

DEPAUL PROPOSAL DEVELOPED AT PROVOST'S FACULTY-STAFF TOWN HALL ON DR. KOOCHER, OCTOBER 12, 2015

DePaul's Mission and Values are based upon its "distinguishing marks" that include:

- *Critical moral thinking founded on moral principles which embody religious values and the highest ideals of our society;*
- *Academic freedom guaranteed . . . as an essential condition of effective inquiry . . .; and*
- *[Vincentian] personalism . . . manifested . . . in a sensitivity to and care for the needs of each other and those served, with a special concern for the deprived members of society.*¹

College of Science and Health ("CSH"): Similarly, on its website landing page, the new College of Science and Health prominently states that it "*educates students with a strong Vincentian commitment to social justice and civic engagement.*"²

Leadership Role of DePaul Deans: DePaul's College Deans not only preside over their individual colleges. As Officers of the University, they also constitute part of DePaul's Leadership team through Joint Council that meets monthly to make the university's most important decisions.³ Deans are also called upon to chair Dean Search Committees for other Colleges. Thus, *all* DePaul administrators, faculty, staff, and students are stakeholders on this issue, regardless of the individual college to which they may also belong.

The University Response Has Been Insufficient: The university's response—one that uncritically adopted Dr. Koocher's statements at face value despite the detailed and thorough criticisms in the Hoffman Report⁴—*now requires formation of an independent body by the Provost, Faculty and Staff Council, and the Student Government Association to assess whether Dr. Koocher's various roles in the American Psychological Association ("APA") are consistent with DePaul's mission and values and the stated goal of the new College of Science and Health to educate students with a strong Vincentian commitment to social*

¹ See DePaul University Mission Statement, "Distinguishing Marks," pp. 2-3, undated document *available at* <https://offices.depaul.edu/mission-and-values/about/Documents/DePaul%20University%20Mission%20Statement.pdf>

² See DePaul College of Science and Health website landing page, *available at* <https://csh.depaul.edu/Pages/default.aspx>.

³ See DePaul University Office of the President Leadership Team website landing page, *available at* <http://offices.depaul.edu/president/about/leadership-team/Pages/default.aspx> (revealing the President's "Leadership Team," which meets monthly as the "Joint Council" and consists of "the executives, deans, vice presidents, as well as presidents of the Faculty and Staff councils and the Student Government Association.").

⁴ David H. Hoffman, Esq., et.al., REPORT TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RELATING TO APA ETHICS GUIDELINES, NATIONAL SECURITY INTERROGATIONS, AND TORTURE, July 10, 2015 (Revised September 4, 2015), *available at* <http://www.apa.org/independent-review/revised-report.pdf> (hereinafter, "Hoffman Report").

justice and civic engagement. Absent a serious inquiry conducted by an independent body representing all university stakeholders, DePaul risks being widely perceived as engaging in a “cover-up” of a national scandal involving a DePaul official accused of serious ethical breaches that appear to be at odds with the university’s stated mission and CSH educational goal.

Four Questions to Guide the Independent Committee’s Charge:

- 1) The Hoffman Report concluded in part that Dr. Koocher [and APA ethics director, Dr. Stephen Behnke] principally recommended an approach that the APA ultimately took — “to deliberately avoid probing or inquiring into the widespread indications that had surfaced about harsh interrogation techniques being conducted by the CIA and DoD, even though they knew that psychologists were involved in CIA and DoD interrogations.”⁵ An independent committee must determine whether in his various roles within the APA, Dr. Koocher exercised appropriate due diligence in his leadership in a way consistent with “critical moral thinking” desired of a DePaul Officer and College Dean.
- 2) In his former roles within the American Psychological Association (APA), the independent committee must determine whether Dr. Koocher exercised “critical moral thinking” and conducted himself in a manner consistent with a Vincentian “personalism” that manifests concern for the most “deprived members of society.”
 - a) Specifically, the committee must assess whether Dr. Koocher’s reported “third party beneficence”⁶ approach to the ethical responsibilities of the APA psychologist reflects DePaul’s mission-driven concern for the most deprived members of society—i.e., Guantanamo Bay prisoners at risk of torture by psychologist-assisted military interrogators.
- 3) An independent committee must determine whether Dr. Koocher’s statements and actions toward his former APA and other professional colleagues who articulated minority viewpoints or held views opposing his own reflect a fundamental respect for academic freedom as an effective condition of academic inquiry necessary to be a College Dean and university Officer? This inquiry may include separate sub-questions involving:
 - a) Whether Dr. Koocher used false or *ad hominem* attacks on colleagues in the discharge of his professional duties within the APA.
 - b) Whether Dr. Koocher has a history of respecting academic freedom as an effective condition of academic inquiry during his leadership positions with the APA or as liaison to the PENS Task Force or as Dean of the College of Science and Health.

⁵ *Id.* at 67.

⁶ Dr. Koocher’s “third-party beneficence” approach as detailed in the Hoffman Report seeks to balance psychologists’ historic ethical concerns about possible injuries to victims of torture in psychologist-assisted military interrogations against possible national security benefits derived by the third-party American public. See Hoffman Report, *supra* note 5, at 70.

- 4) An independent committee must determine whether in light of its determinations on any of the above questions or issues that arise during the investigation, whether the integrity of DePaul's Vincentian mission is significantly compromised by maintaining Dr. Koocher as College Dean and an Officer of the University. The committee must also determine whether in light of prior determinations, the integrity of the College of Science and Health goal—one that seeks to educate students with a strong Vincentian commitment to social justice and civic engagement—is significantly compromised by maintaining Dr. Koocher as Dean of CSH.