrass	tenure track		F	✓
30	Michael J. Malinowski	tenured			
31	Kenneth A. Mayeaux	contract, Clinic & Skills			✓
32	Lucy S. McGough	tenured		F	

Table A: All Full Time Faculty, 2011-12					
33	Olivier Moréteau	tenured			
34	Glenn G. Morris	tenured			
35	Christopher Pietruszkiewicz	tenured, Vice Chancellor			
36	Edward P. Richards	tenured			
37	Christina M. Sautter	tenure track		F	✓
38	Kathy Flynn Simino	contract, LR&W		F	
39	N. Gregory Smith	tenured			
40	Scott Sullivan	tenure track			✓
41	Margaret S. Thomas	tenure track		F	✓
42	Heidi Thompson	contract, LR&W		F	
43	John Randall Trahan	tenured			
44	Christopher J. Tyson	tenure track	✓		✓
45	Jack M. Weiss	tenured, Chancellor			

Table B: Full Time Minority Faculty, 2011-12

	Name	Tenure Status	Minority Status	Gender	Recruited through AALS	Hired since 2008
1	Raymond T. Diamond	tenured	✓			✓
2	Darlene C. Goring	tenured	✓	F	✓	
3	Andrew Kim	contract	✓			✓
4	Hector Linares	contract	✓			✓
5	Christopher J. Tyson	tenure track	✓			✓

Table C: Full Time Women Faculty, 2011-2012

	Name	Tenure Status	Minority Status	Hired since 2008
1	Marlene Allgood	contract, LR&W		
2	Grace Barry	contract, LR&W		
3	Jennifer Camero	contract, LR&W		✓
4	Andrea Beauchamp Carroll	tenured		
5	Elizabeth R. Carter	tenure track		✓
6	Christine A. Corcos	tenured		
7	Darlene C. Goring	tenured	✓	
8	Lee Ann Wheelis Lockridge	tenured		
9	Melissa T. Lonegrass	tenure track		✓
10	Lucy S. McGough	tenured		
11	Christina M. Sautter	tenure track		✓
12	Kathy Flynn Simino	contract, LR&W		
13	Margaret S. Thomas	tenure track		✓
14	Heidi Thompson	contract, LR&W		

**Table D: Full Time Faculty Hired, 2008-2012**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Tenure Status</b>	<b>Minority Status</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Recruited Through AALS</b>
1	Jeffrey C. Brooks	contract, Clinic & Skills			
2	Jennifer Camero	contract, LR&W		F	
3	Elizabeth R. Carter	tenure track		F	
4	Raymond T. Diamond	tenured	✓		
5	Mark Glover	contract, LR&W			
6	Philip Hackney	tenure track			
7	H. Alston Johnson, III	contract			
8	Andrew Kim	contract, LR&W	✓		
9	Ken Levy	tenure track			✓
10	Robert Lancaster	LT contract, Clinic & Skills			
11	Hector Linares	contract, Clinic & Skills	✓		
12	Melissa T. Lonegrass	tenure track		F	
13	Kenneth A. Mayeaux	contract, Clinic & Skills			
14	Christina M. Sautter	tenure track		F	✓
15	Scott Sullivan	tenure track			✓
16	Margaret S. Thomas	tenure track		F	✓
17	Christopher J. Tyson	tenure track	✓		

**Table E: All Full Time Faculty, 2009-2010**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Tenure Status</b>	<b>Minority Status</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Hired Since 2008</b>
1	Marlene Allgood	contract, LR&W		F	
2	Paul R. Baier	tenured			
3	Grace Barry	contract, LR&W		F	
4	Joseph T. Bockrath	tenured			
5	James W. Bowers	tenured			
6	Todd Bruno	contract, Clinic & Skills			
7	Andrea B. Carroll	tenured		F	
8	John M. Church	tenured			
9	William R. Corbett	tenured			
10	Christine Corcos	tenured		F	
11	John J. Costonis	tenured			
12	William E. Crawford	tenured			
13	John Devlin	tenured			
14	Raymond T. Diamond	tenured	✓		✓
15	Darlene C. Goring	tenured	✓	F	
16	Wendell H. Holmes	tenured			
17	Cheney C. Joseph, Jr.	tenured			
18	P. Raymond Lamonica	tenured, system general counsel			
19	Howard W. L'Enfant	tenured			
20	Robert Lancaster	LTcontract, Clinic & Skills			✓
21	Alain A. Levasseur	tenured			
22	Ken M. Levy	tenure track			✓
23	Lee Ann Lockridge	tenure track		F	
24	Melissa Lonegrass	tenure track		F	✓
25	Kenneth Mayeaux	contract, Clinic & Skills			✓
26	Michael J. Malinowski	tenured			
27	Frank L. Maraist	tenured			
28	Patrick H. Martin	tenured			
29	Lucy S. McGough	tenured		F	
30	Olivier Moreteau	tenured			
31	Glenn G. Morris	tenured			
32	Kenneth M. Murchison	tenured			



<b>Table E: All Full Time Faculty, 2009-2010</b>					
33	Christopher M. Pietruszkiewicz	tenured			
34	Edward P. Richards III	tenured			
35	Christina Sautter	tenure track		F	✓
36	Kathryn Simino	contract, LR&W		F	
37	N. Gregory Smith	tenured			
38	Scott M. Sullivan	tenure track			✓
39	Heidi Thompson	contract, LR&W		F	✓
40	John Randall Trahan	tenured			
41	Jack M. Weiss	tenured			

<b>Table F: All Full Time Faculty, 2002-03</b>				
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Tenure Status</b>	<b>Minority Status</b>	<b>Gender</b>
1	Marlene Allgood	contract, LR&W		F
2	Paul R. Baier	tenured		
3	John S. Baker, Jr.	tenured		
4	Grace Barry	contract, LR&W		F
5	Joseph T. Bockrath	tenured		
6	James W. Bowers	tenured		
7	Todd Bruno	contract, LR&W		
8	Herbert E. Cihak	tenured, Librarian		
9	Winston R. Day	tenured		
10	John M. Church	tenured		
11	William R. Corbett	tenured		
12	Christine A. Corcos	tenured		F

**Table F: All Full Time Faculty, 2002-03**

13	John J. Costonis	tenured		
14	William E. Crawford	tenured		
15	John Devlin	tenured		
16	Stuart P. Green	tenure track		
17	Mark Hoch	contract, LR&W		
18	Susan Kalinka	tenured		F
19	Jason J. Kilborn	tenure track		
20	Howard W. L'Enfant	tenured		
21	Linda Fowler	contract, LR&W		F
22	Saul Litvinoff	tenured		
23	Frank L. Maraist	tenured		
24	Patrick H. Martin	tenured		
25	Michael McAuley	tenure track		
26	Warren L. Mengis	tenured		
27	Kenneth M. Murchison	tenured		
28	Wendell H. Holmes	tenured		
29	Cheney C. Joseph, Jr.	tenured, Vice Chancellor		
30	P. Raymond Lamonica	tenured		
31	Alain A. Levasseur	tenured		
32	Lucy S. McGough	tenured		F
33	Glenn G. Morris	tenured		
34	Christopher Pietruszkiewicz	tenured, Vice Chancellor		
35	Edward P. Richards	tenured		

<b>Table F: All Full Time Faculty, 2002-03</b>				
36	Catherine Rogers	tenure track		F
37	Katherine S. Spaht	tenured		F
38	Kathy Flynn Simino	contract, LR&W		F
39	N. Gregory Smith	tenured		
40	Heidi Thompson	contract, LR&W		F
41	John Randall Trahan	tenured		
42	Gregory Vincent	tenure track	✓	
43	John V. White	tenured	✓	

**AALS Full-Time Law Faculty Diversity Chart  
2011-2012**

Name of Law School	LSU Law Center												
Category	Total	African American		Asian American		Caucasian		Hispanic/Latino		Native American		Other	
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Tenure/Tenure Track	30	1	2			8	19						
Deans, Administrators, Librarians	15	2				6	7						
Long-term Contracts such as Clinical not on tenure track	3						3						
Legal Writing not on tenure track	7				1	5	1						
Other Long Term Contract Faculty (if any)	1						1						
Other (Specify below. Do not include Part-time. Do not count a person twice.)	0												
Totals	56	3	2		1	19	31						

Other Category	
----------------	--

Other Diversity	
-----------------	--

On Tue, Nov 4, 2014 at 6:49 PM, Weiss, Jack <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)> wrote:  
**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

Chandler: Thanks for your e mail. I would welcome the opportunity to review the recording of my conversation with Brittany. As I recall, what I said to Brittany was along the lines of: "If there are any problems with diversity at the Law Center, no one is more anxious to find a solution than the faculty and I are." I think that you will find that, although Brittany may have quoted the end of my sentence accurately, she omitted the critical qualifying clause: "If there are any problems [ or "if there are problems"] with diversity at the Law Center..."—and simply quoted me as saying that the faculty and I are anxious to "find a solution" to the school's (alleged) diversity problems (thus portraying me as confirming diversity "problems" which I had never confirmed). The omission, if I'm correct, entirely altered the meaning of the quote, and was then (apparently) used to support the misleading online headline to the effect that I'd appointed the task force to "combat lack of diversity" at the Law Center.

The other quotation of me is also inaccurate as far as I recall, not to mention non-grammatical. Brittany asked me if we planned to hire a diversity administrator, as Alagood's letter proposed. What I believe I said was that "Everything the Law Center does is shaped by (or "affected by" or "a function of") financial constraints and our priorities." In that context, I then said we'd seriously consider hiring a diversity administrator if the task force proposed it. The non-grammatical quote not only made little sense, but overstated my meaning by substituting "due to" for "shaped by" or a similar, more nuanced and qualified description of the role of financial constraints and priorities in our decision-making.

So I'm most anxious to listen to the recording, which I trust you have safeguarded. If not, I'd like to see Brittany's transcript of the recording. None of this in any way explains any of the other serious shortcomings of the two pieces, which include:

- the failure to incorporate intelligibly any of the very specific data in my 10/23 memo setting forth the Law Center's dramatic increase in student diversity
- unsubstantiated references to a "coalition of law students" supporting the Alagood/[REDACTED] letter, thus suggesting that the letter spoke for some sort of mass movement of law students; no such coalition beyond [REDACTED] Alagood and [REDACTED] has ever been identified and was not identified in the Alagood/[REDACTED] letter
- the inappropriate comparisons of Law Center student diversity to Southern Law (an HBCU law school) rather than to Tulane, Loyola or other SEC law schools, for which specific data was provided in my 10/23 memo
- the omission of any reference to the advances in diversity culture (e.g., the election of multiple minority students to all-school leadership posts) set forth in my 10/23 memo
- the failure to contact anyone at the Law Center to obtain information about the Law Center's response to the [REDACTED] incident
- the failure to interview or quote any students at the Law Center about the Alagood/[REDACTED] allegations, including Alagood's characterization of the Law Center as the "white people law school" in the first article.

I look forward to your thoughts about how the Reveille proposes to set the record straight.

Best regards. JMW

WEISS0000436

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
[225-578-8491](tel:225-578-8491)  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

**From:** Chandler Rome [mailto:[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2014 5:14 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** Daily Reveille Letter

Hi Jack,

By way of introduction, my name is Chandler Rome and I am the editor in chief of The Daily Reveille. In meeting with Bob Ritter today, I was informed that you weren't pleased with our story in today's paper and I hope to address your questions. I apologize for the length of time it took me to get in touch with you -- classes and election night hoopla kept me preoccupied until now.

First and foremost, in the interest of full disclosure, Brittany Clark (the reporter who has worked both stories) is a first semester reporter. This in no way exonerates her of shortcomings or lack of depth in reporting, but we must remember she is learning the craft as she goes. And it is apparent that in certain aspects, I have failed in teaching her the intricacies of reporting.

There is no way to sugar coat this. Brittany should have requested an interview with you for the story that ran today and that's a misstep that she has admitted to. In speaking with her regarding the incident, she said she was more preoccupied with "turning the story around" to fill the newspaper. This is a flawed logic of thinking in any newsroom and I have not done a good enough job of dispelling that logic in my newsroom. I pride myself on having thorough, fair, and objective content and I'm not sure today's story reflects my policies. A phone call or email to your office would have allayed some of your complaints and would have made for a more thorough, well-reported story told from both sides.

In reference to your complaint that you were misquoted in Brittany's first story, Brittany said she recorded the conversation you two had and transcribed your comments directly -- a longstanding newsroom policy that she followed correctly. If you could further elucidate where you believe you were misquoted so that I may take a closer look, that would be helpful.

I apologize for my shortcomings in overseeing the depth of reporting of this story and I would invite a face-to-face meeting so that I can both apologize in person and we can speak about diversity in the Law Center in an open manner. I urge you to remember that while The Daily Reveille prides itself on being more than a student newspaper, its staff is comprised of just that -- students. My staff and I continue to learn and flourish on a daily basis and this incident will serve as a learning experience for all.

I would love to meet in person with you, something Dean Ceppos said you would also like to engage in. Please let me know what time would be feasible and I can work around my schedule to ensure we have a productive conversation.

Also, feel free to contact me by email at [crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com) or phone at [225-754-2070](tel:225-754-2070).

Regards,  
Chandler Rome

--

Chandler Rome  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Daily Reveille

WEISS0000437

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**Archived:** Monday, June 15, 2015 12:23:22 PM  
**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 04, 2014 7:56:43 PM  
**To:** Soniat, Karen  
**Subject:** Fwd: Daily Reveille Letter  
**Importance:** Normal

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Does not say he will let me listen to the recording. I think I should insist-- no recording, no meeting.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chandler Rome <[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 4, 2014 at 7:10:18 PM CST  
**To:** "Weiss, Jack" <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)>  
**Cc:** <[karen.soniat@law.lsu.edu](mailto:karen.soniat@law.lsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Reveille Letter

Chancellor Weiss,

Thank you for your time on the phone earlier and your swift response to my email. As is the case whenever a mistake is made, I want to rectify it as quickly as possible, and I am certain you would like to move with the same speed.

Brittany has not been in the office today, so I have not had a chance to ask her to produce the recording. When she does come, though, I will be sure to analyze and listen to the recording and report back to you my findings.

In the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics, the words "Seek Truth and Report It" are typed in large, bold print. As we discussed on the phone earlier this evening, this was not fully accomplished from both sides of this sensitive issue and I intend to make that right. My plan now is to graciously accept your offer of a sit-down meeting as soon as possible, where we can discuss both the shortcomings of the original reporting and your communication with students regarding the Diversity Task Force and statistics that back up LSU Law Center's diversity ratings among other schools of its caliber.

Traditionally, we would classify the story I would write from this meeting (if you agree to speak on the record) as a follow-up story, which will seek to finally give a voice to the Law Center on the matter of diversity, something both you and I agree was not done adequately the first time around. While I cannot absolutely guarantee this story will appear on the front page, it will be given the most serious consideration possible and will more than likely earn a spot there.

SONIAT0000829



Again, I profusely apologize for the lack of reporting and take full responsibility for what has occurred. I hope we can find a time to sit down and speak face-to-face and mend any relationship with the newspaper that now stands broken.

I have attached my class and work schedule for the remainder of the week below. Please let me know what day and time would work for you to sit down and talk.

Best,  
Chandler Rome

WEDNESDAY:  
Class from 12:30-1:30  
Reveille obligations: 2:00-4:30

THURSDAY  
Class from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.  
Reveille obligations from 3:30 to 4:30

FRIDAY  
Class from 12:30 to 1:30  
Reveille Management Meeting (where this incident will surely be addressed with the entire staff): 1:30-3:00

On Tue, Nov 4, 2014 at 6:49 PM, Weiss, Jack <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)> wrote:

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

Chandler: Thanks for your e mail. I would welcome the opportunity to review the recording of my conversation with Brittany. As I recall, what I said to Brittany was along the lines of: "If there are any problems with diversity at the Law Center, no one is more anxious to find a solution than the faculty and I are." I think that you will find that, although Brittany may have quoted the end of my sentence accurately, she omitted the critical qualifying clause: "If there are any problems [ or "if there are problems"] with diversity at the Law Center..."—and simply quoted me as saying that the faculty and I are anxious to "find a solution" to the school's (alleged) diversity problems (thus portraying me as confirming diversity "problems" which I had never confirmed). The omission, if I'm correct, entirely altered the meaning of the quote, and was then (apparently) used to support the misleading online headline to the effect that I'd appointed the task force to "combat lack of diversity" at the Law Center.

The other quotation of me is also inaccurate as far as I recall, not to mention non-grammatical. Brittany asked me if we planned to hire a diversity administrator, as Alagood's letter proposed. What I believe I said was that "Everything the Law Center does is shaped by (or "affected by" or "a function of") financial constraints and our

SONIAT0000830

priorities.” In that context, I then said we’d seriously consider hiring a diversity administrator if the task force proposed it. The non-grammatical quote not only made little sense, but overstated my meaning by substituting “due to” for “shaped by” or a similar, more nuanced and qualified description of the role of financial constraints and priorities in our decision-making.

So I’m most anxious to listen to the recording, which I trust you have safeguarded. If not, I’d like to see Brittany’s transcript of the recording. None of this in any way explains any of the other serious shortcomings of the two pieces, which include:

--the failure to incorporate intelligibly any of the very specific data in my 10/23 memo setting forth the Law Center’s dramatic increase in student diversity

--unsubstantiated references to a “coalition of law students” supporting the Alagood/[REDACTED] letter, thus suggesting that the letter spoke for some sort of mass movement of law students; no such coalition beyond [REDACTED] Alagood and [REDACTED] has ever been identified and was not identified in the Alagood/[REDACTED] letter

--the inappropriate comparisons of Law Center student diversity to Southern Law (an HBCU law school) rather than to Tulane, Loyola or other SEC law schools, for which specific data was provided in my 10/23 memo

--the omission of any reference to the advances in diversity culture (e.g., the election of multiple minority students to all-school leadership posts) set forth in my 10/23 memo

--the failure to contact anyone at the Law Center to obtain information about the Law Center’s response to the [REDACTED] incident

--the failure to interview or quote any students at the Law Center about the Alagood/[REDACTED] allegations, including Alagood’s characterization of the Law Center as the “white people law school” in the first article.

I look forward to your thoughts about how the Reveille proposes to set the record straight.

Best regards. JMW

Jack M. Weiss

Chancellor

LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

[225-578-8491](tel:225-578-8491)

[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

SONIAT0000831

From: ["Jerry Ceppos" <Ceppos>](#)  
To: [Bob <Ritter>](#)  
CC:  
Date: 11/4/2014 8:32:15 PM  
Subject: Re: Daily Reveille Letter

---

Great. Tnx.

Jerry Ceppos  
Dean  
Manship School of Mass Communication  
213 Journalism Building  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
(O): 225-578-9294  
(F): 225-578-2125  
[Jceppos@lsu.edu](mailto:Jceppos@lsu.edu)  
[www.manship.lsu.edu](http://www.manship.lsu.edu)  
[www.manship100.com](http://www.manship100.com)

On Nov 4, 2014, at 7:14 PM, "Bob Ritter" <[rwriter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwriter@lsu.edu)> wrote:

Jerry: Chandler talked to Jack Weiss and will meet with him tomorrow or Thursday. Not pretty, but we're headed in the right direction. Will fill you in more tomorrow.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

On Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 8:41 AM, Weiss, Jack <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)> wrote:

Chandler- Before we arrange a meeting, I'd like you to confirm two things.

- 1- That you will provide Dr. Soniat and me the opportunity to listen to the recording of my interview with the reporter and to review her transcript of the interview. (There is no conceivable privilege that protects those materials, and the reporter has told you they support her reporting, which I question.)
- 2- That you confirm we are discussing a publication in the nature of an editor-authored correction and apology for at least the two most recent articles.

If we can't agree on those ground rules, I see no point in meeting. I look forward to hearing from you promptly. Jack Weiss

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 4, 2014, at 7:10 PM, "Chandler Rome" <[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)> wrote:

Chancellor Weiss,

Thank you for your time on the phone earlier and your swift response to my email. As is the case whenever a mistake is made, I want to rectify it as quickly as possible, and I am certain you would like to move with the same speed.

Brittany has not been in the office today, so I have not had a chance to ask her to produce the recording. When she does come, though, I will be sure to analyze and listen to the recording and report back to you my findings.

In the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics, the words "Seek Truth and Report It" are typed in large, bold print. As we discussed on the phone earlier this evening, this was not fully accomplished from both sides of this sensitive issue and I intend to make that right. My plan now is to graciously accept your offer of a sit-down meeting as soon as possible, where we can discuss both the shortcomings of the original reporting and your communication with students regarding the Diversity Task Force and statistics that back up LSU Law Center's diversity ratings among other schools of its caliber.

Traditionally, we would classify the story I would write from this meeting (if you agree to speak on the record) as a follow-up story, which will seek to finally give a voice to the Law Center on the matter of diversity, something both you and I agree was not done adequately the first time around. While I cannot absolutely guarantee this story will appear on the front page, it will be given the most serious consideration possible and will more than likely earn a spot there.

Again, I profusely apologize for the lack of reporting and take full responsibility for what has occurred. I hope we can find a time to sit down and speak face-to-face and mend any relationship with the newspaper that now stands broken.

I have attached my class and work schedule for the remainder of the week below. Please let me know what day and time would work for you to sit down and talk.

Best,  
Chandler Rome

SONIAT0000819

**Archived:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015 1:52:06 PM  
**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 10:04:35 AM  
**To:** Soniat, Karen  
**Subject:** FW: Daily Reveille Letter  
**Response requested:** No  
**Importance:** Normal

---

See you at 1:45.

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

---

**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 10:04 AM  
**To:** 'Chandler Rome'  
**Subject:** RE: Daily Reveille Letter

It's on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. Just take the elevator in the main lobby (facing East Campus Drive). See you then.  
Dr. Soniat will meet, too.

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

**From:** Chandler Rome [<mailto:crome35@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 10:02 AM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Reveille Letter

1:45-2:15 works perfectly for me. I'll see you then.

Where exactly in the Law Center is your office located?

On Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 9:37 AM, Weiss, Jack <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)> wrote:  
Thanks for the update. I don't blame you for finding the latest development unsettling.  
Our schedules Thursday and Friday don't mesh very well. Can you meet today from 1:45 to 2:15? I assume it will take you fifteen minutes or so to get here after class.

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
[225-578-8491](tel:225-578-8491)

WEISS0000433

[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

**From:** Chandler Rome [mailto:[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 9:10 AM

**To:** Weiss, Jack

**Subject:** Re: Daily Reveille Letter

Hi Chancellor Weiss,

After speaking with Brittany again today, I've discovered some unsettling information. She in fact did not record your interview, misleading me after my original inquiry to her and ignoring my newsroom policy. Obviously I will address this with both her and my news editor, but for our purposes all I can provide you is a copy of her notes from your interview, which I will be happy to bring along if we agree to a meeting so that we can analyze.

As I mentioned in my previous correspondence, the only person who will pen anything more about the Law Center and diversity is me, so yes, from our meeting there will be a publication that I write (if you agree). While our conversation would determine the exact angle of my story, I see it as one that would serve to clarify the shoddy reporting done in those past two articles, provide the Law Center with a voice in the diversity discussion that we clearly did not give them the first time around and give you an opportunity to refute what was reported in our original stories.

Again, I apologize for essentially lying to you in the first email regarding the recording. Due to our election night coverage dragging into the early Wednesday morning hours, I was unable to get to the bottom of this until this morning. It has long been my policy for every reporter on my staff to record all interviews and I was told and I thought that policy was followed in this instance. It's troubling to me to know it was not and it's obvious I need to have a serious discussion with Brittany regarding her future at the paper.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Chandler Rome

On Wed, Nov 5, 2014 at 8:41 AM, Weiss, Jack <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)> wrote:

Chandler- Before we arrange a meeting, I'd like you to confirm two things.

- 1- That you will provide Dr. Soniat and me the opportunity to listen to the recording of my interview with the reporter and to review her transcript of the interview. (There is no conceivable privilege that protects those materials, and the reporter has told you they support her reporting, which I question.)
- 2- That you confirm we are discussing a publication in the nature of an editor-authored correction and apology for at least the two most recent articles.

If we can't agree on those ground rules, I see no point in meeting. I look forward to hearing from you promptly. Jack Weiss

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 4, 2014, at 7:10 PM, "Chandler Rome" <[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)> wrote:

Chancellor Weiss,

WEISS0000434

**Date:** Wed, 5 Nov 2014 14:05:17 -0600

**To:** Bob Ritter <[rwritter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu)>

**Subject:** FW: <no subject>

I had asked Jack if he heard from the Reveille. The answer is good.

---

**From:** <Weiss>, Jack <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)>

**Date:** Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 1:36 PM

**To:** Jerry Ceppos <[jceppos@lsu.edu](mailto:jceppos@lsu.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: <no subject>

Yes; a long phone conversation, a couple of e mails, and meeting today with the editor at 1:45. Thanks for your help in getting the conversation started. Best. Jack

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

---

**From:** Jerry Ceppos [<mailto:jceppos@lsu.edu>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 12:01 PM

**To:** Weiss, Jack

**Subject:** <no subject>

Jack:

Did you ever hear from the Reveille?

Jerry

**Jerry Ceppos**

Dean

Manship School of Mass Communication

213 Journalism Building

From: ["Jerry Ceppos" <Ceppos>](#)

To: [Bob <Ritter>](#)

CC:

Date: 11/5/2014 3:18:29 PM

Subject: Re: <no subject>

---

Good stuff.

(Funny about "Jack." I would have been scared to death to do that.)

**Jerry Ceppos**

Dean

Manship School of Mass Communication

213 Journalism Building

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

(o): 225 578 9294

(f): 225 578 2125

[jceppos@lsu.edu](mailto:jceppos@lsu.edu)

[www.manship.lsu.edu](http://www.manship.lsu.edu)



**Archived:** Friday, June 12, 2015 8:42:30 AM  
**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 6:24:45 PM  
**To:** Soniat, Karen; Pucheu, Tiffany  
**Subject:** Fwd: Today  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Any response?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chandler Rome <[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 5, 2014 at 6:07:26 PM CST  
**To:** "Weiss, Jack" <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Today

Chancellor Weiss,

Thank you for the meeting today, I think it was vital to sit down and discuss these issues openly and move forward in attempting to rectify our mistakes.

When I returned to the newsroom, both Tim and Bob had left early for the day, so I have not had the chance to speak to them directly about our talk. I have, however, begun to write the column I plan on running in Friday's paper that addresses our shortcomings. The tentative plan is for that column to appear Friday, but as is always the case in the newspaper business, things could change. I will keep you abreast of any developments and be in touch tomorrow when I know for certain the column will appear. As we discussed, I will also link the column in an editor's note on the three stories in question that appear online.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Chandler Rome

--

Chandler Rome  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Daily Reveille  
225.754.2070 (C)  
Twitter: @Chandler\_Rome

WEISS0000595

**Archived:** Friday, June 12, 2015 8:43:35 AM  
**From:** Soniat, Karen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 6:28:16 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** RE: Today  
**Importance:** Normal

---

I don't like the column idea..unless it runs on the front page...

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Weiss, Jack" <jmweiss@law.lsu.edu>  
Date: 11/05/2014 6:24 PM (GMT-06:00)  
To: "Soniat, Karen" <Karen.Soniat@law.lsu.edu>, "Pucheu, Tiffany" <tiffany.pucheu@law.lsu.edu>  
Cc:  
Subject: Fwd: Today

Any response?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chandler Rome <crome35@gmail.com>  
**Date:** November 5, 2014 at 6:07:26 PM CST  
**To:** "Weiss, Jack" <jmweiss@law.lsu.edu>  
**Subject:** Today

Chancellor Weiss,

Thank you for the meeting today, I think it was vital to sit down and discuss these issues openly and move forward in attempting to rectify our mistakes.

When I returned to the newsroom, both Tim and Bob had left early for the day, so I have not had the chance to speak to them directly about our talk. I have, however, begun to write the column I plan on running in Friday's paper that addresses our shortcomings. The tentative plan is for that column to appear Friday, but as is always the case in the newspaper business, things could change. I will keep you abreast of any developments and be in touch tomorrow when I know for certain the column will appear. As we discussed, I will also link the column in an editor's note on the three stories in question that appear online.

Let me know if you have any questions.

**WEISS0000596**

Best,  
Chandler Rome

--

Chandler Rome  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Daily Reveille  
225.754.2070 (C)  
Twitter: @Chandler\_Rome

WEISS0000597

**Archived:** Friday, June 12, 2015 8:43:49 AM  
**From:** [Pucheu, Tiffany](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 05, 2014 10:22:27 PM  
**To:** [Weiss, Jack](#)  
**Cc:** [Soniat, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Today  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Although a response is probably not necessary, I think providing a short response in acknowledgement of the email will show professionalism on our end. If the meeting was indeed productive and if Mr. Rome's statements appear sincere based upon his actions and commentary during the meeting, I would provide a simple response, reiterating your desire to have the multiple errors rectified in the manner requested by the law center as soon as possible to mitigate the situation and indicating that you will be awaiting Mr. Rome's communication as to precisely when his column will appear. Of course, I was not at the meeting so, if the tone was such that a response is not warranted, then simply disregard my input. You and Karen are certainly far more knowledgeable about this particular matter and about handling the press in general. Thank you for allowing me to participate in and learn from this experience, despite the fact that it is a very unfortunate one...

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 5, 2014, at 6:24 PM, "Weiss, Jack" <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)> wrote:

Any response?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chandler Rome <[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 5, 2014 at 6:07:26 PM CST  
**To:** "Weiss, Jack" <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Today

Chancellor Weiss,

Thank you for the meeting today, I think it was vital to sit down and discuss these issues openly and move forward in attempting to rectify our mistakes.

When I returned to the newsroom, both Tim and Bob had left early for the day, so I have not had the chance to speak to them directly about our talk. I have, however, begun to write the column I plan on running in Friday's paper that addresses our shortcomings. The tentative plan is for that column to appear Friday, but as is always the case in the newspaper business, things could change. I will keep you abreast of any developments and be in touch

WEISS0000598

tomorrow when I know for certain the column will appear. As we discussed, I will also link the column in an editor's note on the three stories in question that appear online.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Chandler Rome

--  
Chandler Rome  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Daily Reveille  
225.754.2070 (C)  
Twitter: @Chandler\_Rome

[REDACTED]  
**To:** Soniat, Karen; Pucheu, Tiffany

**Importance:** Normal

---

FYI

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

---

**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 9:33 AM  
**To:** 'Chandler Rome'  
**Subject:** RE: Today

Chandler: Thanks for your conscientious effort to get this straightened out. You are free to use any and all of the November 2012 e mail. I appreciate your asking and your sensitivity to our "off the record" conversation. Best. JMW

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

**From:** Chandler Rome [<mailto:crome35@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 9:14 AM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** Re: Today

Chancellor Weiss,

As my piece was still in its early stages when we touched base after yesterday's meeting, I could not provide many specificities about it. Now more than halfway written, I feel comfortable in saying my column will meet all of your requirements. Sure, it has a bit of journalism ethics education just to let our readership know the many facets of our shortcomings, but overall it sets up as a piece to clearly point out the generalities and laziness with which our reporting was done, using stats that anyone could look up and facts not presented in the original story (our conversations that we've had since the incident remain off the record, though, as we both agreed upon.)

As is customary, editorial decisions and decisions what goes where in the newspaper are made daily at our 4:00 budget meeting. Thursday is my usual day off, so as is customary, I will not be in today's budget meeting where these decisions are made. However, I have instructed my managing editors to give my column the most serious of consideration for the front page and if there is no feasible way to get it on Friday's front, I have no qualms in holding the piece until Monday.

WEISS0000600



I do have one point to raise in your concerns about placement on the web site. Just this semester, a change occurred in Student Media that separated our newspaper staff and web staff. In short, I have no control over what is placed on the front of our website -- [lsureveille.com](http://lsureveille.com). There is a completely different staff and a completely different editor in chief in charge of it. I can give my suggestions, but at the end of the day, it is his call as to both the layout and what appears where on the front of our website. I do control the content and design of the "Daily Reveille" tab that is at the top of the site when viewing on a PC. I can assure you my piece will be given prominent placement under that tab, but aside from that, it is out of my hands.

I appreciate your reiteration of what we spoke about and I am again confident that what will go to print Friday (or Monday, if zany situations arise) will meet your expectations. I do have one technical question, though. I received the email you sent to Law Center students after the Kenneth Barnes incident in the course of our conversations and I see some parts of the email as crucial to your request that I prove the Law Center did not stand by "passively in the face of a vile racist slur." I would like to use a line or two that you wrote to students in that email, however, since it was received in the course of an off the record conversation, I have qualms about betraying the agreement we had. Would you be comfortable with me using portions of that email in the piece?

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Chandler Rome

On Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 8:09 AM, Weiss, Jack <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)> wrote:

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Chandler- Thanks for the update. I appreciate your attention to our concerns, but I want to be clear about what I believe is required to set the record straight: an unequivocal, understandable correction and/or retraction of the articles' central theses (that the Law Center has a "clear diversity problem", is a "white people's law school", and stood by passively in the face of a vile racist slur directed at an African-American student) and an apology, and both presented with the same, page one prominence as the two objectionable articles. The draft retraction I provided yesterday was not provided on a "take it or leave it" basis but it is a good model for what I continue to believe is required.

When you mention a "column", I am concerned that you are contemplating burying an essay on journalistic ethics inside the paper without straightforwardly repudiating the falsity of the two articles with the same prominence as the original publications. Moreover, my quick look at the Reveille website on two mobile devices (iPhone and iPad) does not show a readily visible link to "Opinions" or the like. I wonder whether your intended column would appear prominently on the full website or if it would appear at all on the mobile sites. Finally, it is important that any link between the original articles and whatever you yourself say about them is labelled "correction" or "retraction" and not simply vaguely linked with a reference to "see related article" or the like. Readers should be informed clearly and unequivocally that the Reveille does not stand behind the two articles and that their content should be regarded forevermore as suspect.

I can't tell you what to publish, of course, but I did want to reiterate what I believe is required given the prominence of the two articles, the repetition of their false themes, and the shoddy journalism that produced them. I did not want there to be any possible misunderstanding as to what would satisfy my serious concerns about these matters. Best regards. JMW

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Law Center  
1 East Campus Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
Tel: [225 578 8491](tel:2255788491)

WEISS0000601

**Archived:** Wednesday, June 10, 2015 8:38:51 AM  
**From:** Pucheu, Tiffany  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 06, 2014 10:25:01 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Cc:** Soniat, Karen  
**Subject:** Re: Rome "column" posted  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Will do.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 6, 2014, at 10:22 PM, "Weiss, Jack" <jmweiss@law.lsu.edu> wrote:

>

> I have meeting out of office at 8:30. Would appreciate it if you and Karen would collaborate on a draft... Thx.

>

> Sent from my iPad

>

>> On Nov 6, 2014, at 10:07 PM, Pucheu, Tiffany <tiffany.pucheu@law.lsu.edu> wrote:

>>

>> Agreed. The column was particularly lacking in relation to your email in response to the [REDACTED] incident and, in the manner quoted, essentially limits your condemnation of the conduct to only that particular incident. Your full emailed response should have been quoted.

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>>> On Nov 6, 2014, at 9:50 PM, "Weiss, Jack" <jmweiss@law.lsu.edu> wrote:

>>>

>>> Let's discuss tomorrow. I think we send letter to the editor that says thanks for owning up to the egregious mistakes but we still think your readers deserve the full story...then track content of the 10/23 memo and quote more from my 11/20/12 e mail.

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

WEISS0000594



**From:** Weiss, Jack </O=LSULAWCENTER/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=JMWEISS>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 7, 2014 11:30 AM  
**To:** 'Chandler Rome' <crome35@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Reveille coverage of Law Center diversity

---

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

Chandler: Thank you for today's page one article taking responsibility for the erroneous and damaging characterizations of the Law Center in the Reveille articles of October 27 and November 4.

Your article does not go nearly as far as I think it should have, but I think it represents a well-intentioned effort to set the record straight.

There remains one significant loophole in your effort to correct the record. On the Reveille website, the link to your column that appears alongside the initial articles fails to use verbiage that directly identifies the initial articles as unworthy of further citation or reliance by readers and in subsequent reports.

The headline on your column correctly states that the articles "erroneously portray [the] Law Center". The web link, however, is not labeled as either a correction or a retraction, but as an "update" that addresses "concerns of reporting" in the articles. The web link is out of sync with your column and should state very plainly that each article (to use your word) erroneously portrays the Law Center. Moreover, the milquetoast signal of an "Update" is simply not sufficient to alert readers that the accompanying article is not credible. The link should begin with "Correction" or "Retraction" or, at a bare minimum, "Error". In sum, the following seems to me what is required to be consistent with your own column:

**"CORRECTION 11/07/14--**

Editor Chandler Rome published this to correct the erroneous portrayal of the LSU Law Center in this story."

Thanks for your prompt attention to this request. Please forward it to whomever is in charge of the web version of the Reveille if you do not have the authority to make the change requested. JMW

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

WEISS0000432

**Archived:** Friday, June 12, 2015 8:42:54 AM  
**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 11:31:32 AM  
**To:** 'Bob Ritter'  
**Subject:** RE: Chandler Rome's mea culpa  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Attachments:**  
[Reveille coverage of Law Center diversity.msg](#) ;

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Thanks, Bob. I appreciate Chandler's efforts to rectify the damage done by the two initial articles. That said, I thought you should be aware of an e mail I sent Chandler a few moments ago. I'm attaching it for your reference. Best. Jack

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

---

**From:** Bob Ritter [<mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 8:19 AM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** Chandler Rome's mea culpa

Jack:

Thank you for taking the effort this week to counsel Chandler Rome.

Chandler is extremely conscientious. I assure you he has taken this matter seriously. He learned a hard lesson, and you assisted greatly in this unfortunate part of his education.

I regret that this incident occurred. I have great respect for your work, both now and in the past. I know that Chandler now shares those same sentiments.

Here's to better student journalism,

**Bob Ritter**  
Director of Student Media  
Professional-In-Residence  
Louisiana State University

225.773.7820  
[rwritter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu)

WEISS0000431



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**From:** Bob Ritter <[rwritter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu)>  
**Date:** Friday, November 7, 2014 at 11:34 AM  
**To:** Jerry Ceppos <[jceppos@lsu.edu](mailto:jceppos@lsu.edu)>  
**Subject:** FW: Reveille coverage of Law Center diversity

Fyi below

**Bob Ritter**

Director of Student Media  
Professional-In-Residence  
Louisiana State University

225.773.7820  
[rwritter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu)

---

**From:** "Weiss, Jack" <[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)>  
**Date:** Fri, 7 Nov 2014 17:29:33 +0000  
**To:** Chandler Rome <[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Reveille coverage of Law Center diversity

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

Chandler: Thank you for today's page one article taking responsibility for the erroneous and damaging characterizations of the Law Center in the Reveille articles of October 27 and November 4.

Your article does not go nearly as far as I think it should have, but I think it represents a well-intentioned effort to set the record straight. There remains one significant loophole in your effort to correct the record. On the Reveille website, the link to your column that appears alongside the initial articles fails to use verbiage that directly identifies the initial articles as unworthy of further citation or reliance by readers and

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The headline on your column correctly states that the articles “erroneously portray [the] Law Center”. The web link, however, is not labeled as either a correction or a retraction, but as an “update” that addresses “concerns of reporting” in the articles. The web link is out of sync with your column and should state very plainly that each article (to use your word) erroneously portrays the Law Center. Moreover, the milquetoast signal of an “Update” is simply not sufficient to alert readers that the accompanying article is not credible. The link should begin with “Correction” or “Retraction” or, at a bare minimum, “Error”. In sum, the following seems to me what is required to be consistent with your own column:

**“CORRECTION 11/07/14--**

Editor Chandler Rome published this to correct the erroneous portrayal of the LSU Law Center in this story.”

Thanks for your prompt attention to this request. Please forward it to whomever is in charge of the web version of the Reveille if you do not have the authority to make the change requested. JMW

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

**Archived:** Friday, June 12, 2015 8:39:37 AM  
**From:** Weiss, Jack  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 4:39:04 PM  
**To:** Soniat, Karen  
**Subject:** RE: Web and Editor's Note  
**Importance:** Normal

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Original version read: "UPDATE- 11/07/14--Editor CR published this to address concerns of reporting in this story." So it has been changed—UPDATE eliminated; now specific reference to erroneous portrayal and lack of reporting – but do not call correction or retraction.  
I don't think further discussion worthwhile.

Jack M. Weiss  
Chancellor  
LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803  
225-578-8491  
[jmweiss@law.lsu.edu](mailto:jmweiss@law.lsu.edu)

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**From:** Soniat, Karen  
**Sent:** Friday, November 07, 2014 4:34 PM  
**To:** Weiss, Jack  
**Subject:** Web and Editor's Note

The **copy block reads:**

Editor Chandler Rome published this on 11/7/14 to address the erroneous portrayal of the Law Center and a lack of reporting in this story.

(I did not keep a copy of the original post, so I don't know if it changed...I don't think it did...)

[http://www.lsureveille.com/daily/law-center-appoints-diversity-task-force-to-combat-lack-of/article\\_e726dd58-5e2c-11e4-b5fa-0017a43b2370.html](http://www.lsureveille.com/daily/law-center-appoints-diversity-task-force-to-combat-lack-of/article_e726dd58-5e2c-11e4-b5fa-0017a43b2370.html)

[http://www.lsureveille.com/daily/law-student-on-diversity-task-force-experienced-racial-slurs-during/article\\_7295fdc6-63bc-11e4-9a75-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.lsureveille.com/daily/law-student-on-diversity-task-force-experienced-racial-slurs-during/article_7295fdc6-63bc-11e4-9a75-001a4bcf6878.html)

KS

**Karen M. Soniat, Ph.D.**  
Director, Communications and External Relations  
LSU Law Center  
225/578-8645 direct  
225/938-7763 cell  
225/578-0733 office  
Suite 400  
Mailing Address:  
LSU Law Center Office of Alumni Relations  
110 LSU Union Building

WEISS0000605

From: ["Jerry Ceppos" <Ceppos>](#)  
To: [Bob <Ritter>](#)  
CC:  
Date: 11/14/2014 2:58:49 PM  
Subject: Re: Letter to the Editor: LSU Reveille

---

Fascinating. Chandler's decision, of course, but I'd run a carefully edited version of it, I think.

Jerry Ceppos  
Dean  
Manship School of Mass Communication  
213 Journalism Building  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
(O): 225-578-9294  
(F): 225-578-2125  
[Jceppos@lsu.edu](mailto:Jceppos@lsu.edu)  
[www.manship.lsu.edu](http://www.manship.lsu.edu)  
[www.manship100.com](http://www.manship100.com)

On Nov 14, 2014, at 12:07 PM, "Bob Ritter" <[rwriter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwriter@lsu.edu)> wrote:

Airplane reading. My inclination is that Chandler should use this. Please let me know if you have thoughts.

Bob Ritter  
Director of Student Media  
Professional-In-Residence  
Louisiana State University

225.773.7820  
[rwritter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu)

From: Chandler Rome <[crome35@gmail.com](mailto:crome35@gmail.com)<<mailto:crome35@gmail.com>>>  
Date: Fri, 14 Nov 2014 10:25:41 -0600  
To: Tim Schreiner <[timschreiner@lsu.edu](mailto:timschreiner@lsu.edu)<<mailto:timschreiner@lsu.edu>>>, Bob Ritter  
<[rwritter@lsu.edu](mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu)<<mailto:rwritter@lsu.edu>>>  
Subject: Fwd: Letter to the Editor: LSU Reveille

I feel like I just don't want to touch this

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

From: Carter, Elizabeth <[Elizabeth.Carter@law.lsu.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.Carter@law.lsu.edu)<<mailto:Elizabeth.Carter@law.lsu.edu>>>  
Date: Fri, Nov 14, 2014 at 10:09 AM  
Subject: Letter to the Editor: LSU Reveille  
To: "[editor@lsureveille.com](mailto:editor@lsureveille.com)<<mailto:editor@lsureveille.com>>" <[editor@lsureveille.com](mailto:editor@lsureveille.com)<<mailto:editor@lsureveille.com>>>  
Cc: Robert Kyle Alagood <[kyle.alagood@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.alagood@gmail.com)<<mailto:kyle.alagood@gmail.com>>>, Kenneth Barnes  
<[kbarn22@tigers.lsu.edu](mailto:kbarn22@tigers.lsu.edu)<<mailto:kbarn22@tigers.lsu.edu>>>, Brittany Clark  
<[bclar19@tigers.lsu.edu](mailto:bclar19@tigers.lsu.edu)<<mailto:bclar19@tigers.lsu.edu>>>, "Faulk, Julie Irene" <[jfaulk7@lsu.edu](mailto:jfaulk7@lsu.edu)<<mailto:jfaulk7@lsu.edu>>>, "Favorite, Edward McNeal II" <[efavor1@lsu.edu](mailto:efavor1@lsu.edu)<<mailto:efavor1@lsu.edu>>>

Dear Mr. Rome,

Attached for your consideration you will find a letter addressing your recent Nov. 7 article. Please feel free to publish it if you decide that it is appropriate to do so. I am also attaching two recent articles from The Civilian which are referenced in my letter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Carter

Elizabeth R. Carter  
Judge Anthony J. Graphia & Jo Ann Graphia Associate Professor of Law

Louisiana State University  
Paul M. Hebert Law Center  
446 Law Center  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

[elizabeth.carter@law.lsu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.carter@law.lsu.edu)<<mailto:elizabeth.carter@law.lsu.edu>>

View my research on my SSRN Author page:

<http://ssrn.com/author=1773379>

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Chandler Rome  
Editor-in-Chief



The Daily Reveille  
225.754.2070 (C)  
Twitter: @Chandler\_Rome

<Letter to Editor.pdf>

<Scanned from a Xerox multifunction device001.pdf>

**ELIZABETH R. CARTER**

**November 14, 2014**

**Via E-Mail**

Mr. Chandler Rome  
Editor, *The Daily Reveille*  
[editor@lsureveille.com](mailto:editor@lsureveille.com)

Re: Response to: "From the Editor: Previous Stories  
Erroneously Portray Law Center," *The Daily Reveille*,  
November 7, 2014.

Dear Mr. Rome,

Your recent Editor's letter discrediting Ms. Clark's reporting of events at the LSU Law Center is disappointing. I appreciate this opportunity to express my concerns to you, your staff, your faculty advisors, and the LSU community. I am a professor at the Law Center, but I am writing this letter in my personal capacity and not as a representative of the Law Center.<sup>1</sup>

When I saw Ms. Clark's articles, I was excited to see that the *Reveille* had decided to begin an investigation into what, in my mind, are some very serious problems faced by the LSU Law Center. I had hoped that Ms. Clark's articles were the beginning of an important and frank discussion. Your letter effectively discredited the meaningful work she had begun. Quite simply, your letter is irresponsible, poorly researched, and detrimental to Ms. Clark, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Alagood, and the LSU Law Center community. I expect a higher standard of journalistic integrity from the *Reveille*.

I will address your discussion of each of Ms. Clark's articles in turn.

**(1) *The Oct. 28 Article: Law Center Appoints Diversity Task Force to Combat Lack of Diversity.***

Ms. Clark's first article reported on two letters. The first letter, written by third-year law student R. Kyle Alagood, openly questioned the Law Center's commitment to diversity. Chancellor Weiss responded with a letter memorandum announcing the formation of a "Diversity Task Force" charged with addressing the concerns raised by Mr. Alagood. It appears that both Chancellor Weiss and Mr. Alagood were interviewed in connection with Ms. Clark's article.

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<sup>1</sup> See Article VII, Section 1 of the Bylaws of the LSU Board of Supervisors.

Yet, you claim that Ms. Clark’s article “failed in a cardinal tenet of journalism—providing both sides of a story.” You go on to explain what the author should have included in the story to satisfy this lofty goal—namely, a number a diversity statistics from the letter written by Chancellor Weiss. By simply parroting these numbers without any context or skepticism, you violate that very journalistic tenet you claim to support. You have done no better than the staff member whom you have elected to publicly shame with your unconvincing *mea culpa*. The only difference, by your own admission, is that you should know better.

**(a) Misrepresentation of Chancellor Weiss’ Statistics.** In his letter, Chancellor Weiss wrote, “the Law Center employs 36 tenured and tenure-track faculty members; 8 (22%) are women and 4<sup>2</sup> are minorities (11%).” From this, you conclude that, “12 of the 36 current Law Center tenured or tenure-track faculty are *either* women (8 faculty members) *or* minorities (4 faculty members).” But your analysis is flawed. Incredibly enough, a person can be both a woman and a minority. She is still one person. A simple fact check would have confirmed that there are not 12 members of the Law Center faculty who qualify as diverse. Fact checking, incidentally, is another cardinal tenet of journalism.

**(b) Your Failure to Investigate the Statistics Provided.** The Chancellor of the Law Center – like any other leader – has an inherent incentive to portray his institution in the most favorable light possible. As a journalist, your job is to recognize this and to view his statements with an appropriate measure of skepticism. Real journalists ask hard questions and question assumptions. They do not reprint press releases.

You have cited statistics showing that non-Caucasian student enrollment (21%) is comparable to other law schools (23%) in the Southeastern Conference. Yet you have failed to question why the Law Center should be compared to schools simply because they play one another in football. The Law Center is a law school, not a football team. Did you consider that comparing our student enrollments to that of other SEC schools—which, by definition, are located in a part of the country notorious for racial and gender inequity—shows the Law Center in a more favorable light than other possible comparisons? For example, according to the American Bar Association, the non-Caucasian enrollment at all 202 accredited law schools for the 2013-2014 academic year was 26.9%. Moreover, you failed to ask why the Chancellor did not provide similar comparative data regarding female student enrollment. Had you done so, you would have discovered that female student enrollment at the Law Center lags behind that of other law schools.

Despite the various other comparative statistics provided by the Chancellor, you neglected to ask why those numbers were not provided with respect to faculty composition. Had you done so, you would have discovered that the Law Center lags behind other schools with respect to faculty diversity. The American Association of Law

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<sup>2</sup> I am only aware of three racial minorities on our tenure or tenure-track faculty. That, however, is a discussion for a later day.

Schools (AALS) Statistical Report on Law School Faculty<sup>3</sup> indicates that 37.3% of all law school faculty members are women and 14.9% of all law school faculty members are non-Caucasian.

**(2) *The Nov. 3 Article: Law Student on Diversity Task Force Experienced Racial Slurs During Time at Law Center.***

Ms. Clark's second article simply followed up on her first article by showing that Mr. Alagood was not alone in his concerns. Although the Law Center has made improvements in its numerical diversity in recent years, as Mr. Alagood explained, "the Law Center is not actively providing much-needed structural resources to foster diversity and encourage success once students enter law school." Numerical diversity does not tell the full story. The article chronicled the unfortunate experience of a task force member who claimed he was physically and verbally assaulted by another student at a Law Center function. I cannot understand why you would describe this article as your "worst error." You have minimized Mr. Barnes' experiences, discredited him, and made him the object of further harassment by members of the Law Center community. You seem to have forgotten that, in addition to the racial slurs, a fellow law student allegedly threw an arrow at Mr. Barnes and punched him in the face. Ms. Clark's article made this clear, and made it clear that these events occurred at a Law Center function. Your article does not. Mr. Barnes was the victim of a crime, and he did not feel (nor do I) that the procedure pursued by the Law Center adequately addressed that issue. The racial slurs compounded his injuries.

Your claim that the *Reveille* – i.e., Ms. Clark – did not reach out to anyone affiliated with the Law Center for comment is simply untrue. Ms. Clark asked for comments regarding Mr. Barnes' experience, as well as the experiences of other students and faculty members. When she reached out to me, I explained to Ms. Clark that she could not use my name in her article because I feared retaliation by the Law Center faculty and administration. I regret that my initial reaction was reticence. Unfortunately, I am not the only person who expressed that sentiment to her. I understand that Ms. Clark received similar responses from several students and faculty members. I personally witnessed another faculty member willingly talk to Ms. Clark, extensively, "off the record." What more would you have Ms. Clark do?

**(3) *The Overall Effect of Your Letter.***

Our words can be more powerful than we realize or intend. I fear that your words have caused harms that you did not anticipate.

The Law Center's recent accomplishments with respect to numerical diversity are commendable. The work to be done, however, is far from complete. In failing to question

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<sup>3</sup> The 2008-09 data is the most recent data available. You can find it here: <http://aalsfar.com/statistics/2009dlt/race.html>

the comparative statistics provided by the Chancellor, your letter gives readers the false impression that the Law Center has already attained the ideal numerical diversity. Moreover, your letter gives readers the overall impression that because we have attained ideal numerical diversity—which we have not—then allegations of racial and gender discrimination at the Law Center are either erroneous or unusual. It discredits victims before they even have the opportunity to speak. I cannot imagine this was your intent.

Two LSU law students at *The Civilian*—Julie Faulk and Neal Favorite—latched on to your article and compounded the harm it caused. I am enclosing copies of their articles for your reference and I will be composing a separate letter specifically addressing their articles. In some instances Ms. Faulk and Mr. Favorite simply reiterated the errors you made. In other instances they (and Ms. Faulk in particular) compounded your errors by adding additional errors and misrepresentations of their own. Your letter gave the Chancellor’s opinions and statistics the imprimatur of truth and served as a springboard for unwarranted personal attacks against two of their classmates and your former staff member.

I hope that you will consider correcting your mistakes and that we can all learn something from this experience. Please govern yourself accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth R. Carter".

Elizabeth R. Carter

CC:

**Via Email**

Julie Faulk, Editor-in-Chief, *The Civilian*  
E.M. “Neal” Favorite II, Guest Columnist, *The Civilian*  
Kenneth Barnes, Jr.  
R. Kyle Alagood  
Brittany Clark

## PROPOSED PAGE 1 CORRECTION AND APOLOGY

On October 27, 2014 and November 4, 2014, the *Reveille* published two articles reporting on two law students' complaints about diversity at the LSU Law Center. Both articles failed to adhere to the *Reveille*'s standards of acceptable journalism and created the seriously false impression, as one of the students quoted in the first article said, that LSU Law is "the white people's law school."

Among the reporting failures that characterized the two articles were these:

### The October 27 Article

- Failed to report that LSU Law nearly quadrupled its African-American enrollment between 2009 and 2013 and that, according to the most recent data available, LSU Law has a higher percentage of African-American students than either Tulane Law School or Loyola Law School.
- Failed to report that, according to the most recent data available, LSU Law has a higher percentage of African-American students than the average of all SEC law schools.
- Failed to report that students of color at LSU Law have repeatedly been elected to positions of leadership at the school, including the current President and other top officers of the Student Bar Association and multiple class presidencies.
- Failed to include in the article any interviews with LSU Law students other than the two complaining students.
- Included an unsubstantiated reference to a "coalition of law students" supporting the two complaining students, thus suggesting that the two complaining students spoke for a large number of other law students, when no such "coalition" has ever been identified and was not identified in the two complaining students' letter.
- Misquoted LSU Law Chancellor Jack Weiss by falsely attributing to him the statement that LSU Law is anxious to find a "solution" to its purported diversity problems when in fact Chancellor Weiss said that LSU Law is very proud of its recent progress on diversity and that "if there were problems with diversity at the Law Center", the faculty and the administration would be anxious to address them.

- Ran a headline stating that LSU Law had appointed a diversity task force “to combat lack of diversity”, when in fact it was clear from Chancellor Weiss’s memo appointing the task force that it was appointed to address the concerns expressed by the two complaining students and not because of any admitted or proven “lack of diversity”; to the contrary, the memo pointed out that LSU Law is a very diverse law school.

#### **The November 4 Article**

- Failed to include any response from anyone at LSU Law to the article’s central suggestion that LSU Law had stood idly by when an African-American student had been the victim of a vicious racial slur in 2012.
- By failing to contact anyone at LSU Law for response, failed to include any reference to Chancellor Weiss’s 2012 e mail to the LSU Law community “unequivocally condemning” the behavior in question.
- By failing to contact anyone at LSU Law for response, creating the false and harmful impression that the faculty and Administration of LSU Law were and are indifferent to racial slurs of the kind reported in the article.

The *Reveille* regrets the errors. We apologize to the Law Center faculty, students, and administration for the false impressions created by the two articles.