

Dear [REDACTED],

Since our last discussion of this matter, I have talked at length with family, peers, and current students concerning the details of this situation. As an artist and educator, I care deeply about integrity; my students can attest to this. Provost Bledsoe's request that I "change" my Artist Statement, my *artistic philosophy*, "with no mention of the fact that Lipscomb University has requested the change," lacks Integrity to be sure, to say nothing of honesty and excellence.

I fully recognize and support this university's right to hire (and fire) faculty members based on a certain criterion of core values and principals. My disappointment, however, lies in the implied "secrecy" of it all. It is embarrassing.

I will not be re-writing my Artist Statement.

I assume the university will follow through with their threat to revoke my invitation to teach here. I accept this consequence, though I will miss the faculty and students. It was a wonderful semester, where the classroom is concerned.

With great sincerity,

Jason Briggs