

**From:** Dillon, Robert T  
**Sent:** Monday, February 22, 2016 3:55 PM  
**To:** Auerbach, Mike <auerbachmj@cofc.edu>; SSMfaculty <SSMfaculty@cofc.edu>  
**Cc:** McGee, Brian <McgeeB@cofc.edu>; Ferguson, Douglas A <FergusonD@cofc.edu>  
**Subject:** Going Down With Woodrow Wilson

To My Friends in the School of Science and Math:

Thursday evening (2/18) I received a 22-page memorandum from Provost Brian McGee, relieving me of my instructional duties, effective immediately, and threatening to suspend me without pay for the 2016-17 academic year. I have been charged with insubordination. At issue is a single paragraph in the syllabus of my Genetics Laboratory (Biol 305L), which reads as follows:

Explicit Learning Outcome. "It is the business of a University to impart to the rank and file of the men whom it trains the right thought of the world, the thought which it has tested and established, the principles which have stood through the seasons and become at length part of the immemorial wisdom of the race. The object of education is not merely to draw out the powers of the individual mind: it is rather its right object to draw all minds to a proper adjustment to the physical and social world in which they are to have their life and their development: to enlighten, strengthen and make fit. The business of the world is not individual success, but its own betterment, strengthening, and growth in spiritual insight-- 'So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom' is its right prayer and aspiration." Woodrow Wilson, 1896

Chairman Jaap Hillenius first raised objections about this language in an email of 1/19. He expressed his opinion that the Wilson quote "does not meet the SACSCOC guidelines" for a statement of student learning outcomes, and requested unspecified changes. I initially deflected Dr. Hillenius' requests, and attempted to engage him in a dialogue that might lead to compromise. But he elevated the matter to the Office of the Dean in late January, where the tone of the interaction became much more strident. Dean Auerbach accused me of playing "silly, sanctimonious games" on 2/9, and forwarded the matter to the Provost's Office on Charles Darwin's Birthday, 2/12.

I have consistently maintained that the Wilson quote is a complete and accurate summary of the learning outcomes toward which I teach, and that to alter the language in any substantive way would misrepresent Genetics Lab 305L at The College of Charleston (2/19). **I have been charged with insubordination because I refuse to lie.**

This is not a "personnel matter." The issues at stake involve academic freedom and integrity, and as such should be of great interest to the entire College community. So I have attached to this email the entire record of my interactions with the Chair, the Dean, and the Provost since 1/19 as a pair of pdf files, "McGee18Feb16" and "McGee19Feb16." Please feel free to share this material openly, with all interested parties. We will keep you posted as the matter plays out.

Psalm 27: 1-3,  
Rob



Mr. Gerald F. Hill... Mr. Gerald F. Hill...

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