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Comm. Expires 09-07-2026 Notary ID 133948969 St. Philip's College discriminated against me in violation of Title VII and the Texas Commission on Human Rights Act (TCHRA), when it terminated me because of my Christian beliefs and my statements in class that reflect my study of biology and my religious beliefs.

### **Background**

During my nineteen-year employment as a biology professor at St. Philip's College, I consistently received exemplary performance reviews and was never once subject to discipline. *See*, *e.g.*, Ex. A (Fall 2021 performance review). In my role as an adjunct professor, I taught Human Anatomy and Physiology to more than 1,500 students since 2004. As my performance reviews suggest, I gladly taught students of all beliefs and backgrounds. Throughout my employment, I never discussed with any student my personal views—religious or otherwise—on human gender or sexuality.

During my lecture on the human reproductive system, I stated that human sex is determined by chromosomes X and Y, and that reproduction must occur between a male and a female to continue the human species. I also explained that when a sperm (which has 23 chromosomes) joins with an egg (which also has 23 chromosomes), a zygote (which has 46 chromosomes) is formed, and it begins to divide, and after 38 weeks a baby is born. Because no information is added or deleted in those 38 weeks, life starts when the zygote begins to divide, not when the baby is born. In the course of teaching Human Anatomy and Physiology, I made these statements in every class for 19 years, without any incident or complaint. The slides that I used to teach these concepts in class, which are from the college-approved textbook I use, are attached as Exhibit B.

On November 28, 2022, four students walked out of my class when I stated, consistent with my study of human biology and my religious beliefs, that sex was determined by chromosomes X and Y. Although St. Philip's College refused to explain any details about the "complaints" directed toward me, I presume that the complaints came from these students. In two decades of teaching these basic, unremarkable concepts, no other students have ever complained.

On January 12, 2023, I received the following email from Randall Dawson, Vice President for Academic Success at St. Philip's College, enclosed as Exhibit C.

I am sending you notification that Alamo Colleges District Human Resources department is in receipt of an ethics violation complaint from JBSA-Lackland, related to your facilitation of the BIOL 2402 class, during the Flex II Fall 2022 term. On January 10, 2023, JBSA-Lackland's Chief, Education & Training and the Installation Commander Delegate for Education Oversight revoked your access to all JBSA installations, pending the outcome of the investigation.

I responded promptly and respectfully, asking, "What was the complaint? I am not aware of any violations that I committed. Please clarify. Thank you." I received no substantive response, only a statement that "[a]ny further communication regarding this matter will be addressed through our Human Resources department."

On January 27, 2023, I received a Notice of Discipline and Termination of Employment and Contract letter. The letter, which is enclosed as Exhibit D, claimed:

St. Philip's College has received numerous complaints that were submitted to Joint Base San Antonio Training and Education regarding your classroom behavior while facilitating in an official teaching capacity on JBSA-Lackland last semester, which is found to be unacceptable. The complaint contained several reports of "religious preaching, discriminatory comments about homosexuals and transgender individuals, anti-abortion rhetoric, and misogynistic banter." While some of the subject matter may be connected to class content, it was very clear, from the complaints, that you pushed beyond the bounds of academic freedom with your personal opinions that were offensive to many individuals in the classroom.

In addition, the letter claimed that I had violated Section D.4.10.1 of the Faculty Code of Professional Ethics, thus accusing me of violating "the highest standards of **academic honesty and integrity**." Ex. D (emphasis in original). St. Philip's College provided no explanation or reasoning for its accusation.

### My Religious Beliefs

I am a devout Christian. My wife and I are volunteer associate pastors at International Bible Church in San Antonio. As an evangelical Christian, I believe that God created humankind male and female, that one's sex is ordained by God, that one should love and care for the body that God gave him or her, and that one should not attempt to erase or alter his or her sex, especially through drugs or surgical means. As a Christian, I also believe that God has ordained the sexual function for procreation, that children are a gift from God, and that, absent a compelling reason, one should not sterilize oneself. Although these are my religious beliefs, I never mentioned them in class. I did not preach any of my beliefs in class. Thus, the allegation that I conducted "religious preaching" is unsubstantiated. Ex. D.

Separately, my faith—as well as my integrity as an academic—forbids me from teaching or affirming statements that I believe are false. I believe that I am obligated as a Christian and as a professor to teach accurate, true concepts that comport with my many years of research and study in the field of human biology.

### My Former Employer's Discrimination Against My Religious Beliefs and Exercise

St. Philip's College engaged in disparate treatment that violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act when it terminated me because of my sincerely held religious beliefs and protected speech. The only reason the College gave for firing me was the student complaint(s) of "religious preaching, discriminatory comments about homosexuals and transgender individuals, antiabortion rhetoric, and misogynistic banter." Ex D. While I never preached or proselytized in class, the accusation of religious preaching was clearly in connection with the fact that I serve as an associate pastor. I would mention this by way of introduction at the beginning of each semester, so my students were aware. The College assumed I was preaching rather than teaching due to

negative, discriminatory stereotypes about Christians. This perception was inaccurate and discriminatory.

If not for my beliefs about gender, sexuality, and human life, I would not have been fired. Thus, religion was clearly a but-for cause—and a motivating factor—of my termination.

The actions of St. Philip's College also have a disparate impact on religious employees. The pattern and practice of terminating professors because of in-class statements that reflect their beliefs has a discriminatory effect on religious professors like myself.

St. Philip's College also violated the TCHRA when it terminated me because of my religious beliefs and protected speech. When the College discharged me based on my protected speech and religious identity, it violated Section 21.051 of the TCHRA. Section 21.108 protects "any aspect of religious observance, practice, or belief," and thus the College violated this statute when it terminated me because of my religious beliefs and identity.

#### Conclusion

St. Philip's College violated Title VII and the TCHRA when it:

- accused me of violating "the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity" based on unsubstantiated student complaints;
- assumed I was preaching rather than teaching due to negative, discriminatory stereotypes about and inaccurate perceptions of Christians;
- investigated me for a potential ethics violation based on unsubstantiated student complaints;
- refused to show me the student complaints or give me an opportunity to meet with the students:
- accused me of "religious preaching" because of my Christian beliefs and identity as a volunteer associate pastor;
- disparaged my religious beliefs by calling my "classroom behavior" "unacceptable," and "offensive";
- terminated me because of my Christian religious beliefs;
- terminated me because of my statements in class that reflect my study of biology and my religious beliefs; and
- terminated me because of my protected classroom speech, based on a collegeapproved textbook.



Please immediately complete this entire form and return it to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"). **REMEMBER**, a charge of employment discrimination must be filed within the time limits imposed by law, within 180 days or in some places within 300 days of the alleged discrimination. When we receive this form, we will review it to determine EEOC coverage. Answer all questions completely, and attach additional pages if needed to complete your responses. If you do not know the answer to a question, answer by stating "not known." If a question is not applicable, write "N/A." (PLEASE PRINT)

1. Personal Information					
Last Name:Varkey		First Name: _	Johnson	MI:	
Street or Mailing Address:			Apt or	Unit #:	
City:San Antonio					
Phone Numbers: Home: () _		Work:	()		
Cell:	Email Ad	dress:		Date of Birth:	
Sex: Male ☐ Female ☐	o You Have a Dis	ability? 🗆 Yes 🕽	<b>₹</b> No		
Please answer each of the next th	ree questions.	i. Are you Hispani	ic or Latino?	Yes XNo	
ii. What is your Race? Please ch	oose all that apply.	☐ American Ind	ian or Alaskan Na	tive <b>X</b> Asian	☐ White
iii. What is your National Origin (		African American		iian or Other Pac	ific Islander
Please Provide The Name Of A I				You:	
Name: Kayla Toney			Relationship:	Attorney	
Name: Kayla Toney Address: 1331 Pennsylvania Ave	NW, Suite 1410	City:Washington	State:	DC Zip Code:	20004
Home Phone: (_	(	Other Phone: (	)		
2. I believe that I was discrimina	ated against by th	e following organi	ization(s): (Check	those that apply)	
<b>X</b> Employer □ Union □ E					
Organization Contact Information work from home, check here □ and involved, attach additional sheets Organization Name:	on (If the organizate and provide the add	ion is an employer ress of the office to	, provide the addre	ess where you act	ually worked. If yo
Address: 1801 Martin Luther Ki	ng Drive	County: Be	xar		
City: San Antonio	State: TX	78203	Phone:		
Type of Business: College	Job Locatio	n if different from	Org. Address:		
Human Resources Director or Own	ner Name: Randa	all Dawson		Phone: (_	
Number of Employees in the Org	ganization at All I	ocations: Please C	Check ( <b>√</b> ) One		
☐ Fewer Than 15 ☐ 15 – 10	00 🗆 101 – 20	00 🗆 201 – 50	0 More tha	an 500	
3. Your Employment Data (Con	plete as many iten	ns as you are able.)	Are you a federa	al employee? 🗆 Y	Yes XNo
Date Hired:9-21-04	J(	ob Title At Hire: _	Adjunct Profes	ssor	
Pay Rate When Hired:	er 3 credit hours	S Last or Curren	t Pay Rate:	per 8 cred	it hours
Job Title at Time of Alleged Discr	imination: Adjunc	ct Professor	Date Quit/Disch	narged: Dischar	ged 1-27-23
Name and Title of Immediate Supe	rvisor:Shane	Kendell, Head of	Department		
If Job Applicant, Date You Appli	ed for Job	Job Title	Applied For		

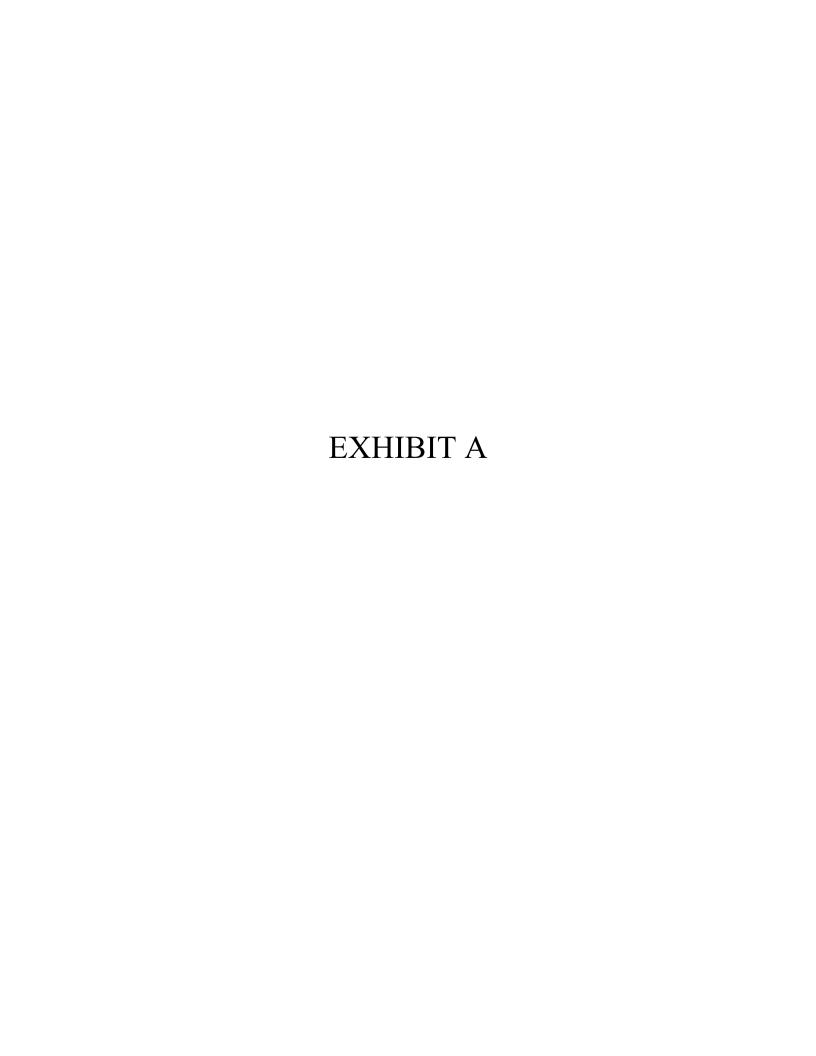
### 4. What is the reason (basis) for your claim of employment discrimination? FOR EXAMPLE, if you feel that you were treated worse than someone else because of race, you should check the box next to Race. If you feel you were treated worse for several reasons, such as your sex, religion and national origin, you should check all that apply. If you complained about discrimination, participated in someone else's complaint, or filed a charge of discrimination, and a negative action was threatened or taken, you should check the box next to Retaliation. □ Race □ Sex □ Age □ Disability □ National Origin ★ Religion □ Retaliation □ Pregnancy □ Color (typically a difference in skin shade within the same race) $\square$ Genetic Information; circle which type(s) of genetic information is involved: i. genetic testing ii. family medical history iii. genetic services (genetic services means counseling, education or testing) If you checked color, religion or national origin, please specify: Christian If you checked genetic information, how did the employer obtain the genetic information? Other reason (basis) for discrimination (Explain): 5. What happened to you that you believe was discriminatory? Include the date(s) of harm, the action(s), and the name(s) and title(s) of the person(s) who you believe discriminated against you. Please attach additional pages if needed. (Example: 10/02/06 – Discharged by Mr. John Soto, Production Supervisor) Date: 1-12-23 Action: \_\_\_ I received an email from Randall Dawson, informing me I was being investigated for an "ethics violation complaint" and that my access to campus was revoked. Name and Title of Person(s) Responsible: Randall Dawson, Vice President for Academic Success **B.** Date: 1-27-23 Action: I was terminated because of my religious beliefs and protected classroom speech. Name and Title of Person(s) Responsible Randall Dawson, Vice President for Academic Success; Nina Sosa, Director of **Employee Relations** 6. Why do you believe these actions were discriminatory? Please attach additional pages if needed. Without any opportunity to respond, I was fired because of my statements during my college-approved lecture on human reproduction, which is consistent with my religious beliefs. Please see my attached statement for more details. 7. What reason(s) were given to you for the acts you consider discriminatory? By whom? His or Her Job Title? Randall Dawson, VP for Academic Success, cited unsubstantiated student complaints accusing me of "religious preaching" in class, even though I was teaching basic biology from the college-approved textbook. 8. Describe who was in the same or similar situation as you and how they were treated. For example, who else applied for the same job you did, who else had the same attendance record, or who else had the same performance? Provide the race, sex, age, national origin, religion, or disability of these individuals, if known, and if it relates to your claim of discrimination. For example, if your complaint alleges race discrimination, provide the race of each person; if it alleges sex discrimination, provide the sex of each person; and so on. Use additional sheets if needed. Of the persons in the same or similar situation as you, who was treated better than you? Race, Sex, Age, National Origin, Religion or Disability Job Title **Description of Treatment** Full Name

Full Name Race, Sex, Age	e, National Origin, Religi		Job Title	Description of Treatment
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В				
	e, National Origin, Religio	on or Disability	•	Description of Treatment
A				
В				
Answer questions 9-12 <u>only</u> if you are us if you have more than one disability			y. If not, skip	to question 13. Please tell
9. Please check all that apply:	<ul><li>☐ Yes, I have a disabil</li><li>☐ I do not have a disab</li><li>☐ No disability but the</li></ul>	oility now but I did		disabled
10. What is the disability that you bel prevent or limit you from doing anyth				<u> </u>
11. Do you use medications, medical equipment of the second of the seco			ate the sympton	ms of your disability?
12. Did you ask your employer for an □ Yes □ No	y changes or assistance	to do your job bed	cause of your o	disability?
If "Yes," when did you ask?	How did you as	sk (verbally or in v	vriting)?	
Who did you ask? (Provide full name an	nd job title of person)			
Describe the changes or assistance that y	ou asked for:			
How did your employer respond to your	request?			

Full Name	Job Title	Address & Phone Number	What do you believe this person will tell us?
A			
В			
14. Have you file	d a charge previou	ısly on this matter with the EEC	OC or another agency?   Yes  No
15. If you filed a	complaint with an	other agency, provide the name	of agency and the date of filing:
Provide name of or	ganization, name of	of person you spoke with and date	orney, or any other source?   Yes □ No of contact. Results, if any? If Keisha Russell from First Liberty Institute.
We respectfully	request a Notice	of Right to Sue letter as soon	as possible.
knew about the dis a place where a sta discrimination wit or you have conce wish to check Box	crimination, or witte or local government the time limiters about EEOC's.  1. If you want to	hin 300 days from the day you kn nent agency enforces laws similar s, you will lose your rights. If y s notifying the employer, union, o file a charge, you should check	
BOX 1 ☐ I wan I have not filed a	nt to talk to an EEO charge with the EEO	C employee before deciding whethe DC. I also understand that I could	er to file a charge. I understand that by checking this box, d lose my rights if I do not file a charge in time.
I understand that	the EEOC must giv it the charge, inclu	e the employer, union, or employ ding my name. I also understand t	EEOC to look into the discrimination I described above.  ment agency that I accuse of discrimination that the EEOC can only accept charges of job lity, age, genetic information, or retaliation for opposing
	Signature		07-21-23 Today's Date
FORM NUMBER/TITLE     PRINCIPAL PURPOSE claims, and provide charge charge. 4) ROUTINE USE:  if EFOC becomes aware of	NT: This form is covered by /DATE. EEOC Intake Quest . The purpose of this question filing counseling, as approp S. EEOC may disclose information a civil or criminal law violation.	ionnaire (9/20/08). 2) AUTHORITY. 42 U.S.C. § 20 ionnaire is to solicit information about claims of empriate. Consistent with 29 CFR 1601.12(b) and 29 Cmation from this form to other state, local and federon, EEOC may also disclose information to respon	ority for requesting personal data and the uses thereof are: 2000e-5(b), 29 U.S.C. § 211, 29 U.S.C. § 626. 42 U.S.C. 12117(a) colonyment discrimination, determine whether the EEOC has jurisdiction over those DFR 1626.8(c), this questionnaire may serve as a charge if it meets the elements of a ceral agencies as appropriate or necessary to carry out the Commission's functions, or ndents in litigation, to congressional offices in response to inquiries from parties to the the charge, or to federal agencies inquiring about hiring or security clearance matters.

5) WHETHER DISCLOSURE IS MANDATORY OR VOLUNTARY AND EFFECT ON INDIVIDUAL FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION. Providing this information is voluntary but the

failure to do so may hamper the Commission's investigation of a charge. It is not mandatory that this form be used to provide the requested information.

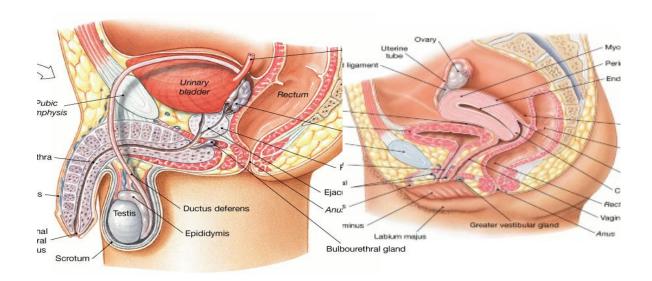


## ALAMO COLLEGES CLASSROOM OBSERVATION

Name: Dr. Johnson Varkey Banner ID: Rank: Instructor Assistant Professor Associate Professor Profes Tenure: Yes College: SAC ☑ SPC PAC NVC NLC Course-Section: BIOL 2401-106  PERFORMANCE CH  E _ = Exceeds Expectations: Faculty Member's performance	Date of Employment: Dept Chair/Supervisor: _Dr. Shane Kendell Date/Time: _11/16/2021 6.30PM-8.30PM  ARACTISTICS			
<b>E</b> = <b>Exceeds Expectations</b> : Faculty Member's performant significant and above the standard of the job responsibilities.	ce is clearly above average. Accomplishments are			
<b>M</b> = <b>Meets Expectations</b> : Faculty Member's performance are in accordance with the standards of the position.	meets all essential job requirements. Accomplishments			
D = Does Not Meet Expectations: Faculty Member's performance is well below the expectation of the job and requires a specific plan of action to improve noted deficiencies.				
RESPOND IN EACH	I CATEGORY			
Organization of subject matter	<u>E</u> M D			
Comments: Dr. Varkey used the lecture slides. Logical flow of information.				
2. Mastery of subject matter	<u>E</u> M D			
Comments: Dr. Varkey has excellence in the mastery of se	ubject. Gave clear explanations.			
3. Presentation of Ideas, Concepts, and Assignments <u>E</u> M D				
Comments: Dr. Varkey related concepts to common examples. Dr. Varkey used examples to help students with understanding and explanations.				
4. Encouragement of Student Participation	<u>E</u> M D			
Comments: Dr. Varkey frequently asked questions. Encouraged questions from students and answered them.				
5. Interaction with Students	<u>E</u> M D			
Comments: Dr. Varkey is very respectful to everyone. Comfortable rapport with students.				
OVERALL APPRAISAL:	<u>E</u> M D			
Comments/Examples: Dr. Varkey is an asset to the department. He works well with the students and is well liked by them.				
RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT	Γ: N/A			
SIGNATURES				
FACULTY MEMBER	DATE: 11/18/2021			
EVALUATOR	DATE:			

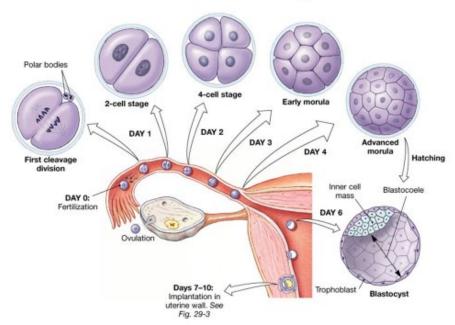


# Perpetuation of Human species



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### **Prenatal Development**



27



From: Dawson, Randall N

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 6:44 PM

To: Varkey, Johnson

Subject: RE: Alamo Colleges District Human Resources Ethics Violation Investigation

Dr. Johnson Varkey,

Any further communication regarding this matter will be addressed through our Human Resources department.

Respectfully,

Randall Dawson

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Randall Dawson, M.S. Vice President for Academic Success St. Philip's College

1801 Martin Luther King Dr., San Antonio TX, 78203

Email:

St. Philip's College---Founded 1898 A Point of Pride in the Community

Connect with SPC: #goSPC, @goSPC











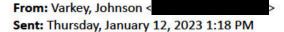












To: Dawson, Randall N <

Subject: Re: Alamo Colleges District Human Resources Ethics Violation Investigation

Dear Dr. Dawson, What was the complaint? I am not aware of any violations that I committed. Please clarify Thank you

Johnson Varkey Ph.D. Biology Instructor St. Philip's College, San Antonio, TX

From: Dawson, Randall N

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 9:34:42 AM

To: Varkey, Johnson

Subject: Alamo Colleges District Human Resources Ethics Violation Investigation

Dr. Johnson Varkey,

I am sending you notification that Alamo Colleges District Human Resources department is in receipt of an ethics violation complaint from JBSA-Lackland, related to your facilitation of the BIOL 2402 class, during the Flex II Fall 2022 term.

On January 10, 2023, JBSA-Lackland's Chief, Education & Training and the Installation Commander Delegate for Education Oversight revoked your access to all JBSA installations, pending the outcome of the investigation.

Any further communication regarding this matter will be addressed through our Human Resources department.

Respectfully,

Randall Dawson

Randall Dawson, M.S. Vice President for Academic Success St. Philip's College

1801 Martin Luther King Dr., San Antonio TX, 78203

Direct: Email:

St. Philip's College---Founded 1898 A Point of Pride in the Community

Connect with SPC: #goSPC, @goSPC











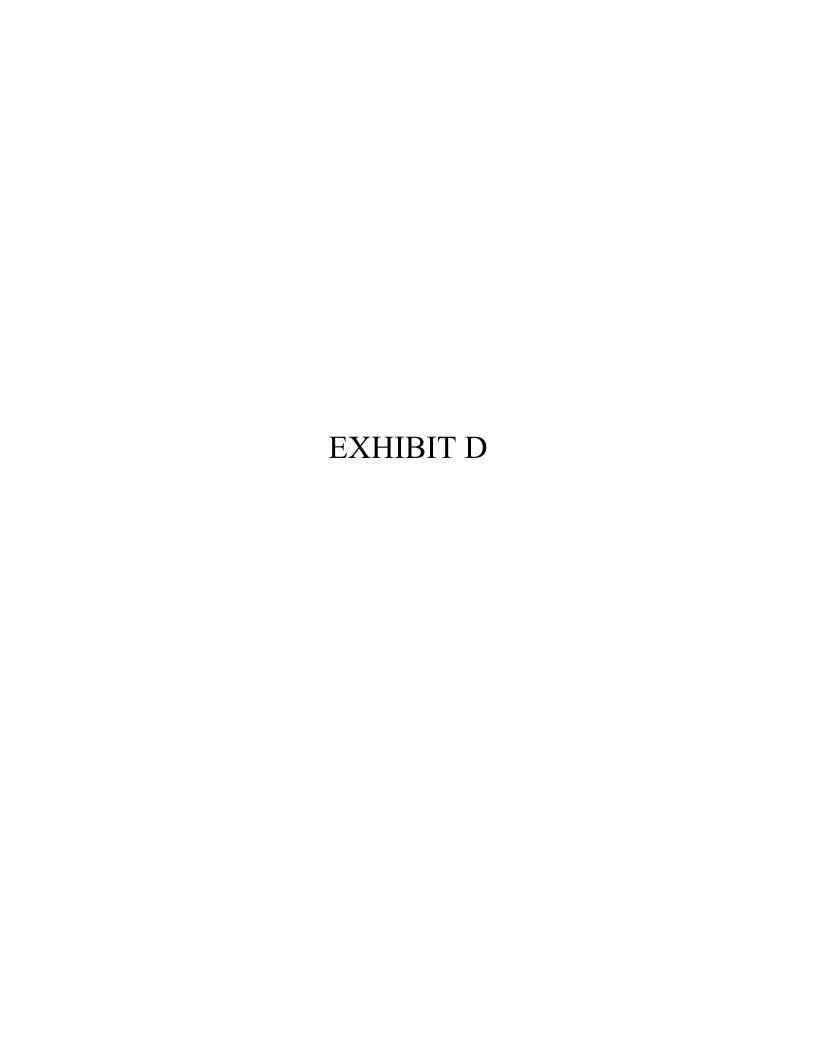














### ST. PHILIP'S COLLEGE

Office of the Vice President of Academic Success

#### **CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM**

To: Dr. Johnson Varkey, Adjunct Instructor, Biology

From: Randall Dawson, Vice President for Academic Success Randall Dawson

CC: Nina Sosa, Director of Employee Relations, Advocacy and Civil Rights on behalf of

Date: January 27, 2023

Re: Notice of Discipline – Termination of Employment and Contract

St. Philip's College has received numerous complaints that were submitted to Joint Base San Antonio Training and Education regarding your classroom behavior while facilitating in an official teaching capacity on JBSA-Lackland last semester, which is found to be unacceptable. The complaint contained several reports of "religious preaching, discriminatory comments about homosexuals and transgender individuals, anti-abortion rhetoric, and misogynistic banter." While some of the subject matter may be connected to class content, it was very clear, from the complaints, that you pushed beyond the bounds of academic freedom with your personal opinions that were offensive to many individuals in the classroom.

Your conduct and behavior stated above violate the following procedures:

### ➤ D.4.10.1 (Procedure) Faculty Code of Professional Ethics

- 1. The Professional Educator shall treat all persons with respect, dignity, and justice, discriminating against no one on any arbitrary basis such as ethnicity, creed, gender, disability, or age.
- 2. The Professional Educator shall strive to help each student realize his or her full potential as a learner and as a human being.
- 3. The Professional Educator shall by example and action encourage and defend the unfettered pursuit of truth by both colleagues\* and students supporting the free exchange of ideas, observing the highest standards of **academic honesty and integrity**, and seeking always an attitude of scholarly objectivity and tolerance of other viewpoints.

You are already not scheduled for Spring 2023 classes, but the seriousness of your behavior warrants the prohibition of any further employment with the College District. In addition, your access to all Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) installations has been

revoked, until further not	tice.	
		receipt of this memorandum. Please return the sident for Academic Success, St. Philip's College.
Johnson Varkey	Date	