



September 26, 2022

Ben Raimer, MD, MA, FAAP
The University of Texas Medical Branch – Galveston [Via Email: bgraimer@utmb.edu](mailto:bgraimer@utmb.edu)

Dear Dr. Raimer,

In Friday's Galveston County's The Daily News, there are multiple factually incorrect statements attributed to you.

It is alleged that you said UT System officials had dug for reasons to oust you and you still do not know exactly what those reasons were.

You know the UTS initiated an investigation as required because of an anonymous whistleblower complaint, and you know exactly what the complaint being investigated was.

You are quoted as saying: "I was summarily fired . . . with no severance pay, with no nothing."

You know better than anyone that you were not fired; you resigned as president with a letter prepared by you, not the UT System. You did not resign from your permanent faculty position at UTMB and are still employed by the University, so the issue of severance pay would have had no reason to come up. The University is working on your new salary, commensurate with your role as a tenured professor, and until that time, you are still receiving your current annual salary of approximately \$873,669.

You are quoted as saying an investigator arrived in your office during a meeting you were having with your staff and said: "I'm relieving you of your duties immediately."

As you know, the investigator first met with you in your office on August 1. You were subsequently placed on administrative leave on August 8 in a meeting in Austin with Chancellor Milliken and me in the Chancellor's office. The investigator did not and could not relieve you of your duties.

The newspaper also reported that you said the next week you were called to the Chancellor's office where you were questioned for hours, and that Milliken then asked you to sign a resignation letter, which you initially refused to do.

On August 8, you were questioned by the investigator at the UT System building, and afterward you met with the Chancellor who informed you that given the nature of the allegations received, you would be placed on administrative leave from the presidency, with pay.

You also are quoted: "I broke no laws of the federal government, of God, of mankind or anyone else."

As you know, the allegations included claims that constituted acts completely inconsistent with the Board's expectations of a president's conduct.

It is reported that you said you couldn't comment about one of the most rampant rumors — that you were removed because you fired a diversity officer married to a top UT system executive.

You know that through your attorney you originally made this baseless claim, and after the investigator and UT System General Counsel Sharphorn reviewed the preliminary findings with your attorney, you withdrew the claim. You have continued to promote the rumor publicly even though you made an informed decision to withdraw the claim.

It is reported that you said you had seen the preliminary findings, but it told you nothing other than that you'd been terminated. You reportedly claimed you didn't know why you were fired.

You were not fired, you chose to resign after learning of the preliminary findings before the investigation continued.

You are quoted as saying: "The letter said I've been fired, and there is no report because the report was never completed."

No such letter exists. You submitted a letter of resignation. The investigation ceased when you resigned as president.

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It is reported: Raimer still is considered a tenured professor at the medical branch, although he isn't practicing. He is volunteering his time at a free health clinic.

You are a full-time, tenured member of the UTMB faculty and are still receiving your presidential compensation, approximately \$873,669, while a new salary, commensurate with your faculty position, is being determined by UTMB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Zerwas M.D.", with a circled "M.D." at the end.

John M. Zerwas, M.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

cc: Chancellor J.B. Milliken
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Dan Sharphorn
Vice Chancellor Randa Safady