



SIUC Faculty Association

IEA – NEA

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Statement by FA President Dave Johnson to SIUC Board of Trustees

May 29, 2020

As members of this board know, the FA released a statement about the chancellor search in which we said that we believed that both Dr. Stapleton and Dr. Lane would be strong, collaborative leaders who would promote shared governance. In Dr. Lane's case, we noted the controversy surrounding his departure from Texas Southern had led many faculty to be concerned, but we determined that what we knew at that time did not justify ruling him out of contention for the position of chancellor.

Shared governance relies on transparency and trust. Those two qualities will also be of the utmost importance as we face the COVID-19 pandemic. Faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members need to be able to trust what SIU says. In particular they need to be able to trust that facts and figures SIU provides are indeed factual.

The most striking figure in the [SIU press release](#) announcing the selection of Dr. Lane was the statement that enrollment at Texas Southern had increased by 28% during a three year period (Fall 2016 to 2019). This statement is false. Enrollment at Texas Southern increased during that period by less than 2%, according to the official figures [readily available on the Texas Southern website](#). There is no single fact that will be more important to the future of SIUC than our enrollment. It is thus deeply troubling that SIUC appears to be broadcasting a blatantly false claim about our presumptive chancellor's past performance regarding enrollment.

[The Houston Chronicle](#) ran a story this morning about a report sponsored by the TSU Board of Regents. That report outlines massive irregularities in TSU's undergraduate admissions and scholarship programs. The report does not mention Dr. Lane by name. It was also clearly leaked by his enemies in order to embarrass him as he about to be named chancellor here. The motive of the leaker does not, however, demonstrate that the problems raised in the report are not real. Those problems, if accurately reported, undermine the claim that Dr. Lane raised enrollment at Texas Southern in a responsible way.

My question for you today, then, is how you plan to ensure trust and transparency going forward given these concerns faculty will have about the hiring of Dr. Lane. The FA will do all in its power to work productively with the new administration, but for that relationship to be productive, it must be based on transparency and trust.