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WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER

November 4, 2003

Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail  
Dr. Nancy L. Mergler  
Senior Vice President Provost  
660 Parrington Oval, Room 104  
Norman, OK 73019-3072

Dear Dr. Mergler,

This letter is on behalf of our firm's client, Bob Stephenson, to inquire what action the Administration can and will take regarding the situation concerning the University of Oklahoma's School of Geology and Geophysics. It is his perception that one faculty member, Dr. David Deming, is pursuing academic and personal interests outside of and not supportive of the School's mission and in so doing has caused discord in the School as well as in alumni support for the program.

As you are likely aware, Mr. Stephenson has served the University and the School for several years as a resource for staff and student recruitment as well as student placement; he has also donated substantial amounts of time and money in support of the School's revival in the past decade. He invested much personal time and effort in recruiting Dr. Slatt as Director of the School. Through all stages of the process, the professional expectation was that faculty would follow the leadership of Dr. Slatt in support of the mission for Geology and Geophysics. From Mr. Stephenson's perspective, it is Dr. Slatt and his leadership that has made the difference in the school and its growth in enrollment, not Dr. Deming.

On behalf of Mr. Stephenson, please know that he supports OU, the School, its mission and its Director. However, he has strong concerns about the School devoting resources to academic goals outside of its mission and for faculty not in step with the School's mission. Further, without appropriate resolution, the School may suffer a critical blow from which it may not recover. Moreover, if his concerns are not addressed, please know that his efforts and donations on behalf of

Dr. Nancy L. Mergler  
November 4, 2003  
Page 2

the School will not continue. It is also Mr. Stephenson's belief that his attitude toward future contributions to the School is shared by a substantial number of other alumni. Please advise us to the extent you can as to what action can be expected from the Administration.

Very truly yours,



Barbara G. Bowersox  
For the Firm

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xc: Bob Stephenson (via facsimile)  
William W. Clopine, Ph.D. (via facsimile)  
Joseph Harroz, Jr. - Vice President and General Counsel (via fax and mail)