



NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

LUA A SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

“Truth Pressed to The Earth Shall Rise Again”

March 21, 2024

Board of Curators
Lincoln University
820 Chestnut Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

From the works of William Cullen Bryant, “The Battle-Field” and the inspirational messages that undergirded Dr. Martin Luther King’s Jr. journey throughout the Civil Rights movement of the 60s; - we now find these very words to be applied [*“Truth Pressed To The Earth Shall Rise Again”*] to the ineffective leadership of the Lincoln University Board of Curators’ decision to not hear and act on the cry for change, by the Lincoln University (National) Alumni Association (LUAA), as well as the Student Government Association of Lincoln University. The faculty and staff must endure the shameful response given to them by the Board of Curators leadership practices. This decision is unacceptable!

Regarding the call for mental health awareness, this decision implodes the very fabric of healing an institution’s dire need for recovery and wellness. This decision will continue to fester an open wound of hopelessness and despondency. No individual is above the health and well-being of the University. Therefore, we (LUAA) find it necessary to issue a statement of **NO-CONFIDENCE** in the Lincoln University Board of Curators’ ability to bring forward an effective leader who can bring healing to this institution of higher education.

We were given a president with minimal athletic leadership abilities, and placed in a role requiring even stronger critical thinking skills. As such, his lack thereof has become evident throughout his two and a half years of service; - and for the Board of Curators to reassert this flawed decision, and to act without change in this administration is further evidence of their inadequacies to care for and protect the interest of the University’s mission, and its sovereignty as a Historically Black College and University (HBCU).

The diminished value of the students, faculty, staff, and alumni is embedded in this outcome, and the Board of Curators should be held accountable for their poorly driven decision-making regarding the life and health of Lincoln University. The moral compass for ineffective leadership practices is found within the hypocritical citation proffered through the allegedly stated position – “the Board of Curators does not get involved in personnel matters.”

The capacity of the Board of Curators to conduct an independent investigation of themselves is an implicit and complicit ruse to subvert the truth. Truth pressed to the earth shall rise again! External reviews expressed by two of the most critical stakeholder groups in this assembly as alumni and

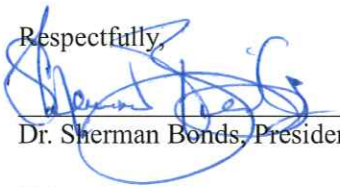
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students have been dismissed as an acceptable loss. Casualties of war for an HBCU, now fall on the shoulders of our students and alumni. The missed opportunity to lead at such a critical moment pens this Board of Curators with the unfortunate misunderstanding of their purpose. And that purpose is to ensure the sustainability of the University is cemented in time, and no harm comes to it by their hands.

Therefore, we (LUAA) again seek change at the University, and those changes now include the request for those Board of Curators whose terms of service have expired, to vacate their seat of privilege. Your services are no longer needed because you have brought forward irrevocable harm, shame, hopelessness, and mortification to our beloved University (students, faculty, staff, and alumni). As such the Board of Curators has acted in a manner that perpetuates ineptitude and insensitivity for our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Too whom much is given, much is required, and the Board of Curators has fallen short in your service to humanity. Now exit with dignity, to do less is unacceptable. Receive this Summative Assessment of incompetent leadership as the stated position of the LUAA’s evaluation of your roles as institutional leaders for the benefit of Lincoln University. You have not!

Respectfully,



Dr. Sherman Bonds, President LUAA

PC:

Governor Mike Parson
LUAA Board of Directors, and Alumni
LU Student Government Association
Missouri Legislative Black Caucus
Press Release