



DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences

CAROL L. FOLT, DEAN

6045 Wentworth Hall · Room 202
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Susan B. AuBuchon
Assistant to the Dean

June 2, 2006

Mr. Joseph Asch
12 Woodrow Road
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755-2411

Dear Joe:

I am writing to thank you for your generous offer to provide funding for the editing program for the 2006-07 academic year. As I understand it, you have changed your mind about your previous decision to stop funding the three editors at the conclusion of the 2005-06 academic year. I have spoken with the chairs of Math, Art History and Religion, who all said that their faculty would appreciate the continuation of the program next year. I am therefore quite pleased to accept this offer.

This will, however, be the final year of the program. I know that you have been hoping that the College would decide to continue the program and indeed expand it in future years. We share with you a concern that our students receive effective instruction in writing skills. The Writing Program, under Professor Tom Cormen's direction, has begun to make significant improvements in this area. We are also working hard to increase the number of faculty so that we can continue to increase the percentage of small courses where so much writing occurs. Over the past five years, we have increased the number of faculty by almost 10 percent.

Our other priorities include maintaining strong competitive salaries and support for teaching and scholarship so that we can continue to recruit and retain top scholars. We also want to provide additional resources for student fellowships and internships and other curricular needs that are pressing so that we maintain our position as a leading institution.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss other ways that you could continue to support the initiatives in the Arts & Sciences. I also thank you again for your continuing interest in the students at Dartmouth.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Folt

CLF/sba

cc: Associate Dean Lenore Grenoble
Thomas Shemanske, Ada Cohen, Tom Cormen

Joseph Asch
12 Woodrow Road
Hanover NH 03755
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Dean of the Faculty Carol Folt
Wentworth Hall
Dartmouth College
Hanover NH 03755

June 14, 2006

Dear Carol,

Thank you very much for your letter dated June 2. I am glad that you agree that DEP should go forward in the coming 2006-2007 academic year. Given the glowing evaluations that the DEP Editors received recently from the three DEP departments, your decision will certainly be gratifying to the faculty members in the Art History, Religion and Mathematics departments, to their students, and to the three devoted DEP Editors.

At the start of your second paragraph, you wrote: "This will, however, be the final year of the program." In light of the fact that there has been no discussion about funding DEP beyond 2006-2007, I am unclear as to what exactly you mean by this sentence. Am I to understand that even if I offer to fund the program into the future, you will refuse to accept this funding and seek to terminate DEP? Is this the meaning that you intend?

If this is not your meaning, may I ask that you resolve this ambiguous situation by explicitly confirming that DEP may continue at the College for as long as funding is available for it.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

j
Joseph Asch '79

cc: Lenore Grenoble, Tom Shemanske, Ada Cohen, Susan Ackerman



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July 12, 2006

Mr. Joseph Asch
12 Woodrow Road
Hanover, New Hampshire 03755-2411

Dear Joe,

I am writing in response to your letter, dated June 14, 2006, which replied to my letter of June 2nd. In your letter you wrote:

At the start of your second paragraph, you wrote "This will, however be the final year of the program." In light of the fact that there has been no discussion about funding DEP beyond 2006-2007, I am unclear as to what exactly you mean by this sentence. Am I to understand that even if I offer to fund the program into the future, you will refuse to accept this funding and terminate DEP? Is this the meaning you intend?

Your understanding of my intention is correct.

Despite your generous support of the program, I have a number of concerns about the Departmental Editing Program. These concerns include the fact that the program lacks faculty prioritization, that it functions without the benefit and expertise of those members of our faculty who are specialists in rhetoric and composition and completely without faculty committee oversight, that it operates outside of our normal practices and procedures in a number of areas, including but not limited to the selection of the editors, their workload, their job duties, the compensation they receive in comparison to other employees and your assumption of a supervisory role in areas such as setting salary levels, awarding raises and soliciting employee evaluations from people in the department. I am also concerned about the classification of one of the editors as a volunteer. I plan to insist that in the future we operate within our normal practices in the areas I have identified above. As such, even if you offer to fund the program in the future, it will not proceed in its current form.

In light of my concerns, I plan to work with the departments that use the program during this coming academic year to evaluate it and develop a plan to integrate the valuable components of the program into the institution-wide writing efforts. I have already consulted with the department chairs about this, and they understand my reasoning and concerns. While I anticipate that we may provide assistance in a very different format, I am confident that we will continue to support the writing needs of our undergraduates. Dartmouth is committed to

Mr. Joseph Asch
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having scholars teach writing and critical thinking as one of the pillars of the undergraduate educational experience.

Knowing you care about writing at Dartmouth, there are still many ways you could assist us and I would be quite happy to talk to you about this. Your generosity has been greatly appreciated and I am sure there are many other programs at Dartmouth that will interest you and deserve your support in the future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol".

Carol L. Folt

CLF/sba

cc: Ada Cohen
Susan Ackerman
Thomas Shemanske