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Dear Noah Finco:

OPEN LETTER TO THE UWL STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND FELLOW TAXPAYERS

Unlike Chancellor Gow, I cannot use your email account as a bully pulpit for my own political purposes. Please consider the political ramifications of this entire matter.

According to UWL's termination documents, Ms. Dearman was fired for one reason and one reason only. On February 1, 2017 she responded to Chancellor Gow's email. Your government, in this case, the University of La Crosse, fired Ms. Dearman without due process. When a government official can fire a government employee because of her free speech without due process, it should be extremely frightening to all UWL students, employees and taxpayers, whether liberal or conservative. A Government official's control of your free expression of speech is perhaps the greatest form of terrorism any citizen can encounter.

I give you Saddam Hussein. In July 1979, Saddam Hussein convened a gathering of his Ba'ath Party leaders. He publicly had 68 of them removed for alleged treason. He shot twenty-two of them. The North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-un, executed 340 people since coming to power in 2011. Of those killed, nearly half were senior officers in his own government, military and the ruling Korean Worker's Party. The "crimes" included having a "bad attitude", treachery and slouching in a meeting. This was reported by The Sun newspaper.

It was only after the press got this story that Ms. Dearman's rights were restored and she was reinstated to her work. We walk a dangerous path when our government can ignore workers constitutionally protected due process rights. It is especially dangerous when workers are fired for expressing themselves in a way was not quite "politically correct" in the eyes of a government official.

Ms. Dearman has asked the Board of Regents to investigate whether the employment standards at the University apply to a rich white guy in the same manner as the standards are applied to the average employee, in this case, a woman. How does the board of Regents determine what is offensive and abusive language? How does it determine what conduct is unbecoming of an employee? We have asked the Board of Regents to explain why Chancellor Gow's conduct is not offensive or unbecoming under employment guidelines 16 or 17 as compared to her conduct. This matter is about the rights of all workers and citizens to have fair opportunity (due process) to work in the public sector. It is about whether your government should be able to control your speech contrary to the first amendment. It is about whether work rules are applied equally to all government employees.

People want to become Americans because we have 1) due process , 2) equal protection under the work rules in the public sector, and 3) a right to free speech. Please join me, in demanding that the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents protect the rights of all workers and students here at the University of La Crosse.

Sincerely,

Lee J. Fehr