

Telephone interview with Kunal Banerji
4/10/08, 3 p.m.
753 Engineering Sciences Building

Interview start time: 3 p.m.

Roy Nutter: Explained Jan Boyles' role as recorder. Also explained that information may be made public through Freedom of Information Act requests.

RN: What's your view of what's been going on? Obviously, you have read the stories in the Post-Gazette. When you were at WVU and your professorial rank? Could you give us a history of your degrees, rank?

KB: Received Ph.D. in business administration from University of Kentucky. Received MBA from Western Illinois and undergraduate from the University of Calcutta. Joined WVU around 1990. At the time, was not yet done with Ph.D. Came to WVU as a visiting professor. Finished Ph.D. in 1992. Was promoted to assistant professor. At WVU until 1997 when denied tenure. Immediately resigned. Got job. Gave up office and left.

RN: Do you recall which courses that Heather Kirby might have had you in?

KB: Told P-G reporters that he didn't recall Heather Kirby from the top of head. Was 10 years back. Taught a whole bunch of courses, mostly for grad programs. Taught [REDACTED] courses - [REDACTED] - was either [REDACTED] - something like that.

RN: Do you have any records?

KB: Not for that year. When left WVU, went to Florida Atlantic. Had no reason why had to carry on with paperwork. Gave up computers. Kept grades on spreadsheets.

RN: Do you recall her at all?

KB: Her name did not ring a bell. I got the link to the Post-Gazette and I also saw the one in the New York Times. I think in one of those publications, they had a photo. She looked vaguely familiar. But if you gave me a line-up, and asked, 'Is that the person?' I don't know...

RN: Do you have anything you'd like to contribute?

KB: I am not really sure at what point she took that course. Most likely Fall 1998. I was already gone. WVU's College of Business should have records as to who taught. Paul [Speaker] was there. Later on it was Jay Coats, and later it was Paul - running the program. They should have caught that...

RN: If you have no records, you probably don't have much information...

KB: What did she really make in my class? I was not in that place. I don't recall being there in fall 1997. Let me think back...in 1999, I came to Florida, I was there [at WVU] maybe 1998-1999. Maybe I left in 1999. I taught there for one year as an adjunct, either 1997-1998. My tenure records should be there. Within two weeks of not getting tenure, I resigned. Either 1997 or 1999, I think. There was hardly anybody in business strategy. Cindy Martin left in 1996, which left me to teach courses. Another gentleman went to UPenn.

RN: We have in the Fall of 1998 – that you taught a course called [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] [REDACTED] – a [REDACTED] credit course.

KB: [REDACTED] credits?

RN: That's what this document says.

KB: Was it an independent study or a regular thing?

RN: All courses were called independent study. They all had titles, met as lectures.

KB: So it was technically an independent study converted into a lecture course.

RN: That's what we believe, too.

KB: On paper, it may be listed as an independent study course, but actually it was a strategy course.

RN: You don't remember anything about it?

KB: Frankly, no – it's been 10 years.

Michael Lastinger: That's all we wanted to hear.

KB: As I told the Post-Gazette, I cannot vouch or say. I don't have my records. I deleted them. My conversation with them was on procedures, courses taken, how things were recorded.

ML: You were referred to in the press, so we certainly wanted to talk to you.

KB: 10 years ago is a long time. Especially at WVU, the records must lying somewhere on the hard drive. After that, I went to New Jersey, then I went to Florida, then Michigan.

Interview ending time: 3:11 p.m.