Fw: The Secret Cyber Security Plans of the TU Board and Administration

Nicholas Carnes <tu.plan.email@gmail.com>
Fri, Jun 21, 2019 at 12:47 PM

Howland, Jacob <jacob-howland@utulsa.edu>
To: Nicholas Carnes <tu.plan.email@gmail.com>

Nick,

For your website.

Jake

From: Howland, Jacob
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2019 11:33 AM
To: Nicholas Carnes
Cc: Clancy, Gerard; fdorwart@fdlaw.com; Levit, Janet
Subject: The Secret Cyber Security Plans of the TU Board and Administration

Dear Mr. Dorwart, President Clancy, and Provost Levit:

I'm copying everyone in Arts and Sciences on this email. Ordinarily, we'd send this out to all TU faculty through the Concerned Faculty of TU gmail account, but you have just decided to block from the TU server any and all emails from that account. This is yet another indication of your lack of "commitment"--"true" or otherwise--to your much-vaunted values of "transparency" and "inclusiveness."

In any case, I write to ask you for an explanation.

Here is a glossy document that I stumbled across online the other day:


Tulsa Enterprise for Cyber Innovation, Talent and Entrepreneurship
I've shared the document widely among my colleagues, and no one has any idea when it was produced or in what context. It is evidently a call for investment in Cyber Security at TU, directed at wealthy corporations and individuals. (The document mentions various tax advantages, and highlights the "leadership positions in energy, banking, credit rating and financial security" of TU trustees.) There is clearly a great deal of money to be made here, especially given that federal funds will be flowing freely if this goes forward, pumping up joint TU-Tulsa projects and buildings along the 6th street corridor. Indeed, the document mentions investment by the US Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Energy, Transportation, and Commerce, among other agencies.

You did not bother to inform the TU community of the plans laid out in this document when you rolled out True Commitment. Yet this document looks like the key to the whole True Commitment plan! Indeed, the cyber-security development is touted as "part of an expansion at TU that will rapidly add 1,000 students at the University of Tulsa."

So we have questions for you. Here are just a few; perhaps the journalists and investigative reporters to whom I shall forward this email--not to mention the members of our 1.9 thousand strong Facebook page, our Concerned Faculty of TU page, our many Linkedin connections, and the numerous readers of Tuplan.org--will have others.

- Why did you fail to consult the faculty when you decided to turn our university into an agent of the State and its creepy, unblinking Eye?
- Do you think that the University of Tulsa is merely an instrument to enrich investors?
- Do you think the Board of Trustees of the University of Tulsa is fundamentally a business organization or club for investors?
- Who on the board and the administration knew in advance about the plans? How many of you stand to profit directly or indirectly from these plans?
- Did any board members or administrators purchase land along the 6th street corridor? If so, who? How much? Will any of you be enriched by construction, consulting, or other contracts related to this plan?
- Are you concerning about the conflicts of interest in which this document (to say nothing of my recent article "Corporate Wolves" in The Nation) seems to implicate you?
- When was this document produced? Who crafted this plan? How much did it cost the university?

You owe the faculty, students, and alumni of the University of Tulsa an explanation.

Sincerely,

Jacob Howland
McFarlin Professor of Philosophy