
From: Lawrence Krauss [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 1:19 AM
To: Lawrence Krauss
Cc: Keith Porter; [REDACTED] Jennifer Smyser; Ben Loehrke; Danielle Jablanski; Patty Papke; Lawrence Krauss
Subject: Re: Tempe workshop

Dear Keith:

I reread my note to you, and realize that I too may have acted before my head was fully calm, and I apologize to you for that. While I am disappointed that you proactively communicated to all the participants before writing to Amelia, or me or Rachel, but what is done is done, and it was probably inappropriate for me to ask you to write a follow-up letter. It should be up to you to decide how you would proceed following our communication. (For what it is worth, I did have a brief conversation with Ben near the end of the meeting expressing to him efforts by a news organization to defame me, in the context of the discussion we all had the night before.)

In any case, I am very sorry you felt blindsided, but given what I described in my letter below it certainly didn't seem appropriate at that time to talk widely about something that had no credibility or seemed to have no likelihood of appearing.

As far as the video of the public event is concerned, once again, we will definitely remove you from the film if you wish. But at this time it seems to us to be disingenuous to retroactively remove all evidence that Stanley was one of the supporters of the event, which after all, went very well and was on a topic that all of us care about. Certainly the Stanley Foundation can make different decisions in the future about partnering with Origins, but I at least do not think it is appropriate to try and change the realities of the past, by erasing evidence of what I believe were all of our honest efforts to cooperate to produce something we could all be proud of. I hope you agree.

Sincerely,

Lawrence

Lawrence M. Krauss
Director, The Origins Project at ASU
Co-Director, Cosmology Initiative
Foundation Professor
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On Feb 26, 2018, at 10:59 AM, Lawrence Krauss [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Keith:

I am very concerned by your letter, indicating your actions and requests, a number of which seem both inappropriate and unprofessional. I understand your shock and concern upon seeing the BuzzFeed story but I believe your response was inappropriate for a number of reasons. Let me outline them:

1. In December BuzzFeed contacted my University and me with almost everything that was in the story. I provided counter-evidence including information from ASU and ANU, another university I am affiliated with that investigated the Australia allegation. As a result of this I received a note from BuzzFeed that they were not publishing the story. BuzzFeed continued to bother my institution for information, but as there was none, and as essentially the entire story is false (the counter-evidence we provided is not included in the story) there was no expectation that a story would appear. I had in fact related my concerns about BuzzFeed to Rachel Bronson in November, which prepared her for the slanderous call she received from them shortly after making false claims and asking why she allowed me to be associated with the Bulletin. She understood that the allegations were false and had been dealt with. Moreover, a lawyer who I had contracted because of concerns about BuzzFeed had prepared and sent a cease and desist letter to them to stop their harassment. We had no expectation that they would publish false stories after being informed that they were false, and for all of these reasons it would have been inappropriate to bring this personal matter up to you or your organization at the time.

2. I am very disappointed that you decided to send a letter to all participants about this without consulting me or my staff. This was unprofessional as well as being discourteous to both me, my Origins colleagues, the ASU Origins Project itself, and all of the workshop participants. What you have effectively done is to propagate what we believe was slander to a broader audience, and without any substantiation was extremely inappropriate for you to do in the context of your position as a representative of the Stanley Foundation, independent of any personal anger you may felt. It would have been appropriate to consult us first. It is unprofessional to respond personally in the heat of anger, and any decision about this should have waited till calmer heads prevailed.

3. Your reaction regarding the workshop is also of some concern here. Allegation, and indeed allegation by BuzzFeed of all places, is just that. There should not only be a presumption of innocence but you should note that all organizations that have looked at these claims, including ASU and the Origins Project, have dismissed them. ASU was aware of all the allegations and chose to take no action because there was no evidence. I am saddened that you, on behalf of your organization acted so rashly as to email participants, and now want to remove Stanley's name from an event that everyone involved felt was professional and wonderful and had nothing at all to do with the BuzzFeed story. You are essentially impugning the Origins Project and ASU because of your concerns about me, valid or not. And for your information, I have never been accused or found in violation of sexual harassment regulations by any organization with which I have been associated. I have not been 'banned' from universities or institutes, as I informed the BuzzFeed reporter along with documentary evidence. I have never groped, assaulted, or harassed anyone.

It is too late to completely undo some of what has been done, but I would request two things.

(a)= First, that you write the participants a letter of apology =ndicating that your original email was sent before the matter was =iscussed the me and the Origins team. That I have reported =o you that not only are the accusations false, but that ASU had been =ware of them and had dismissed them. And that you have been =nformed that Buzzfeed had been informed of this, along with =ounter-evidence provided to them, prior to publication and in December =ad indicated they were not going ahead with publication. For this =eason, this issue was not discussed with you prior to the =eeting.

(b)=That you reconsider your requests regarding the workshop. We =ould certainly be willing to remove any video of you personally, but =our other requests are inappropriate. And as we said earlier, we =ould never use any video of any participant at the workshop without =heir explicit permission.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Krauss

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On Feb 26, 2018, at 7:26 AM, Keith Porter ██████████
<mailto:██████████> wrote:

Dear Amelia,

The accusations against Lawrence have caused us considerable =istress (no doubt you are in the same boat). I am particularly =oncerned that, according to the BuzzFeed article, Lawrence was aware of =he pending story since at least December yet did not alert us that the =tory was coming.

This failure to disclose is unprofessional and, as I am informing you now, forces us to sever all ties with Lawrence. By extension this means we need to sever ties with the ASU Origins project until the problem is resolved. I am cc'ing Lawrence on this message (along with the relevant Stanley Foundation staff).

I have sent an email to all participants in the Tempe event letting them know that we were unaware of these accusations.

Further, I request that you do not publish any video from the Tempe workshop or the Perry event. If you proceed with publishing video from either, I ask that you remove all references to the Stanley Foundation in any form, remove the faces and comments from all Stanley Foundation staff (including my intro at the Perry event), and blur out the Stanley Foundation logo anytime it appears on screen.

I also recommend that you seek specific consent from all participants in the Tempe workshop before publishing their images or comments in video or other form.

I deeply regret this turn of events, and I hope you understand our position.

Thanks

Keith

Keith Porter

President

The Stanley Foundation

[REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>

Office: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

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