

December 6, 2007

I have concluded an investigation on a student complain filed against June Sheldon on July 25, 2007. I met with June and the FA on September 6, 2007. During this meeting June admitted stating in her Human Heredity course that mistreatment to pregnant women at a certain point in the pregnancy can cause male homosexuality. She also stated that there was no such thing as true female homosexuality. She stated that she believed that her opinions were consistent with mainstream scientific thought by the biology community.

June agreed to a meeting with the full-time biology faculty to discuss this issue. After I tried to schedule this meeting in October, I received an e-mail from the FA stating that June had decided that she would not meet with the biology faculty.

Since receiving this information, I have met individually with the four full-time faculty members in the biology department. I asked each faculty member two questions. The first question was about their perception of the mainstream scientific thought on the nature verses nurture question of homosexuality. The second question was on their perception about the scientific validity of the statement that there were no true female homosexuals. All four faculty members expressed the same perception that the nature versus nurture question was very complex and current scientific thought indicated that a combination of genetic and environmental factors were involved in homosexuality. Three of the faculty members strongly felt that the scientific community was in agreement that there were female homosexuals. The fourth faculty member stated that she had done no reading and had no information on that particular scientific topic.

I also read the textbook June used for the course in human heredity. This book clearly stated that the causes for homosexuality were a subject of debate in the scientific community. The book did not mention female sexuality directly.

Based on my investigation I conclude that June Sheldon was teaching misinformation as science in a science course. I feel that these statements were grievous enough to warrant withdrawing her SRP status and Spring 08 assignment.

Leandra Martin