

BLANCHE BRICK STATEMENT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 21, 2015

Summary of Findings in Report of Sylvia McMullen, President of Vital Communications, 2013

“There is a need for open communication without fear of retribution.”

Dr. Don Voelter - Nathan Winkelman's aunt –“I can explain it to you but I can't understand it for you”

I have taught at Blinn for 30 years. I have served as Division Chair of Social Sciences and worked in that capacity to support good change and resist harmful change that was based solely on financial increase rather than academic integrity knowing that supporting such a policy would mean the end of my opportunity to advance my career at Blinn College. But more importantly, knowing that such policies would lead to threatening the academic integrity of Blinn College.

Once the Council of Divisions was abolished and the Administrative Council ceased to meet, I stood before this Board asking that they fulfill their role as Trustees of Blinn College working to create a fair and workable structure for all of Blinn's campuses.

Now it appears that the Faculty Senate can only meet at the approval of the BBoard of Trustees.

Therefore, I come before you as a faculty member to thank those on the Board who attempted to find an honorable solution to the problems facing Blinn College, and to say how much I regret that one of those Board members, Mrs. Carolyn Miller, has found it necessary to resign. She was a voice of reason and courage and sanity on the Board, and I want to thank her for her efforts on behalf of all students and faculty of Blinn College.

I worked in the Faculty Senate to pass a resolution to thank these Board members and to request the Board to seek a compromise on HB 1903. But, the Faculty Senate meeting was first delayed and then canceled before it could discuss this item. I have always supported compromise, but I don't support suppression of academic rights.

Pastor Martin Niemöller, a German Lutheran minister is perhaps best remembered for the quotation which says why you must speak out rather than waiting for others to do so:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Trade Unionist;

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

We are all here speaking for you today, Mrs. Miller. Though your own actions have spoken more eloquently than anything we can say. Thank you for standing for reason and compromise and doing the right thing.

Blanche Brick, Ph.D.

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