Mennonite Publishes Student Petition, Letter

By Jeremy Yoder
Editor-in-Chief

A letter and petition signed by 200 EMU undergraduate students received little notice from the Board of Trustees but will now reach the greater Mennonite Church, thanks to publication in The Mennonite and an editorial in the same weekly magazine.

The petition was issued as a student response to the controversy which arose last semester when the EMU Board of Trustees issued a statement that many in the EMU community saw as imposing unnecessary limitations upon academic freedom. The Board’s statement said they wished “To express our affirmation of the church’s mission.”

The real danger is that lost time, energy and disenchanted folks on both sides of the issue will hurt the church’s mission.

The EMU Board of Trustees was not the only group to receive the petition. Other stations operate with.

Another suggestion was to stop competing with WMRA for classical music listeners. He cited the fact that New York City has one classical music station for eight million people while Rockingham County has two stations for far fewer.

The EMU statement, saying, “The restriction of academic freedom at EMU is harmful to the well-being of a church that values authenticity.”

The purpose of an education is to challenge and prepare people to think critically,” the petition continued. “This can only be done in an environment that supports free speech and free expression.”

The petition’s writers sent it to the Board of Trustees on Dec. 16 with 200 students’ signatures attached. “We wanted the Board to acknowledge that there was student dissent,” said Swartzendruber, who is the Weather Vane’s layout editor for this semester.

The group was unimpressed with the Board’s response, which arrived last Thursday. “They sent us a form letter,” said Swartzendruber. In fact, the letter was a slightly modified copy of one sent in response to SGA’s comments on the Board’s statement.

It was disappointing that their response was not more personal,” added Swartzendruber. The EMU Board of Trustees not the only group to receive the petition, however. Copies went to the offices of every conference of MCGA and the major Mennonite publications.

It was with some satisfaction that Swartzendruber and her colleagues found their letter on the final component of the Board’s statement. In an e-mail to faculty and staff, Phil Easley, current general manager at WEMC radio station, announced he has accepted a job as the general manager of a community radio station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley will be here for only one more month before moving on. “Those students who are interested in the station’s work and I are working as hard as we can to ensure a smooth transition into the future, not only maintaining but improving and solidifying the station’s service status.”

Though Easley will leave his position on campus, he hasn’t given up on the future of WEMC. In an e-mail to faculty and staff, he outlined his vision for the campus station.

He expressed his desire to “guard against WEMC backsliding.” He fears that “the Religious Right” could grab the license, or that the station could become a “namby-pamby NPR clone, helping [Tom Duval] build his NPR empire across Virginia.”

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

“Loren Liaison Group” made the transition into the future, not only maintaining but improving and solidifying the station’s service status.

The group sought to develop, he said, “A strategic plan that shows in a carefully thought-out way how the station can do a better job of raising its own money over the next three to five years, while spelling out the station’s mission in a way that would glad-den Memo Simonett’s heart. He added, “I have faith in you.”

Easley has been the general manager since 2000. He supervised operations, including programming decisions, fundraising and hiring supervi-sory staff.

Phil Easley, general manager of WEMC, will be leaving for Missouri in February.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

The purpose of an education is to challenge and prepare people to think critically,” the petition continued. “This can only be done in an environment that supports free speech and free expression.”

The petition’s writers sent it to the Board of Trustees on Dec. 16 with 200 students’ signatures attached. “We wanted the Board to acknowledge that there was student dissent,” said Swartzendruber, who is the Weather Vane’s layout editor for this semester.

The group was unimpressed with the Board’s response, which arrived last Thursday. “They sent us a form letter,” said Swartzendruber. In fact, the letter was a slightly modified copy of one sent in response to SGA’s comments on the Board’s statement.

It was disappointing that their response was not more personal,” added Swartzendruber. The EMU Board of Trustees not the only group to receive the petition, however. Copies went to the offices of every conference of MCGA and the major Mennonite publications.

It was with some satisfaction that Swartzendruber and her colleagues found their letter on the final component of the Board’s statement. In an e-mail to faculty and staff, Phil Easley, current general manager at WEMC radio station, announced he has accepted a job as the general manager of a community radio station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley will be here for only one more month before moving on. “Those students who are interested in the station’s work and I are working as hard as we can to ensure a smooth transition into the future, not only maintaining but improving and solidifying the station’s service status.”

Though Easley will leave his position on campus, he hasn’t given up on the future of WEMC. In an e-mail to faculty and staff, he outlined his vision for the campus station.

He expressed his desire to “guard against WEMC backsliding.” He fears that “the Religious Right” could grab the license, or that the station could become a “namby-pamby NPR clone, helping [Tom Duval] build his NPR empire across Virginia.”

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

The purpose of an education is to challenge and prepare people to think critically,” the petition continued. “This can only be done in an environment that supports free speech and free expression.”

The petition’s writers sent it to the Board of Trustees on Dec. 16 with 200 students’ signatures attached. “We wanted the Board to acknowledge that there was student dissent,” said Swartzendruber, who is the Weather Vane’s layout editor for this semester.

The group was unimpressed with the Board’s response, which arrived last Thursday. “They sent us a form letter,” said Swartzendruber. In fact, the letter was a slightly modified copy of one sent in response to SGA’s comments on the Board’s statement.

It was disappointing that their response was not more personal,” added Swartzendruber. The EMU Board of Trustees not the only group to receive the petition, however. Copies went to the offices of every conference of MCGA and the major Mennonite publications.

It was with some satisfaction that Swartzendruber and her colleagues found their letter on the final component of the Board’s statement. In an e-mail to faculty and staff, Phil Easley, current general manager at WEMC radio station, announced he has accepted a job as the general manager of a community radio station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley will be here for only one more month before moving on. “Those students who are interested in the station’s work and I are working as hard as we can to ensure a smooth transition into the future, not only maintaining but improving and solidifying the station’s service status.”

Though Easley will leave his position on campus, he hasn’t given up on the future of WEMC. In an e-mail to faculty and staff, he outlined his vision for the campus station.

He expressed his desire to “guard against WEMC backsliding.” He fears that “the Religious Right” could grab the license, or that the station could become a “namby-pamby NPR clone, helping [Tom Duval] build his NPR empire across Virginia.”

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

Easley also expressed in his e-mail that through this plan of action, he hopes to build a station in Columbia, Missouri.

The purpose of an education is to challenge and prepare people to think critically,” the petition continued. “This can only be done in an environment that supports free speech and free expression.”

The petition’s writers sent it to the Board of Trustees on Dec. 16 with 200 students’ signatures attached. “We wanted the Board to acknowledge that there was student dissent,” said Swartzendruber, who is the Weather Vane’s layout editor for this semester.

The group was unimpressed with the Board’s response, which arrived last Thursday. “They sent us a form letter,” said Swartzendruber. In fact, the letter was a slightly modified copy of one sent in response to SGA’s comments on the Board’s statement.

It was disappointing that their response was not more personal,” added Swartzendruber. The EMU Board of Trustees not the only group to receive the petition, however. Copies went to the offices of every conference of MCGA and the major Mennonite publications.

It was with some satisfaction that Swartzendruber and her colleagues found their letter on the final component of the Board’s