A Message from The Trustees of Boston University

The Trustees believe you want to know the truth about Boston University.

IT IS A DELIBERATE DECEPTION TO SUGGEST THAT OUR NECESSARY RESPONSE TO A BREACH OF CONTRACT BY UNION MEMBERS IS AN ATTACK UPON ACADEMIC FREEDOM. THE TRUSTEES AND PRESIDENT SILBER HAVE CONSISTENTLY DEFENDED ACADEMIC FREEDOM FOR FACULTY—WHETHER TENURED OR NON-TENURED—AS WELL AS FOR STUDENTS. IT IS A RECORD UNBLEMISHED AND UNBROKEN OVER THE YEARS. FOR A FACULTY MEMBER TO SUGGEST OTHERWISE IS MALICIOUSLY TO DAMAGE THE UNIVERSITY WHICH IS THE MEANS OF HIS LIVELIHOOD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT.

THE ISSUE IS NOT ACADEMIC FREEDOM, BUT A RESPONSE TO BREACH OF CONTRACT. THE ISSUE IS OUR DUTY TO REQUIRE THAT EACH MEMBER OF THE FACULTY FULFILL HIS CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY.

THE CONTRACT BETWEEN BOSTON UNIVERSITY AND THE FACULTY UNION MUST NOT BE TREATED AS A SCRAP OF PAPER TO BE FOLLOWED ONLY AT THE WHIM OF INDIVIDUALS ON EITHER SIDE. THE TRUSTEES WILL OF COURSE RESPECT ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT WE SIGNED IN GOOD FAITH. WE HAVE A LEGAL AND MORAL DUTY ON BEHALF OF OUR STUDENTS TO REQUIRE THAT OTHERS DO THE SAME. WE MUST TAKE THE LEGAL MEASURES NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE VITAL "NO STRIKE" CLAUSE UPON WHICH OUR FUTURE DEPENDS.

THE FACULTY BARGAINING UNIT AND THE UNIVERSITY HAVE AGREED THAT THE STUDENT WILL NOT BE SHORT-CHANGED. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE STUDENT WILL BE OFFERED THE CLASSES HE HAS PAID FOR, HELD IN THE SETTING HE HAS PAID FOR. THIS IS NOT AN OBLIGATION THAT CAN BE "INTERPRETED" EITHER BY THE PRESIDENT OR THE PROFESSOR. LIKE THE UNION CONTRACT, IT IS A SOLEMN COMMITMENT.

THE TRUSTEES HAVE ESTABLISHED AND ORDERED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A POLICY DESIGNED TO ASSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTRACT. THE DECISION TO BEGIN THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES PROVIDED FOR IN THE UNION CONTRACT IS THE CONSIDERED AND DETERMINED ACTION OF THE UNIVERSITY. THERE IS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE.

THOSE WHO SEEK TO UNDERMINE THE INTEGRITY OF THE FACULTY CONTRACT BY THE INTERJECTION OF A FALSE ISSUE WILL NOT SUCCEED IN THEIR ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE PRESIDENT SILBER AND HIS ADMINISTRATION FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR FROM THE MAJORITY OF FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND STAFF AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY. NEITHER WILL THEY SUCCEED BY SUBJECTING DR. SILBER TO IRRESPONSIBLE AND MALICIOUS PERSONAL ATTACKS. PRESIDENT SILBER SPEAKS FOR AND ACTS ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES.

PRESIDENT SILBER HAS ENJOYED THROUGHOUT HIS TENURE THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. HE STILL DOES.

FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS DR. SILBER HAS BEEN NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED AS A FORCE FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM, CIVIL LIBERTY, AND RACIAL JUSTICE. AND AS AN UPHOLDER OF THE TRADITION OF AN OPEN CAMPUS. HE IS RIGHTLY KNOWN FOR UNCOMPROMISING INSISTENCE ON THE INTEGRITY OF THE ACADEMIC PROCESS.

THE TRUSTEES OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY ARE PROUD OF DR. SILBER. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP BOSTON UNIVERSITY HAS ACHIEVED A LEVEL OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INTELLECTUAL VITALITY UNPRECEDENTED IN ITS 140 YEAR HISTORY.

AS TRUSTEES OF ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT UNIVERSITIES—A UNIVERSITY DEDICATED TO THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH—WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

BY DIRECTION OF THE TRUSTEES

ARTHUR G. B. METCALF, CHAIRMAN

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