



**Century  
College**  
*A Community and Technical College*

3300 Century Avenue North  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
(651) 779-3300

[www.century.edu](http://www.century.edu)

## Office Memorandum

February 16, 2006

Karen Murdock  
Behavioral and Social Sciences

Dear Ms. Murdock:

I'm afraid I have been called away on Friday to attend a meeting at the Office of the Chancellor and will be unable to meet with you as we had scheduled. However, I believe I can communicate what I wanted to cover with you in this memo. I apologize that my schedule is so difficult.

It is my understanding that you posted the cartoon as a way of fostering discussion on an issue in the news. While I do not believe the approach used was effective from a pedagogical standpoint, I also want to be clear that Century College administration did not remove the political cartoon you posted, nor direct that it be removed or not reposted. No disciplinary action was or is contemplated in response to the events of last week.

This is the information I wished to meet with you to share. If you have any remaining questions or concerns about this please let me know.

Sincerely,

John O'Brien  
Chief Academic Officer  
Century College

P. S. A group of Muslim students who asked to meet with me on Monday requested that I pass on a letter that they wrote to me (attached). In the meeting, they said that they wished you to understand how the events that have transpired have affected them.

Please understand that I am conveying this to you at their request and that the views expressed are theirs.



February 13, 2006

To: Vice President, Academic Affairs

Dear Dr. O'Brien, John

As Muslim Students at Century College, we were heartbroken to see the posting of the defamatory infamous cartoon of our holy prophet Mohamed (peace be upon him). In addition to that, it was sad to know that a faculty member of our own college was responsible for the posting of the cartoon.

As Students, we are concerned about the posting of the offensive cartoon, which was posted by Karen Murdock. We believe this kind of activity can damage the image of Century College. We have good faith in and respect for the mission of the school which is respecting different cultures, values, and beliefs. However students expect the faculty to be their role models, not to offend their religious beliefs.

During the last week this incident had a very negative impact on our ability to concentrate on our studies. Several students felt they had to go home and some could not study for the tests.

We expect a great and bright future from the School, not an insult to our value, culture, and dignity. We need to see in classes instructors who respect different cultures and represent what the school stand for.

We hope you understand and hear our message.

Thank you and all respect to you.