

From: **PHC Office of Communications** <[email redacted]>

Date: Wed, Aug 6, 2014 at 11:48 AM

Subject: Independent Review Committee Report and response from Mike Farris

To:

Dear Students,

As most of you know, I appointed an Independent Review Committee composed of PHC Alumni to propose recommendations following the publication last spring of an article by *The New Republic*.

You will find two attachments to this email, below. First, is the IRC report. Second, is a reply from the College that I have written.

While I want to say more about this when we are together later this month, there are a few things that I need to say as you consider this material.

First, victims are never the cause of any attack.

Second, PHC is not a place without sin. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This is a truth that applies to students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Not everyone commits every sin. But all sin.

Third, I believe that this focus has been aimed at PHC because of our faith, our visibility, and our success. Other campuses report multiple forcible rapes each year, and this magazine has focused on two incidents from years earlier that were clearly not on that level of criminality. To be sure, wrongful and hurtful behavior was alleged -- behaviors that we have never condoned nor, to the absolute best of our ability, will *ever* tolerate at PHC -- but in the public reactions there has been a clear loss of proportionality in comparison to the atmospheres on other college campuses.

But the take-away from this truth is *not* that PHC is perfect or exempt from criticism. On the contrary, what it shows is that to whom much is given much is expected.

The world is going to hold us to a higher standard, and we will also hold ourselves to a higher standard. We should feel shame for sins that wouldn't cause others to blush.

Fourth, I believe in PHC students. These discussions unfairly taint all of us with a brush that clearly is not fair to many, many innocent people. Our students are, in the vast majority, among some of the finest, most honorable young men and women I've ever met.

Fifth, it is clear that we need to separate fact-finding functions from counseling functions. These (and many other recommendations from the IRC) *will be done*.

As you know, Patrick Henry College is a safe place. It will be safer in the future because of these events and the recommendations from the IRC. We can learn. And we can do better. You have my commitment on this.

Michael Farris

(See attached file: MPF IRC statement.pdf)(See attached file: 8-1 Independent Review Committee Report.pdf)