

Date: Fri, 18 May 2007 16:36:06 -0400  
To: hockfield@mit.edu  
From: "James L. Sherley" <jsherley@mit.edu>  
Subject: Fwd: FW: Approaching deadline of June 30 for Prof. Sherley's departure  
Cc: manning@mit.edu, dahleh@mit.edu, silbey@MIT.EDU, crc@MIT.EDU, jdifava@MIT.EDU  
Bcc:  
X-Attachments:

Dear President Hockfield:

I wish to bring to your attention the contents of an e-mail message that was sent to me yesterday, Thursday May 17, 2007. I have removed text that would identify the source of the e-mail message. The contents of this message contradicts the information that I was given by MIT Police Chief John DiFava. For your reference, I have included the full text of my e-mail communications with Chief DiFava below. Actions like the one revealed serve only to fabricate and promote an atmosphere of tension at MIT that is groundless and unnecessary.

Sincerely,

James Sherley

X-Sieve: CMU Sieve 2.2  
From:  
To: "James Sherley" <jsherley@mit.edu>  
Subject: FW: Approaching deadline of June 30 for Prof. Sherley's departure  
Date: Thu, 17 May 2007 14:21:24 -0400  
Thread-Index: AceX9kuhAdS5Ac9SQfW7P8UbB2mSzgAuW0BA  
X-Scanned-By: MIMEDefang 2.42  
X-Spam-Flag: NO  
X-Spam-Score: -5

~~~~~  
-----Original Message-----

From:  
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 4:11 PM  
To:  
Subject: Fwd: Approaching deadline of June 30 for Prof. Sherley's departure

>X-Sieve: CMU Sieve 2.2  
>X-Sender: pcdedon@hesiod  
>Date: Wed, 16 May 2007 14:32:29 -0400

>To: dedon-lab@mit.edu  
>From: Peter Dedon <pcdedon@MIT.EDU>  
>Subject: Approaching deadline of June 30 for Prof. Sherley's departure  
>X-Scanned-By: MIMEDefang 2.42  
>X-Spam-Flag: NO  
>X-Spam-Score: -5

>  
>To all members of the Dedon lab:

>  
>The situation with Prof. James Sherley's tenure case is heating up  
>again as the June 30 deadline approaches for him to leave  
>MIT. While I do not expect that we will be subjected to any kind of  
>negative or harmful vengeance or other action, you must be aware of  
>the tension that exists and the potential for trouble. I will be  
>asking Olga Parkin to put NE47 in full lock-down on June 29 through  
>July 1, with access to the second and third floors only by key  
>card. MIT Campus police now have stepped up patrols of Buildings 56  
>and 16 after faculty, students and staff became worried about the  
>tensions. I will ask that NE47 security and MIT Campus police also  
>pay increased attention to the Tech Square area.

>  
>Hopefully, I will be proven wrong and nothing untoward will occur.  
>But a little measure of caution seems appropriate in this case.

>  
>Pete

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DiFava Communications:

X-Sieve: CMU Sieve 2.2  
Date: Thu, 10 May 2007 11:15:58 -0400  
From: John DiFava <jdifava@MIT.EDU>  
X-Accept-Language: en-us, en  
To: "James L. Sherley" <jsherley@mit.edu>  
CC: afpierce@mit.edu, hockfield@mit.edu, manning@mit.edu, dahleh@mit.edu  
Subject: Re: Follow-up Questions on May 8 Notification of Police  
Surveillance  
of Laboratory  
X-Scanned-By: MIMEDefang 2.42  
X-Spam-Flag: NO  
X-Spam-Score: -5

James L. Sherley wrote:

Dear Chief DiFava:

I am contacting you to follow up on my meeting yesterday with Lieutenant Pierce. Lieutenant Pierce notified me of the administration's order for police surveillance of my laboratory. My understanding from Lieutenant Pierce's notification is that the administration made this order because of their perception that there was anxiety among members of neighboring laboratories because of the administration's plan to close my laboratory by June 30.

I do not know the origin of this information to members of neighboring laboratories, because my research group and I have kept such information confidential and have not discussed it with members of other MIT laboratories.

I would like to know if there are any other factors motivating the administration's order that involve concerns for my safety or the safety of members of my laboratory group. Lieutenant Pierce stated that he was not aware of such concerns, but additional assurance from you is ideal. In addition, it would be helpful to me to have more details of the planned police surveillance. My understanding is that the surveillance is planned at least until June 30, but I do not have information on the planned schedule for police presence.

Regards,

James Sherley

Dear Professor Sherley,

I hope that you and your family are well. After reading your e mail and having conversation with Lieutenant Pierce regarding his meeting with you on Tuesday, May 8 th, it is apparent that there is confusion and a misunderstanding concerning the increased Police presence in Building 56. First of all this was not an order by the Administration. Rather, it is a decision on my part to ensure the comfort and address any safety concerns that may exist on the part of all parties that occupy the building before they become concerns. It is not intended to be a surveillance, but rather the aforementioned increase in Police presence through the use of random but frequent patrolling utilizing officers that are currently on duty. Officers will not remain in the building, but rather will walk through the entire building as part of their normal duties. Further, this is not to be interpreted as any type of saturation but rather an increase of time spent in the building by the officer who is assigned that sector. My motivation for this is not for any reason other than the previously stated concern for all people that work in building 56. Part of my duties as a police administrator is to be proactive and anticipate, rather than just react.

I asked that Lieutenant Pierce meet with you before hand

and explain the situation so that we could avoid causing you concern and maintain the positive relationship that this department has with you..I am sorry for any misunderstanding and I remain available should you wish to meet with me and/or to discuss this matter or any other concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

John DiFava

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"...a great power is pinned down by a numerically inferior yet relentless insurgent force."

Matthew Price, April 4, 2007

James L. Sherley, M.D., Ph.D.  
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Center for Environmental Health Sciences  
Center for Cancer Research  
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<http://web.mit.edu/bpec/People/BPECpub.html>