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Posted: 12 Oct 2011 06:38 PM PDT

By Shane Hilde Educate Truth has confirmed Marta Tooma, former LSU Board member, never talked to the biology department prior to her removal as board member. According to a statement from Larry Becker, head of LSU PR department, the three board members that were removed “failed to operate...

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Board of Trustees Addresses Curriculum Proposal
Posted: 12 Oct 2011 04:36 PM PDT

La Sierra University’s Board of Trustees took two actions during an October 11, 2011, meeting. Both actions relate to a currently circulating document titled “Joint Proposal of individual La Sierra University Faculty and Trustees.” Affirmation of document approach The La Sierra...

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Educate Truth has confirmed Marta Tooma, former LSU Board member, never talked to the biology department prior to her removal as board member. According to a statement from Larry Becker, head of LSU PR department, the three board members that were removed “failed to operate within board processes.” According to Wisbey et al., all three board members were in contact with the biology department. However, only two of the board members who attached their name to the statement had spoken with the biology faculty. Alvaro Bolivar and Tooma had no contact with the biology faculty, yet Tooma was removed and Bolivar stayed. Keep in mind the LSU administration was well aware of the joint statement before it was sent to the Adventist Review. A statement from LSU reads:

> The La Sierra University Board of Trustees expressed its concern to the officers of the North American Division over the precipitous action taken to publicize the “Joint Proposal” without adequate prior consultation with the La Sierra University administration and board…

“Adequate” prior consultation means the administration was aware the document would be published. Also, the Associate Provost for General Education and Academic Support at LSU, Barbara Favorito, edited the joint statement, yet it appears LSU administration did nothing to stop the statement from being sent out or even suggesting that it be delayed. The double standard LSU is exhibiting spells agenda—an agenda to oust board members who have challenged Wisbey every step of the way.
6 Responses to “Former board member never talked with biology faculty”

1. Alexander Carpenter October 12, 2011 at 8:46 pm

   I wonder if this also had something to do with the sense that these former board members were more sympathetic to Educate Truth’s views than the other trustees.

   (Quote)

   Like or Dislike: ☑️ 2

2. David Read October 12, 2011 at 9:00 pm

   Shane, if you have an open line of communication with Marta Tooma, how much can you get, “on background” so to speak, regarding what’s going on on the board?

   (Quote)

   Like or Dislike: ☑️ ☐

3. Shane Hilde October 12, 2011 at 9:30 pm

   @Alexander Carpenter: I would readily agree since Educate Truth supports the biblical account of creation and disagrees with the handling of the topic in the biology department. This was a political move by Wisbey to gain power on the board. He now has three less who oppose him.

   (Quote)

   Like or Dislike: ☑️ ☐

4. Shane Hilde October 12, 2011 at 9:36 pm

   @David Read: Board members and even former board members are not allowed to discuss what has happened in board meetings. The only thing I confirmed with Tooma was whether she had conversed with the biology faculty and she made it very clear she never had. She was only presented with the joint statement and wanted to support it. This statement was seen as a big step for the biology department because Wisbey had been keeping them silent for over two years and they were now making constructive advances to dialogue with the church. I disagree with what they said, but I think it’s great their
talking now. I suspect Wisbey isn’t happy with the biology department. It wouldn’t make any sense for him to only be upset with the board members since he allegedly embraces what they are doing. Doubtful though given his reaction and double standard.

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 🅱️ 1

5. Shane Hilde October 13, 2011 at 5:28 am

Is it just me or is there a rise in commenters posing as proponents, yet actually being opponents. Initially they sound supportive but then they say something that seems to exaggerate the point a little too much, with dashes of sarcasm.

Be aware there are least a couple commenters here who are posing as supporters, but are obviously opponents of what this website is doing.

The comments from these individuals have been deleted.

When commenters get overzealous about heads rolling, leadership being spineless, etc. be suspicious. This is not the first time we’ve had opponents come to the website posing as hyperactive supporters.

Educate Truth has nothing to do with these two and their comments represent only their lies.

(Quote)

Like or Dislike: 🅱️ 1

6. Chris Chan October 13, 2011 at 6:13 am

@Shane Hilde: That is why I don’t like commenters not putting their full name to their comments. One should have the courage of their convictions and be open and candid about what they want to say and not hide behind an alias. Chris. CHAN

(Quote)

Reply

Like or Dislike: 🅱️ 0
La Sierra University’s Board of Trustees took two actions during an October 11, 2011, meeting. Both actions relate to a currently circulating document titled “Joint Proposal of individual La Sierra University Faculty and Trustees.”

**Affirmation of document approach**

The La Sierra University Board of Trustees has been addressing the issues surrounding the teaching of origins and has emphasized a balanced approach that encompasses the Church’s belief of origins as well as a presenting a rigorous scientific curriculum.

The conceptual framework outlined in the “Joint Proposal” is not inconsistent with faculty efforts, but failed to recognize normal and established governance protocols. The Board of Trustees affirms the working document, prematurely published as the “Joint Proposal” in the Adventist Review, and encourages the La Sierra faculty to integrate it into the work of the Task Force on Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs and Values that is proceeding through the standard university curriculum processes.

The board will continue to attend to this matter.

**Concern over document distribution**

The La Sierra University Board of Trustees expressed its concern to the officers of the North American Division over the precipitous action taken to publicize the “Joint Proposal” without adequate prior consultation with the La Sierra University administration and board, especially in light of the ongoing discussions with Adventist Accrediting Association and Western Association of Schools and Colleges over issues of university governance and institutional autonomy.

*Statement released at La Sierra University’s [website](#).*
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