

BOT – 9/25/2012

Good morning, my name is Frank Frisenda, Vice-President of the NCCFT.

As the Fall semester began, the NCCFT was feeling confident that after 18 months, we were about to reach an agreement with the College extending the Contract for 3 additional years. After all, we have been fed your story of financial ruin for several years now and believing it, came to the table time and again with offers to help.

You rejected all our offers that would have saved the College millions of dollars always saying it wasn't enough. Whether or not our offers were enough, you have saved nothing by rejecting us. On September 5th, the real agenda became clear. We were told to keep our money; you could not live with a job security clause. As a matter of fact, you wanted to create a mechanism whereby you could eliminate 10% of the tenured workforce each year of the extension. This was never about the money, Just like the lost Temporary Lines were never about the money, LINCC was never about the money, Sabbaticals were never about the money and the Senate was never about the money. It is an ideology of control that you have brought to the campus. Members of this Board and Administration, along with your attorneys demonstrate an anti-student, anti-education, anti-professor, anti-labor agenda. If John Gross were the only person sitting at the table, I might think he was making this up. However, both Mr. Prime and Ms. Haugen were also sitting at the table.

Therefore, it makes sense that it is the combined will of the Board and this Administration, without Dr. Astrab at the helm, whose intent is to dismantle our campus, our student's education, our livelihoods and destroy the welfare of our families. You have already shattered the lives of the lost Temporary Faculty and the campus will never know the incalculable loss due to their disappearance. This is unacceptable to the faculty and should be unacceptable to the students.

Students come to Nassau for a first class, affordable education. We, the faculty, provide that first class education. We are the reason students are here, we are the reason students succeed. I have yet to hear a student express their reasons to attend Nassau are because of the Administration, Banner, Pegasus or the politically appointed Board of Trustee's. Your jobs are to provide us with the required political, financial and logistical assistance so that we can fulfill the mission of this campus.

Our job is to educate our students. We have a governance structure that ensures quality control. Our students have grown and prospered under our tutelage. We need leadership that understands and supports us, not leadership that wants to undermine and destroy us.

Even without Dr. Astrab, you carry on with the same agenda. I don't know how we are supposed to work with a Board and Administration who are on a mission to undo everything that we have dedicated our professional lives to and subject us to personal ruin. I don't know how we are supposed to find a new President who will convince us that he is not on your side, but on ours and our students.

Yet, I think we are about to find out. Welcome to the Fall semester.