



West Virginia University

Office of the Provost

August 8, 2012

Matthew A. Vester  
Associate Professor  
West Virginia University  
Department of History  
PO Box 6303  
Morgantown, WV 26506

Dear Dr. Vester,

Two complaints of academic misconduct related to the award of an eMBA degree in the College of Business and Economics to former West Virginia University student Heather Kirby (Bresch) were filed under the West Virginia University Academic Misconduct process in 2008.

On November 10, 2011, I was charged by West Virginia University Provost Michele Wheatly to serve as a Special Academic Integrity Officer in regard to all academic integrity matters arising out of the awarding of the eMBA degree.

Approximately five (5) years have elapsed since the award of the degree. Unreasonable delay raises due process implications and impugns the concept of fairness. Therefore, as Special Academic Integrity Officer, it is my determination and decision that no further academic misconduct action should be taken with regard to the substance of the 2008 complaints related to the eMBA degree. This decision is based solely on the inability to reach conclusion in a timely manner, and should not be construed as a determination on the merits of the underlying allegations.

Sincerely,

Nigel N. Clark  
Special Academic Integrity Officer

NC/lbo

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