

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

March 14, 2017

Laura Tull

Sent electronically to tull_laura_a@student.smc.edu

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL - Case Number: 2016034501

Re: Notice of Immediate Suspension and Right to Appeal

Dear Ms. Tull:

You are hereby notified that you are being suspended from Santa Monica College for the Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Winter 2018, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Winter 2019, and Spring 2019 sessions. In addition, the College has determined that an immediate interim suspension is necessary in order to protect the safety or welfare of persons or property pending a hearing. You are hereby ordered and directed not to enter any property or facility of Santa Monica College without my written permission.

The specific facts and charges upon which this disciplinary action has been taken are summarized below and will be supported by ample evidence at any subsequent legal proceeding:

In October 2014, you received a written reprimand for violation of the Rules for Student Conduct for misuse of College email and inappropriate communication with faculty. In February 2015, you were placed on disciplinary probation for the same conduct. In September 2015, you were once again warned of your inappropriate communication and advised that further violations of the Rules for Student Conduct would result in a one year suspension.

On March 7, 2017, the College received a report that you had been engaged in improper communications with and about another student in your Film 33 class. Your apparent focus on this student caused the student to be afraid for her safety. To protect the other student, the College prepared a written directive for you have no direct or indirect communication with the complaining student pending an investigation. The no-contact directive provided in relevant part:

You are hereby directed to have no contact with **Carrie Finklea**, student at Santa Monica College.

This temporary no contact order **applies to direct contact and indirect contact** with the above named individual. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Face-to-face contact
- Contacting through social networks including on mutually "liked" pages
- Blog or social network postings regarding the person named above
- Email or other written correspondence
- Phone calls, voice mails, and text messages

- Making contact through a third party, including mutual friends
- Following the individual

This temporary no contact order does not prevent you from attending any classes you might have in which Carrie Finklea is also enrolled.

Prior to the start of your Film 33 class on March 9, 2017, Drew Davis gave you the no-contact letter described above. You accepted the letter and entered the classroom. During the first hour (8am-9am), you began to verbally denounce receiving a letter from the Human Resources Department. Approximately fifteen minutes later, you began to angrily denounce what the letter said in front of the students. Professor Salvador Carrasco told you it was not the time or place for such comments. You ignored him and continued speaking and disrupting the class. You loudly stated that other students in the class have been attacking you on Twitter and how you had been raped by someone in the movie industry. Professor Carrasco warned you that he would call the police if you did not stop; nevertheless, you continued your disruption. Drew Davis stepped outside the classroom and called the SMCPD emergency line. When Davis stepped back into the class, you were standing against a wall. You appeared to be filming the class as you continued to talk and interfere with the class. You appeared to be highly agitated state, shaking noticeably. Because of your ongoing disruption, Drew Davis instructed the class to take a break and go outside the classroom. About this same time, SMCPD officers arrived and were able to get you to walk to another room, allowing the students to return to class. A number of students reported that students were alarmed for their safety in light of your conduct and several students indicated that they would be required to drop the class if you remained in the classroom.

Because of your disruption, you were served with an order to remain off College property for a period of fourteen days in accordance with Penal Code Section 626.4.

Following your removal, you sent a number of emails to Professor Carrasco. As a result, Campus Counsel emailed you the following directive:

From: ROBERT MYERS [mailto:myers_robert@gapps.smc.edu]

Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 5:28 PM

To: Laura Ann Tull <tull.laura@gmail.com>

Cc: ADAMS_JOHNNIE <ADAMS_JOHNNIE@smc.edu>

Subject: Cease and Desist

Ms. Tull:

On behalf of Santa Monica College, you are hereby directed to cease and desist all communication with faculty, staff, and students except as necessary to respond to any communications you receive from the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Today, following your removal from the College for disruptive behavior, you have sent a number of communications to College personnel. These emails constitute harassment and violate the Rules for Student Conduct (Administrative Regulation 4410). Failure to cease and desist from sending these and similar emails will constitute further violations of the Rules for Student Conduct.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Myers
Campus Counsel
Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, California 90405
e-mail: Myers_Robert@smc.edu

Between March 9, 2017, at 5:28 p.m. and March 10, 2017, at 2:42 p.m., you sent 22 emails to Campus Counsel and others at the College. Two of these emails were also sent to Carrie Finklea and Professor Carrasco in violation of the directives given to you. As a result, Campus Counsel sent you an email on March 10, 2017, at 3:34 p.m., stating:

Please be advised that you have violated the terms of the no contact directive served on you on March 9, 2017, by sending emails to Carrie Finklea on March 10, 2017. You have further violated the terms of the directive I gave you by sending emails to Ms. Finklea and Professor Carrasco on March 10, 2017. You are advised to comply with these directives.

Notwithstanding this email, you sent at least nine additional emails to Ms. Finklea and Professor Carrasco on March 11, 2017, March 12, 2017, and March 13. Two of these emails included an attachment with a complete list of Ms. Finklea's Facebook friends. Your repeated emails to Ms. Finklea notwithstanding the directive not to do so constitute ongoing harassment and, given the incoherent, bizarre content would cause a reasonable person to believe that she was being harassed and to fear injury.

You have engaged in serious misconduct for which you are subject to discipline for violating the following provisions of Santa Monica College Administrative Regulations (AR) 4410-Rules of Student Conduct.

1. AR4410.1(A) - Continued disruptive behavior, continued willful disobedience, habitual profanity or vulgarity, persistent abuse of other students, or the open and persistent defiance of the authority of, or persistent abuse of, college personnel.
2. AR4410.1(K) - Obstruction or disruption of teaching, research, administration, disciplinary procedures, or any other authorized college activities.
3. AR4410.1(M) - Willful or blatant misuse of email or other inappropriate forms of communication towards faculty, staff or students including but not limited to phone, voicemail, written notes and any form of electronic communication.
4. AR4410.1(Q) - Failure to comply with directions of college officials acting in the performance of their duties.
5. AR4410.1(T) - The act or crime of willfully and repeatedly following or harassing another person in circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to fear injury or death especially because of expressed or implied threats.

You have the right to a formal conference to discuss the interim suspension. If you desire such a conference, please email the undersigned (Hearn_Deyna@smc.edu).

Enclosed please find a copy of Santa Monica College AR 4410. It outlines your right to due process and the hearing and appeal process.

You are hereby informed that

- You have the right to appeal this suspension. You may file in my office a written Notice of Intention to Appeal your suspension to the Student Conduct Appeals Committee.

Such notice must be filed within forty-eight (48) hours (two school days) following this notice of disciplinary action (enclosed).

- You have the right to appear in person, to question all witnesses who testify at the hearing, to question all other evidence presented, and to present oral and documentary supporting evidence, including witnesses.
- Within five (5) school days after filing a Notice of Intention to Appeal, you must file with the College Disciplinarian a written response to the charges. Only charges to which the student responds may be reviewed by the Appeals Committee.
- If you are to be represented by counsel, you shall notify the committee at least forty-eight (48) hours (two school days) prior to the meeting.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, you may (310) 434-4220.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debra S. Hearn".

Ms. D. Hearn
Dean of Students

CC: J. Adams, Chief, College Police
Robert Myers, Campus Counsel