

The following is a record of what was said at the faculty training meeting at East Georgia College during the Sexual Harassment Training on Wednesday, August 5, 2009.

Thomas Thibeault: Instructor in English, who related the anecdote and asked the questions.

Mary Smith: Vice-President for Legal Affairs, who conducted the training and answered the questions.

Mary Smith was explaining the sexually harassment policy and was emphasizing that faculty had to report suspicions of sexual harassment by any faculty member to the college administration. She was stating that the feelings of the offended were proof of the offensive nature of the behavior.

Thomas Thibeault stated and asked.

Last week two students were talking to me in the hallway after class. One student said that she didn't want to go to a professor's office because he looked down her cleavage. The woman was wearing clothing that was specifically designed to draw attention to her cleavage. She even sported a tattoo on her chest, but I didn't get close enough to read it. The cleavage was also decorated in some sort of sparkly material, glitter or dried barbecue sauce. I couldn't tell. I told the student that she shouldn't complain, if she drew such attention to herself. The other female student then said, and I hope you're not offended by her actual words, "if you don't want anyone looking at your titties, I'll lend you a T-shirt. I have one in the truck." The first student then said, "No. I'm proud of the way I look." I left the conversation at that point.

The purpose of the anecdote is to ask the question "what provision is there in the Sexual Harassment policy to protect the accused against complaints which are malicious or, in this case ridiculous?"

Smith replied.

"There is no provision in the policy. I must emphasize that if the person feels offended then the incident must be reported to the college authorities. Even if you hear such a statement about a faculty member, you are to report it. If you don't, you yourself are party to the harassment and harassment is dismissible."

Thomas Thibeault pressed.

"So there is no protection against a false accusation?"

Smith repeated.

“No.”

Thomas Thibeault stated.

“Then the policy itself is flawed.”

Note:

The irony of this is that, two days after making this public statement in the context of a public discussion on Sexual Harassment Policy, I was fired on the grounds of sexual harassment. No proof of my alleged harassment was offered and I was summarily dismissed from my teaching position. This is the final act in a catalogue of victimization which dates back at least to September, 2008, and I suspect much longer.

My dismissal was in defiance of the policies of the USG, employment legislation and common decency.

My dismissal is vivid proof of my allegation that the Sexual Harassment Policy at East Georgia College is actually a policy of harassment based on false accusations of sexual misconduct.