Friends and Colleagues,

At the faculty forum scheduled for the College Hour tomorrow, we can have but one topic: the relationship between this Faculty, the First Amendment, our minority students, and the presumed appearance on our campus of Mr. Shawn Slater, whose actions would seem to represent the antithesis of much that we claim to value.

This campus is in crisis. Tomorrow is not the time to spend a precious hour wheedling our current topics: self-governance, budget priorities and football. The Shawn Slater issue is dividing this community in serious ways. It is an issue that our Faculty can not duck.

How we respond to this issue will affect how we are perceived by the public for some time into the future. More important, the wisdom, courage and strength we display—or fail to display—will affect how we are perceived by our peers across the West, perhaps farther. Most important, however, what we do or fail to do will affect how we come to perceive ourselves.

We are all busy, understandably preoccupied with concluding a hectic term and ministering to our students’ often desperate needs. Nevertheless . . . Please plan to attend the College Hour forum. Talk to your friends and associates. Bring your best wisdom, courage and strength.

Thank you for considering this plea.

John Hall

Sheila Van Stelle
Paul N. Parich
Ingrid Ryan
William Caz
Dugald Owen
Dennis Linn
Henry Garcia

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