

Telephone interview with Karen Denning
2/7/08, 4:30 p.m.
753 Engineering Sciences Building

Interview start time: 4:31 p.m.

Roy Nutter: Explained Jan Boyles' role as recorder.

RN: Trying to determine if a student from 1998 had earned degree. Have you heard of Heather Bresch?

KD: Heard and read about it in the papers. Former colleague e-mailed her. Doesn't know much beyond what's been in the news.

RN: Describe overview of service in the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics.

KD: Earned Ph.D. in finance from University of Pittsburgh. Worked briefly at Case Western Reserve. Came to WVU in 2003. Worked in finance department. At WVU for almost six years.

RN: Looking for information on Heather Bresch or Heather Kirby. Refers to BUE 4. Indicates that [redacted] is listed as instructor for [redacted] - [redacted] hour course. [redacted]. Did you find any information on Heather Kirby or Heather Bresch? Do you have anything to share with us?

KD: There was a period of time while at WVU when [redacted] was common. Doesn't recall class listed as a marketing course. Doesn't remember particular students. Doesn't know if has records. Hasn't looked for records. Moved from Western Pennsylvania to larger house in New Jersey. Computer technology has changed so much, not sure if can read disks.

RN: Did you use bubble sheets to turn in grades?

KD: Kept grades electronically. When due to registrar, college officials would transfer to bubble sheets. Are you looking for a course in 1997?

RN: Fall 1998.

KD: Could look for records, but not a simple task. Will see if can find records.

RN: If find disks, WVU will provide drive to read them. Asks Denning to look. Keep Jan posted with progress. Look for any evidence of Bresch's presence in [redacted] class.

KD: "Am I listed as someone who [redacted]?"

RN: Explains received list from COB with grades.

KD: Was contacted by former division chair about grade problems with other students. Contacted two or three times since left WVU about student issues. But students were not related to Bresch matter.

RN: Did this happen recently?

KD: Probably 2003, 2004, 2005.

RN: Who contacted you?

KD: ██████████. Contacted about incomplete grade. Requirements to finish grade. Not contacted about Heather Bresch.

RN: Where the people in question undergrads or grad students?

KD: Primarily undergrads. "The process in COB does work if I was contacted after I left the University."

RN: Do you think [that process] that was true in the MBA program?

KD: "No reason not to think so."

Michael Lastinger: "Were you accustomed to being contacted about problematic grades later on?"

KD: "Accustomed would be a strange word to describe it."

ML: "Was it ordinary practice to be contacted?"

KD: Once left WVU, was contacted about several students with problematic grades.

ML: Was it primarily graduate students or undergrads?

KD: Doesn't remember. Always kept file of problematic grades. Kept records for students involved in cheating, grade appeals. Cleaned out file with WVU folks last year.

RN: "Is there anything else that you think we should know that we didn't ask you about?"

KD: "When I was there, the system worked well. This situation has made me uncomfortable from many perspectives."

RN: Asks Denning to look for documents.

KD: There are three possible answers that she could share with panel:

1. Did not find anything
2. Found documents, but not relevant
3. Found documents related to Kirby

Asks for CRN.

RN: [REDACTED]

ML: Course title -- [REDACTED]

KD: How urgent is it to find materials?

RN: Keep Jan posted. Contact Jan by mid-week.

Interview ending time: 4:45 p.m.