

I am sure you were asked to publish the statement of the governors and were unable to refuse, in much the same way as your predecessor was prevented from publishing anything during the shameful dispute.

However, I would be grateful if you would convey our considerable disgust at the tone of the statement and forward this reply to the Governors.

1. Acceptance of the verdict of the Smith tribunal, remorse for the sordid conduct of the Censors in dealing with the Dean's request for a review, including the content of the emails that surfaced, and a decision to refund the Dean's costs would have brought the sad matter to an early conclusion. The refusal to embrace any of these showed a degree of vindictiveness which degraded the whole college. It was a dire failure of leadership adopting such bullying tactics and cost the college badly as sponsors, such as xxxxx were appalled.

2. As an attempt to regain lost ground following 27-0 Tribunal defeat the college spent yet more charitable funds on a top of the range PR firm. Where on earth was the justification for this? Governors should be appointed to govern and never use such funds so injudiciously.

3. There are many reasons to be critical of the conduct of the Governors, but inflating the 'hairgate' issue which had not apparently upset her unduly, was an unnecessary act of desperation and deceit. The stoking up was probably not initiated by her, but in any event she has undoubtedly been upset by the subsequent dispute and adverse publicity so that back-fired badly. The over-riding fact remains that it was the college that had to pay her off, not the Dean, which speaks volumes.

4. The Dean has had his life turned upside down and that of his wife and family. The level of stress from repeated assaults by the Governors would drive a lesser man to suicide. His mental health will doubtless suffer lifelong adverse effects. His faith has been shaken to its core. If the Governors had been less obsessed with getting rid, poisoning, grinding down or any other of the tasteless, shameful tactics this would have spared the cost to the charitable donors and Dr Percy the cost to his health

Dr Percy never led a campaign. To suggest that he did is to ignore the hundreds and thousands of interested followers who were desperate to know how to support him. He was supremely gracious and humble in his response to emails and messages.

The Governors should note that in spite of Bishop Croft's refusal to allow a leaving service in the cathedral or the University church, hundreds of warm-hearted, well-informed people came together in Oriel College on 28th March and again at Exeter College on 14th May.

Martyn commands huge respect in Oxford, the UK and beyond. Through his own efforts he remains a man of good character and has already risen far above the Governors in public respect.

In a world where very sadly arrogance has become powerful currency and integrity is in short supply it would be heartening to see more than a shred of humility from the Governing Body at the largest college in one of the finest universities in the world. Young students need decent role models more than ever.