

To: WOUB Public Media

Fm: Mary T Rogus, Associate Professor, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism

Re: Response to lawsuit Tess Herman vs. Ohio University and Yusuf Kalyango

On page 9 under General Allegations, item 60 states:

“On or about July 10, 2017, Plaintiff Herman stepped down from her position as Program Assistant for the SUSI program. Upon hearing the news, Mary Rogus, a professor of Journalism at Ohio University and close friend and associate of Yusuf Kalyango, contacted Plaintiff Herman and attempted to persuade Plaintiff Herman not to report Yusuf Kalyango to the ECRC.”

The allegation that I attempted to persuade Ms. Herman not to report Dr. Kalyango to ECRC is absolutely not true. I did not “hear the news” that Ms. Herman was stepping down from her Program Assistant position, she emailed her resignation to me as Academic Director of the SUSI program the evening of July 10, 2017. In that email Herman said she was resigning because of concerns about working with Dr. Kalyango. She expressed that, “I have been consulting various offices on campus for guidance and support over the past weeks and this [resigning] was the necessary conclusion for my safety and well-being.”

The language she used raised a red flag for me as one of her supervisors and as a mandatory reporter in my capacity as a faculty member at Ohio University. So, of course, as is my responsibility, I immediately called Ms. Herman to find out what was going on. She reiterated that she had already spoken to multiple people on campus and was receiving counseling and assistance in filing a formal complaint against Dr. Kalyango. Because the complaint was already in process, she had been advised not to discuss any details of it. After receiving that information, I determined that my remaining responsibility to Ms. Herman was as one of her supervisors. I simply expressed concern for her well-being going through such a process, asked if she needed anything from me or just needed someone to talk to, and we briefly discussed the need for future communication to transition her program assistant duties to others. That subsequent communication was in the form of emails to get transportation records transferred and clear up discrepancies in her time sheets after she resigned.

At NO time in any communication with Ms. Herman did I encourage or even suggest that she not follow through completely with her complaint. As a survivor of extreme sexual harassment on the job early in my television news career, I would never discourage anyone from reporting it. Until I received her resignation email, I was completely unaware of her concerns and had observed no unusual or inappropriate interactions between Ms. Herman and Dr. Kalyango. Furthermore, even if, because of my lengthy working relationship with Dr. Kalyango, I was tempted to try and discourage Ms. Herman, it would have been a waste of time. Ms. Herman made it clear that her Title IX complaint was already

in process, so the allegations would be investigated anyway as they should be. Until the formal complaint was filed, I had no information on any of the details of the allegations she was making against Dr. Kalyango.

Respectfully Submitted: 1/29/19