

October 16, 2024

Dear Faculty,

Recent articles have raised concerns about alleged academic misconduct in President Muma's dissertation. In his message to the university on October 7th, President Muma denied these allegations, stating that "an internal inquiry was conducted by the Executive Vice President and Provost" which was "comprehensive and included both an internal review and an external independent review". This inquiry found the dissertation contained "technical omissions that did not rise to the level of misconduct" and the inquiry was subsequently closed. To be transparent and engage in the shared governance process, both President Muma and Provost Lefever have been communicating with Faculty Senate leadership.

I was made aware of these allegations and the review process on Thursday, October 3rd. I then requested the Faculty Senate Executive Committee review the application of the University Misconduct in Research Policy (9.13) to this matter and to recommend appropriate follow-up actions. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee consists of 8 faculty members from 7 academic divisions across campus. They represent both tenure-track and NTT faculty.

On Friday, October 11th, the executive committee met to conduct a review of the application of Policy 9.13 to these matters. The meeting opened and was immediately called into an executive session. The committee was provided with the reports from the internal misconduct inquiry and the external reviews. The committee also spoke with Provost Lefever and President Muma about the review process.

The committee unanimously found that the University Misconduct in Research Policy (9.13) was appropriately and fairly applied in this matter following process afforded to all WSU faculty. The committee is recommending no further action related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mathew O. Muether

Wichita State Faculty Senate President