

Interview with Karen France  
1/31/08, 3 p.m.  
Cacapon Room, Mountainlair

*Interview start time: 2:59 p.m.*

Roy Nutter: Explained Jan Boyles' role as recorder, Instructed France that any comments may be made public once investigation concludes.

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

Karen France: Received Ph.D. in marketing from Pitt. Hired at WVU as visiting professor because ABD. Once finished degree, would convert to tenure-track position. Started at WVU in January 1994. Finished Ph.D. in May 1994. Hired as assistant professor for Fall 1994. Tenured as associate professor in 2000. Teaches marketing and marketing research for undergrads. Teaches marketing research in Ph.D. program. eMBA curriculum has changed. Taught introduction to marketing, capstone. 4 hour class. 2 hours – introduction to marketing; 2 hours – simulation/capstone.

*RN: Do you remember a student – Heather Kirby?*

KF: "Yes, I remember her. But it wasn't until I went back and found my grade roster." Remembers Bresch attending class. Can't remember if received roster for class or not. After graduation, Bresch returned to speak to France's class. Called Mylan and asked for someone to speak with international business experience.

*RN: When did she come back to speak?*

KF: Didn't speak to MBA students. Doesn't remember dates. Maybe 2000.

*RN: You said you found some grades. Can we look at your grades?*

KF: (Shows gradebook). Grade sheet from Fall 1997. At the time, did not receive attendance rosters. Never knew who was registered, who was not registered. Graduate office sent list of who was in the class. Placed into teams. Remained in same teams throughout program.

RN: Asks France to provide a copy of her grade sheet/sign and date.

*RN: Were these all one hour marketing courses?*

KF: All listed as [REDACTED]. Doesn't have grade rosters for those classes.

KF: Would receive list of students in class. Would send grade sheets to grad office and they would enter grades into the system. Knows that she received grades for Spring 1997.

*Michael Lastinger: What class is that?*

KF: The [REDACTED] course. There was grade for [REDACTED] course. "I wouldn't have asked her to come back and speak if she hadn't finished one of my classes." Doesn't remember if she attended graduation ceremony. Spoke on her international business experience.

*ML: So you remember her in three classes?*

KF: "I remember her as a student in the MBA program." Cohorts work in lockstep program. "My assumption is that she completed the coursework."

*RN: When did the grad office contact you about this matter?*

KF: Didn't hear until December.

*RN: Could someone have changed those grades?*

KF: "The grad office told me that the grades were submitted during those years, not something that had been recently changed." Sent grades by e-mails to the grad office. Thinks that grade sheets are still e-mailed to grad office. Switched to GroupWise around 2000. Before, used Eudora.

*ML: Do you still e-mail grades?*

KF: Still e-mail grade sheets to grad office. Asked to send early because students need to know if companies are paying for the credits – need to know grades before they come out. Asked IT department to look for her e-mails.

*RN: If we were to look for the backup tapes, who would be the best contact?*

KF: IT department in COB. Apparently, the e-mails are backed up.

*RN: When did you make the request for IT department to look for your e-mails?*

KF: Monday. When knew she was coming to have interview.

*RN: Who, specifically, did you ask?*

KF: Carol Henry.

*ML: In the [REDACTED] class that you taught in Spring 1997, the grade was turned in but not recorded?*

KF: "I don't know." Asked grad office. Everyone in Heather's group received a [REDACTED]

RN: (Refers to BUE 4). Indicates that France's class was a course not taken in the curriculum.

*ML: Can you identify the name of the course that you taught?*

KF: [REDACTED] Assumption – when submitted grade, grade was entered and submitted to Admissions/Records. Would have submitted her grade with others. Perhaps she was not registered.

ML: In Spring 1997, it is indicated that she is not registered for the class.

KF: It is my assumption that she was in the class and did work same as the other members. But maybe she was not registered for certain reasons.

ML: Asks France to look for records on [REDACTED] class.

RN: Asks about cohort groups.

KF: Students assigned to groups – remained in same groups all time as progressed through cohort.

Interview ending time: 3:23 p.m.