

June 9, 2008

Dr. Alan Cureton, President
Northwestern College and Radio
3003 Snelling Ave N
Roseville, MN 55113-1598

Dear President Cureton,

We current and former trustees signed below sincerely desire the best for the future of Northwestern College and Radio. We want to believe that you share the same desire, and in light of that, we come to you with a request.

It is painfully obvious that the Northwestern campus and community are seriously divided. The faculty's recent survey, the article in the last issue of the student newspaper, the unrest among staff and faculty, and the multiplying expressions of concern from college alumni and friends all reflect a problem that is much bigger than "a few employees," [REDACTED] and it isn't getting better or going away. The crisis is only becoming bigger, and we think it now threatens the future of Northwestern.

Over the past year, the Board of Trustees has been crippled with disunity that is largely focused on your leadership. An attempt to restore unity on the basis of historic college beliefs and values was short-circuited and, later, even ridiculed. In December, a nationally recognized consultant explored the dynamics at work on the board and the relationship between the board and the president. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Questions about direction and integrity have been underscored by administrative actions betraying earlier commitments "not to retaliate" against professors, respected men who were asked by the board to address it. A significant number of faculty - amounting to a substantial majority of respondents - acknowledges in a recent survey that "an atmosphere of fear and distrust" exists at the college. Confidence in your leadership is at an all time low, and we believe it is not recoverable.

The action by the Governance Committee, at the behest of its chair and yourself, demanding that trustee "dissenters" declare "unfettered support" for you or resign from the board exposes an unprecedented arrogance of power. It sends a chilling message to anyone who dares question or disagree with you and it emasculates the responsibility a trustee has for the institution's welfare. Heavy-handed tactics like this are not the mark of Christian leadership.

In light of these realities, which can no longer be ignored or rationalized, and which no doubt are as difficult for you as for those of us who have seen them develop, we appeal to you to resign as President of Northwestern College and Radio.

We make this appeal both for the sake of Northwestern and for your own sake. We are convinced this is the best hope that Northwestern has for averting serious decline and recovering its spiritual distinctiveness as a conservative, biblically based Christian institution.

We respectfully ask that you provide a written response to the Chairman of the Board and any of the undersigned by Monday, June 16, 2008, stating your intention.

Sincerely,

Galen Call, Trustee
John Helmberger, Trustee
Bruce Pearson, Trustee
Paul Sentman, Former Trustee

Signature pages enclosed.

Cc: Grover Sayre, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Northwestern College & Radio