
From: Lawrence Krauss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 5:30 PM
To: jeffrey E.
Subject: final draft email

Dear eil and Michael:

Attached is a copy of some correspondence from Buzzfeed, which has followed on six months of attempts (following on their being contacted by a third party who made a claim regarding a selfie session at an event in Australia that ASU and ANU had previously shown to be false) to produce allegations of sexual harassment by me. Over this period they produced 5 false allegations, primarily off of web claims which I subsequently demonstrated to be false. Nevertheless the harassment by them has continued.

Most recently, Buzzfeed searched for other defamatory examples, and through someone, presumably at Perimeter, received the following claim.

—At the Perimeter Institute’s “Quantum to Cosmos” Festival in October 2009, a woman made a formal complaint of sexual harassment against you. The institute immediately removed you from the premises and banned you from ever coming back.

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After I disputed this claim, they came back with the following claim, which they said was in the record by someone from Perimeter:

*

In October of 2009, you went to Waterloo, Ontario, to be a guest speaker at the Quantum to Cosmos Festival at the Perimeter Institute.

*

During the event, a sexual harassment complaint was filed against you.

*

You were immediately removed from the premises and banned from ever coming back.

*

The institute would not provide more details to respect the complainant's privacy. =/span>

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*

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I disputed this, and included an email from you, Neil as a =emonstration that it was false (I redacted the information that was not =elevant to them):

Begin =orwarded message:

From: "Neil Turok" <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Holden XXX

Date: March 31, 2011 at 9:30:26 AM MST

To: [REDACTED]>

Dear Larry,

I hope you're doing very well. It =as nice to have you at PI for the Q2C Festival and I do hope you'll be =ble to visit again soon.

I'm writing in regard to Holden =XX, who I have been working with recently

=E2◆◆

With my best wishes,
Neil

Subsequent=to that, Buzzfeed came back with the following:

Thank you for sending =he email from Neil Turok. We have raised this with the Perimeter =nstitute, which has clarified its position, as follows:

*

During the event, a sexual harassment complaint was filed =ith the administration against you.

*

In 2012, as part of a formal review of its internal policies, the institute made a decision that you would not be invited to return.

I believe this final claim is false, and I would like confirmation from you. It may be a fine point, but I believe it is important. Originally Michael informed me immediately after the event in 2009 that there was a complaint of inappropriate communication with one of the staff--something I still dispute--but he said as it may, he informed me by email that I shouldn't communicate with the staff I had interacted with at the time, and the matter was then considered closed. Several years later I was invited to give another public lecture but your outreach coordinator later rescinded the invitation, although I was reimbursed for that. As you are aware, I subsequently discussed my concern about this with Neil in Vancouver in that year, and inquired about exactly what it was all about, and informed him that either a formal procedure to resolve any issue in which I could participate and respond might be appropriate, or the matter should be dropped. Neil said he would explore the matter, and neither he, nor anyone else, ever contacted me following that. I have never been informed of anything like Buzzfeed has claimed. Indeed I have been invited back to Perimeter for scientific meetings by various colleagues in the intervening years. I would find it highly irregular if any formal procedure took place with such an outcome without my knowledge or without any due process, and without subsequently informing me, and all evidence I have suggests the contrary.

I am very concerned by this claim below, for obvious reasons. First, the original Perimeter source provided false and defamatory information to Buzzfeed, changing a story only after I provided counter-evidence. The accurate history if there is one, is that there was a complaint from someone at Perimeter about inappropriate communication and that 3 years later a decision was made by the outreach coordinator, perhaps in collaboration with others, not to invite me back at that time for a public lecture. I would like to have your confirm for me that Buzzfeed's claim is incorrect at stands. I would prefer to leave it at that, but if necessary one could add that there was a report of inappropriate communication with an employee at the event at the time, which I disputed and the matter was closed.

Please confirm my understanding of this issue for me if you will. As you can imagine, making this public is embarrassing for me. Buzzfeed has tried, at every turn, to misrepresent facts in the worst possible light, it is important for me to not allow them to continue to do this with impunity. For example, they contacted my university and asked if there any claims of sexual harassment against me, and though the university explicitly replied there were none from the University, but that there was an external allegation about a remote event that the university had investigated and had discredited (the one I mentioned above) and about which they would therefore not provide further information, Buzzfeed informed me that they intended to report that they contacted the University with a request for information about sexual harassment allegations at ASU and that the University would not give them any information.

Last, while it would not be surprising if Buzzfeed has misinterpreted statements from Perimeter staff just to elicit a response, but if a member of your staff made the original false allegation to Buzzfeed (violating confidentiality in the process I expect) I wanted you to be aware of this possibility, and if necessary act accordingly.

I really appreciate your prompt attention to this request.

Lawrence Krauss
Lawrence M. Krauss
Director, The Origins Project at ASU
Co-Director, Cosmology Initiative
Foundation Professor
School of Earth & Space Exploration and Physics Department

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