



Annette R. Drachman  
General Counsel

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September 8, 2016

Lauren Sausser  
Staff Reporter  
The Post and Courier  
134 Columbus Street  
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Ms. Sausser:

It has come to my attention that you have been asking members of the MUSC Honor Council to comment on their knowledge of a recent Honor Council proceeding. Please be advised University Honor Code provides that all Honor Council proceedings are confidential. Honor Council Members are sworn to uphold the policies of the Honor Council and are not permitted to disclose information about those proceedings. Furthermore, as you know, student disciplinary proceedings are subject to the confidentiality requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). I write specifically to request that in the future you not ask any MUSC students or employees to violate their obligations to maintain the confidentiality of University disciplinary proceedings.

I am further informed that you have included incorrect information in some of your inquiries and would strongly encourage you not to publish false and defamatory information about any MUSC student. It is concerning that, knowing that FERPA prohibits MUSC from providing information on student disciplinary matters, that you are using false and misleading information to try to induce Honor Council Members to violate the Code by commenting on a confidential disciplinary proceeding. A medical professional's reputation for honesty is extremely important in his or her professional career. You would cause incalculable and irreparable harm by publishing a story that is based on unsubstantiated rumor and innuendo, and I appeal to your sense of journalistic integrity not to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette R. Drachman".

Annette R. Drachman

cc: P. J. Browning