

Response to University Affairs (Canada) article

August 23, 2012

Robyn was surfing www.universityaffairs.ca and sent you this article with the following comment:

Dr. Smith is uninformed, in my opinion. This article shamefully jumps on the media bandwagon regarding the events at Penn State. The 'Freeh Report' is vehemently denied as inadequate and blatantly false in conclusion by most alumni (athletes and otherwise), the family of Joe Paterno, former President Spanier, and the accused (not convicted) Mr. Curley and Mr. Shultz...as well as the most of the faculty, staff, and students of this renowned university. The conclusions of the Freeh Report have been taken as gospel (even though these 'investigators' did not interview any of the above accused nor Mr McQuery) and unbelievably 'accepted' by the current President and Board of Trustees (some of who had knowledge of the external allegations against Sandusky since 1998). This acceptance appears to be an effort to 'move on as quickly as possible' by PSU admin, but has allowed the NCAA to impose the most extreme penalties ever dealt a university without even doing their own investigation. Again, no one was interviewed, the lack of evidence against Joe Paterno, Shultz, Curley, and Spanier in this report is appalling in a legal sense – and the conclusions were beyond biased. Due process has not been afforded either Mr Paterno or Mr. Spanier...and Shultz and Curley have yet to have their day in court. The outrageous condemnation of an entire university for the act of one man, however heinous, is appalling and says more about a society than the recipient of such ire:

"Anyone that rises, any greatness, attracts those who would cut it down at the roots....any fool knows that.. – Barbara Kingsolver, The Lacuna"

We who STILL ARE PENN STATE know that it is about academic excellence, the nature of kindness and civility in State College, the advances and goodness of the research and productivity of the university, the ultimate sense of community that will always exist, and the pride, not arrogance, of the individuals that are the substance of this venerable university.

Please note: The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) has released its 2012 ranking of the top 100 world-class universities and has ranked Penn State at No. 49. This is only one of many accolades that have nothing to do with Jerry Sandusky....or even Paterno, Spanier, Shultz and Curley.

Jerry Sandusky can rot in hell in all of our eyes, and we of Penn State were as blind-sided by him as the rest of the world. These types of men and women will always exist somewhere – Penn State UNIVERSITY was not immune to that, but also not responsible for his sick and atrocious actions.

I am horrified at the nature of the media and public opinion response to these events since last November, the lack of human compassion for what Penn State has suffered....indeed, the 'piling on' effect without real knowledge of the context of events nor the real nature of those being accused, in hindsight, of covering up now.

Paterno is not alive to defend himself nor testify to these new accusations, but he has testified under oath to not have understood the severity of the events from what McQuery expressed to him in 2001. He was never charged with any criminal offense by any entity. Nonetheless, he may have felt some internal discomfort/distrust with Sandusky (??from rumors of the – external to PSU – failed accusations of inappropriate behavior in 1998) because Paterno essentially removed Sandusky from the football program that year by telling him he would never become head football coach at Penn State (Sandusky, not having many options, thereafter retired – and it was the PSU Admin that negotiated his retirement package, including his continued use of athletic facilities).

The idea that the naysayers of the world know enough about any of these events to make judgments about Penn State University as a whole – other than that this monster perpetrated many of his crimes on the site – is patently absurd and tellingly shameful.

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Snyder Walters, Ph.D. and proud Pennsylvania State University Alumnus

It has happened here – Let's not fool ourselves that the Penn State pedophilia scandal is an exclusively U.S. phenomenon.

Copyright 2012 AUCC All Rights Reserved

This story, forwarded to you appears on
<http://www.universityaffairs.ca> at the following URL:
<http://www.universityaffairs.ca/it-has-happened-here.aspx>

« [My Thoughts on the Football Circumstances](#) — [Penn State will Rebuild & Renew!](#) »