
From: Marvin Krislov <Marvin.Krislov@oberlin.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 11:50 PM
To: Meredith Raimondo; Danielle Young
Subject: Fwd: The Gibson's Controversy

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

From: "Daniel Brent" <dfbrent@gmail.com>
Date: Dec 20, 2016 7:53 PM
Subject: The Gibson's Controversy
To: "Marvin Krislov" <Marvin.Krislov@oberlin.edu>
Cc:

Dear Marvin,

I regret that our paths did not cross when I passed through Oberlin briefly for the Alumni Trustee Search Committee meeting two weekends ago. I always enjoy spending a moment or more with you, and look forward to doing so in early March, particularly to wish you well as you approach your future endeavors.

Had we met this trip, I would have candidly broached the subject of the ongoing Gibson's controversy and the College's troubling reaction. Having followed what happened through the limited lens of the Oberlin Review, augmented by speaking both with Dave Gibson and with Allen Gibson, I was distressed to learn that the College precipitously suspended Gibsons from providing baked goods to the College dining services, apparently peremptorily, before the facts and circumstances of the unfortunate incident that precipitated the controversy were fully investigated, much less adjudicated. I was also dismayed at the reported involvement of Dean of Students Meredith Raimondo as a partisan intervenor, if not a provocateur, in supporting boycotts and urging retribution against the Gibsons and their venerable establishment.

I have known Dave Gibson and his father for more than fifty years. They are a family of gentle and fine people. Allen Gibson also seems to be a gentle soul who has apparently been victimized by several students with a thirst for notoriety and a flair for controversy. Even if Allen is found to have overreacted on this particular occasion, some due process certainly should be afforded to the Gibson family, as pillars of the Oberlin community for many decades, before tarnishing their reputation and impairing their income by rushing to judgment.

I am asking that the hasty suspension of Gibsons as a supplier be rescinded pending additional fact finding and civil adjudication. As an active member of our 50th Reunion Committee, engaged in soliciting what we expect will be many millions of dollars in donations by our class to be announced this May, it is disheartening to have to explain, much less justify, this situation. Several classmates have already stated that they will not be giving to the College until this situation is reversed and the Gibsons vendor role



has been reinstated. I urge you to order those responsible for the reflexive and unjustified suspension of College purchases from Gibsons to rescind their directive immediately, and to help restore the the Gibson family's hard won reputation from the ravages imposed by the College administration at the behest of a few opportunistic student activists looking for a cause. The published Oberlin Police Department statistics apparently disprove unfounded allegations of chronic racial bias by Gibsons in confronting shoplifters.

Please advise what steps will be taken to rectify this situation so that I can reassure my fellow solicitors and classmate donors that Oberlin College still remains true to the standards of justice and fair play that permeate its essence as an institution.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season and a healthy, productive, and peaceful New Year. I look forward to seeing you on my next visit in early March and again in May at Commencement weekend

Cordially,

Dan Brent
Class of 1967