

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Mathematics



Teaching Load

Hello Selman Akbulut,

Your default annual teaching load is: 3

If the default annual teaching load is incorrect, please contact tl@math.msu.edu.

For the Fall 2015 / Spring 2016 academic year please specify what you think your teaching load should be (based upon previous arrangements):

Will you be available to teach in the fall of 2015?

☐ Definitely Yes ☐ Definitely No ☐ Uncertain

Will you be available to teach in the spring of 2016?

☐ Definitely Yes ☐ Definitely No ☐ Uncertain

[Submit](#)

MICHIGAN STATE
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My Teaching Assignment

2



From: wald@math.msu.edu
Subject: Departmental Teaching Assignment: Akbulut, Selman
Date: August 20, 2014 at 2:01 AM
To: akbulut@math.msu.edu

Dear Colleagues,

Attached is your current assignment. Please check carefully what is listed and let me know right away if there is an error.

Early next week please check the tally again to confirm the location of your class.

This is an opportune time for me to let you know that I have stepped down from the role of Undergraduate Director. Bruce Sagan is our current Undergraduate Director. I will be continuing as Associate Chair.

I'd like to welcome Bruce and thank all of you for your helpfulness during my term, especially those of you who selflessly worked so hard on undergraduate committees, projects and instruction.

Best,
Jeanne

Instructor: Akbulut, Selman

FS14
MTH 496, section 002
Class type: SmallClassLec
Location: A106 WH
Schedule: days: M W F time: 15:00 - 15:50

SS15
MTH 425, section 001
Class type: SmallClassLec
Location: A316 WH
Schedule: days: M W F time: 12:40 - 13:30

SS15
MTH 996, section 002
Class type: SmallClassLec
Location: A218 WH
Schedule: days: T R time: 13:50 - 15:40

My Spring 2015
Teaching assignment
which I taught

For up to date lists of all teaching assignments for all personnel, please refer to the InfoServer's 'Departmental Teaching Tallies' application at <https://mathdata.msu.edu/msudata/Tally0.asp>.

(3)

Total 7
Cases

Student
want to
take the course

- 5 Students have been registered

Ustun Yildirim
Luke Williams
Eylem Yildiz
Kaveh Kasebiam
Wei Fan

-
- 5 students registered
before Oct 20 deadline

Luke Williams ← His registration
was held up at GS office
Kaveh Kasebiam

Metin Ozsarfati ← registered but just before
the classes started he
was told this course doesn't
exist and he was diverted
Eylem Yildiz
Ustun Yildirim

2 additional cases

-
- Shue Man (Her registration was
rejected on Oct 22 no reason given)
 - Wei Fann (He wasn't allowed to register
because his teaching assignment
was not given)

AFFIDAVIT

I, LUKE WILLIAMS, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I am a graduate student at Michigan State University.
2. That I am familiar with Dr. Selman Akbulut as a professor in the Math Department.
3. That during the 2015 Spring semester, I am taking Math 996 Topics in Topology

course taught by Professor Akbulut, and the university receiving my tuition for this class.

4. That course is presently held on Tuesdays + Thursdays at 2:30 - 4:00pm.
5. That there are at five registered students attending this class regularly, with two

visting faculty and occasionally another student auditing the class.

6. That Professor Akbulut is at each of the classes provides instruction and leads discussions as in any regularly scheduled class, and provides us complete notes for the class.
7. That this is not a seminar, reading, or independent study course.

8. That this class requires all enrolled students to participate in class discussion, complete all assignments, and receive a grade base on my objective performance in this class.

Further, Affiant saith not.

Date: April 14, 2015

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF INGHAM)



Print name: LUKE Williams

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, this 14th day of April, 2015.

Kat Als

Notary Public:

County/State: Ingham, Michigan

My Commission Expires: March 27, 2018
Acting in: Ingham County

KATIE HAMELIN
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI
COUNTY OF INGHAM
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES Mar 27, 2018
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Ingham

AFFIDAVIT

I, Wei Fan, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. That I am a graduate student at Michigan State University.
2. That I am familiar with Dr. Selman Akbulut as a professor in the Math Department.
3. That during the 2015 Spring semester, I am taking Math 996 Topics in Topology

course taught by Professor Akbulut, and the university receiving my tuition for this class.

4. That course is presently held on Tu, Thur, 304A Wells Hall at 2:30-4:00 pm

5. That there are at five registered students attending this class regularly, with two visiting faculty and occasionally another student auditing the class.

6. That Professor Akbulut is at each of the classes provides instruction and leads discussions as in any regularly scheduled class, and provides us complete notes for the class.

7. That this is not a seminar, reading, or independent study course.

8. That this class requires all enrolled students to participate in class discussion, complete all assignments, and receive a grade base on my objective performance in this class.

Further, Affiant saith not.

Date: April 13, 2015

Wei Fan

Print name: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

)SS

COUNTY OF INGHAM)

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public, this 13 day of April, 2015.

[Signature]

Notary Public:

County/State: Clinton/Mc

My Commission Expires: 7/1/19

Acting in: *Fryhan*

Notarizing
Signature
only

BENJAMIN TUREK
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI
COUNTY OF CLINTON
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES Jul 4, 2019
ACTING IN COUNTY OF *Franklin*

To Whom it May Concern:

We, the undersigned graduate students, would like to attend MTH 996 - Topics in Topology - in the Spring semester of 2015. We feel that this course will cover materials which are beneficial to each of our respective research goals. We would like to inquire as to why this course is not listed in the schedule of courses.

Sincerely,

Wei Fan

← His signature was by email
he was in China see next page

Kaveh Kasebian

Kasebian

Metin Ozsarfati

Metin

Luke Williams

Williams

Ustun Yildirim

Yildirim

Eylem Yildiz

Eylem Yildiz

Shu-man Lin

Lin

Total 7 students

10

From: "will2086@msu.edu" <will2086@msu.edu>
Subject: **Fwd: Math 996**
Date: January 9, 2015 1:26:52 PM EST
To: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
1 Attachment, 14.2 KB

Selman,

In lieu of a signature for Wei, I've attached the following email containing his desire to sign. Please find the attached letter from the seven of us.

Best,

Luke

Begin forwarded message:

> Dear All:

>

> Sorry that I cannot meet with you guys tomorrow, since I am out of the country right now. (I will be back on Sunday)

>

> I really want to take this course, As all of you, I believe this course will be extremely useful to our research and it should be beneficial to any graduate student who is interested in Topology.

>

> I am communicating with Britta and Lisa, I might get a TA position (teaching Math 202), in that case, I will register for this course.

>

> If it is possible, Luke, can you sign the letter for me tomorrow?

>

> Thank you very much, and see you on Monday.

>

> Best,

>

> Wei Fan

January 9, 2015

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(11)

From: eylem zeliha yildiz <ezyildiz@msu.edu>
Subject: **Re: Teaching Assignments Spring Semester 2015**
Date: November 5, 2014 4:23:20 PM EST
To: "Britta M. Altinsel" <britta@math.msu.edu>
Cc: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>, "Wolfson, Jon G." <wolfson@math.msu.edu>, eylem zeliha yildiz <ezyildiz@math.msu.edu>, <kasebian@msu.edu>, Ustun Yildirim <yildiri3@msu.edu>, Luke Williams <will2086@msu.edu>, <ozsarfati@msu.edu>

Dear Britta,

As Prof. Akbulut had ensured that the class MTH-996-2 will take place in Spring Semester 2015 on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-4:00 pm. We want to fit this class in our schedule, we would like you to consider this class time when you are setting up our teaching assignments. We are worried since we are still not allowed to register to this class officially.

Best

Eylem Zeliha YILDIZ
Kaveh KASEBIAN
Metin OZSARFATI
Ustun YILDIRIM
Luke Morgan WILLIAMS

On Nov 3, 2014, at 1:09 PM, Britta M. Altinsel <britta@math.msu.edu> wrote:

Grad Students,

I will start with the assignments for SS15 the next few days. I will match your schedule with the teaching schedule. If you haven't signed up for your classes yet, you have to do so today or tomorrow.

Thanks,

Britta Altinsel
Graduate Student Coordinator
Department of Mathematics
Michigan State University
619 Red Cedar Road
C213 Wells Hall
Phone: 517-353-6338
Email: britta@math.msu.edu

Subject: **Wrongful course cancellation**

Date: December 11, 2014 2:15:25 AM EST

To: "Keith S. Promislow" <kpromisl@math.msu.edu>

Cc: dept <dept@math.msu.edu>, Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>, "Luke Williams" <will2086@math.msu.edu>, June Youatt <youatt@msu.edu>, Terry Curry <thcurry@msu.edu>, Karen Klomparens <kklompar@grd.msu.edu>, CNS Dean <cnsdean@cns.msu.edu>, Lou Anna Simon <presmail@msu.edu>

Dear Keith,

As you know math GS office has been trying to PREVENT one of my registered students (Luke Williams) from enrolling to my research topics course 996-002 with an excuse of "he is writing thesis, so he needs to pay for the credits", and even when I attempted to cover his tuition from my NSF grant I was PREVENTED from doing so (there is still more than enough in my grant). Let me remind you NSF funding is specifically designed for research, and for supporting grad students working in research. Now with this excuse you are attempting to cancel this course.

Though it was the first time I heard of such a practice in our dept, when I heard it I told Luke "Don't pay anything let me take care of it" and I went to your senior Administrative Assistant Carolyn Wemple's office and asked her to use my NSF funds to cover for Luke if need be, she said "NO PROBLEM IT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF" (this took place before Oct 20), and you have the written statement of Luke concurring my narrative, and expressing his continuing desire to register for this course since before Oct-20. Let me remind you when your Senior Administrative Assistant says something will be taken care of (vis-a-vis grants and/or student enrollment) and it is not done, then you are RESPONSIBLE as the chief administrative officer of our department.

So please stop threatening me with course cancellation, and making me teach forcibly another course of your choice, and threats "if I don't obey I could be charged with salary impounding for abrogation of duty". I have served in math dept over 30 years I have never seen this kind of behavior before. All the 7 Chairs I have seen before you helped to run this department smoothly rather than working on creating artificial frictions like this. I am forwarding this letter to Carolyn and Luke so there is no misunderstanding of my narrative, and forwarding to all of my colleagues with the hope that they won't stay quite and raise their voices (yes one day the same thing could happen to you), and to university administration to help to stop this craziness because they have power to do so.

Best Regards,
Selman Akbulut

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Subject: Fwd: cancelled classes
Date: October 21, 2014 6:15:50 PM EDT
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>

Dear Carolyn,

Remember I had asked you redirect my remaining NSF grant money to help my grad students Luke and Wei. Today I hear GS office prevented my student Luke to register to my 996 class (Topics in Topology) in Spring, because he couldn't pay a few hundred dollar registration fee, and so my class is cancelled because it has only 4 registered students (the requirement is 5). If I can not spend NSF grant money to a successful PhD student who can I spend it for?

Selman

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wolfson, Jon G." <wolfson@math.msu.edu>
Date: October 21, 2014 4:36:07 PM EDT
To: "Wang, Chang Yi" <cwang@math.msu.edu>, "Hu, Huyi" <hhu@math.msu.edu>, "Ivanov, Nikolai" <ivanov@math.msu.edu>, "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
Cc: "Britta M. Altinse" <britta@math.msu.edu>
Subject: cancelled classes

Hi All,

Unfortunately because of low enrollment we have been forced to cancel the following classes in SS15:

Math 840, Math 842, Math 864, Math 996 Section 1 and Math 996 Section 2.

My apologizes for the inconvenience.

Jon

3

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From: Selman Akbulut <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
Subject: **Spring 996-002**
Date: October 22, 2014 11:30:25 AM EDT
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>

Carolyn,

Could you please inform GS office and Keith that 996-002 has not been cancelled (it has 5 students). I hate to see Britta sending wrong info to grads and chasing students away.

Selman

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From: Carolyn Wemple wemple@math.msu.edu
Subject: RE: Luke Williams -verification
Date: January 25, 2016 at 4:44 PM
To: Akbulut, Selman akbulut@math.msu.edu

I agree Prof Akbulut asked if funds were available in his NSF grant to cover tuition and fees for Luke Williams and I said yes.

Carolyn Wemple
Research Administration
Michigan State University
Department of Mathematics
619 Red Cedar, Rm C-209 Wells Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

Phone: 517.432.8430
Fax: 517.355.5279
Email: wemple@math.msu.edu

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:12 AM
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>
Subject: Luke Williams -verification

Dear Carolyn,

Could you please verify the validity of the following: Prior to October/20/2014 I asked you to use my NSF grants to cover my student Luke Williams's tuition fees, if it need be. To refresh your memory I am copying my Oct/21/2014 email to you, reminding you of this.

Best Regards,
Selman

Begin forwarded message:

Subject: Fwd: cancelled classes
Date: October 21, 2014 at 6:15:50 PM EDT
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>

Dear Carolyn,

Remember I had asked you redirect my remaining NSF grant money to help my grad students Luke and Wei. Today I hear GS office prevented my student Luke to register to my 996 class (Topics in Topology) in Spring, because he couldn't pay a few hundred dollar registration fee, and so my class is cancelled because it has only 4 registered students (the requirement is 5). If I can not spend NSF grant money to a successful PhD student who can I spend it for?

Lukes override request rejected

16

Date: October 14, 2014 11:19:38 AM EDT

To: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>

Subject: Re: final notification

Selman,

I just emailed Britta about an override for this course... hopefully we can get the numbers there.

Luke

On Oct 14, 2014, at 2:37 PM, <kasebian@msu.edu>

<kasebian@msu.edu> wrote:

Dear Selman I just requested an override for the class, it will take a while to let me register but I will do that as soon as I can.

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From: Luke Williams <will2086@msu.edu>
Subject: **Re: Wrongful course cancellation**
Date: November 5, 2014 7:21:14 PM EST
To: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
Cc: "Promislow, Keith S." <kpromisl@math.msu.edu>, Richard Schwartz <schwart9@cns.msu.edu>, "Karen L. Klomparens (kklompar@grd.msu.edu)" <kklompar@grd.msu.edu>, Jim Kirkpatrick <rjkirk@cns.msu.edu>, Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>, "Koivisto, Beth" <koivisto@math.msu.edu>

Selman has asked me to outline enrolling for MTH 996.002:

MTH996 courses require a departmental override - preventing me from enrolling without one. I requested that override on October 14th via an email written to Britta Altinsel. That same morning, Britta reminded me that the Dissertation completion fellowship only waives one credit of tuition. Upon realizing that I would owe the remaining two credits in tuition, I told Selman that in light of the cost, I would not be able to take the course.

Selman told me not to pay for the course, that he would look into it. In the meantime, I didn't pursue the override any further as I didn't know where, or if, the funding would come through. I assumed that if the funding was secured for the remaining two credits, that I would be allowed to enroll then.

Please let me know if there is any other information that I can provide.

Sincerely,
Luke Williams

On Nov 5, 2014, at 5:58 PM, Akbulut, Selman wrote:

Dear Luke,

Can you please explain your version of the story? I already wrote multiple times what I know about this.

To capsulize my version: "You came to my office several times asking to take the class, then you complained that GS office is asking you to pay money for registration for this course. I said to you "Please do not pay, if that is the case I have NSF grant money to cover it" then I went to our NSF admin. Carolyn asked her to cover for Luke, Carolyn said, "No problem it will be taken care of". This was all before Oct-20th

Best Regards,
Selman

On Nov 5, 2014, at 5:31 PM, Schwartz, Richard wrote:

Dear Selman,

I think that you misunderstand my role in whether your class is delivered or not. Whether an elective class is delivered in a given semester is really the prerogative of the chair. My role here was to provide an opinion about what has transpired in the hope that the parties involved can resolve their disagreements, not to decide whether your course is delivered or not.

As I said in my earlier email, my main concern was whether Luke Williams was somehow inappropriately prevented from taking the course. Any graduate student in math would have been free to enroll in the course by simply going online and selecting the course. They don't even need to pay at the time of online enrollment, but rather receive a bill that is due about a month before the start of classes. The electronic enrollment records for Luke show that he never enrolled. There is also no record of the grad director or anyone dis-enrolling Luke nor is there any record of the grad director or anyone having placed a hold on Luke's ability to enroll. It may be the case that the grad director advised Luke against taking the course, but that is within his purview. Nonetheless, even if the grad director advised against taking the course, there was no physical or mechanical barrier to Luke's enrollment. If Luke was mistakenly told that the grant could not pay for the course, he still had a sufficient window before payment was due to work out a means of paying for the course. The evidence shows that for whatever reasons, Luke never chose to enroll. If Luke feels that he was somehow prevented from legitimately enrolling, I believe that we would all like to hear about the circumstances from Luke.

Rich

Richard Schwartz, Ph.D.
Professor
Associate Dean for Graduate Academic and Student Affairs
College of Natural Science
Michigan State University
288 Farm Lane, Room 103
East Lansing, MI 48824-1115

Luke taking the course

18

From: Luke Williams lukewilliams@ksu.edu

Subject: Re: Information needed

Date: January 19, 2016 at 11:38 AM

To: Akbulut, Selman akbulut@math.msu.edu, lukewilliams@math.msu.edu

Cc: Abdnour, Elizabeth abdnoure@pres.msu.edu, Schuiteman, Jayne schuite1@pres.msu.edu, Carolyn Wemple wemple@math.msu.edu, Koivisto, Beth koivisto@math.msu.edu

LW

Selman,

I hope I can be of some help here:

From an academic / research perspective I always wanted to attend Math 996.002 in SS15! The mathematics covered in this course were (and are) very relevant to my research and I had every intention of attending. Initially, I was planning to informally audit the course (I didn't need the credits, only the math!). When the enrollment numbers were low, I asked Selman if I should be enrolling formally, he agreed.

I requested an override from Britta Altinsel on Oct. 14 (2014) to enroll in the course. Britta informed me that the dissertation completion fellowship I had been awarded only provided a one credit tuition waiver and that I would have to foot the bill for the remaining two credits. In light of this, I told Britta that I did not want an override for the course.

I then proceeded to Selman's office to tell him that I would not be able to enroll for the course. Selman told me not to worry and that he would fix it. At the time, I did not realize that Selman was going to procure funding for the remaining credits - this was a misunderstanding on my part. Because I misunderstood, I didn't pursue the override further. By the time I realized my mistake, enrollment in the course had already been halted. As such, I was not able to re-request the override.

Please let me know if there is any other information that I can provide.

Sincerely,
Luke Williams

On 01/18/2016 09:22 PM, Akbulut, Selman wrote:

Dear Luke,

I hope all is well with you. Recently MSU's OIE (Office of Institutional Equity) has taken up the "improper course closing" issue. In their report which you are referred several times. Could you verify truthfulness of these statements (1)-(5). Are they lies? or reflect the truth? Thanks in advance (below "Claimant" refers to me).

ps: All I know is on Oct-14 you filed override request to take this class, and you complained GS office is not letting you to enroll this class because they want you to pay money for 2 more credits (I guess 1 credit is \$600), and on Oct-20 I told Carolyn Wemple to pay whatever it takes Luke to take this class, and Ms. Wemple said "No problem it will be taken care of", then I told you "Luke don't worry it is taken care of". Furthermore, on Oct-21 I wrote Ms. Wemple asking why she still has not done this?

Best,
Selman

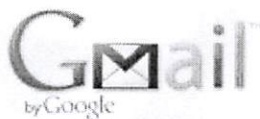
(1) Respondent Promislow said that the Claimant could have used the funds from this grant to provide financial support to student Luke Williams, if he had requested this use of the grant funds. Respondent Promislow said that Claimant had not communicated to "anyone" that he would provide the financial support from this grant for Mr. Williams to take the Topics class. Respondent Promislow said that Claimant had not even communicated this information to Mr. Williams.

(2) "According to Respondent Wolfson, Mr. Williams told Britta Altinsel, Graduate secretary, that he "did not want to take the topics class". Respondent Promislow said Mr. Williams told him "No one told me that I could get funding for that class"

(3) Respondent Promislow said "Mr Williams did not want to take the Topics class". Respondent Promislow said "He was only taking it because the Claimant asked him to". Respondent Promislow disputed Claimants assertion that Mr. Williams had filed out paperwork to obtain payments for credits for the topics course.

(4) Respondent Promislow said there was "no effort taken by anyone to keep Mr. Williams from enrolling" in the Claimants Topics class

(5) Respondent Promislow said Ms. Wemple had told him that the Claimant had asked for additional funding for Mr. Williams. Respondent Promislow said Ms. Wemple said she thought she had responded to Claimants request by increasing Mr. Williams's stipend, and that she had not understood that the Claimant had been requesting that she pay for Mr. Williams enrollment in the Topics class.



Selman Akbulut <akbulut.selman@gmail.com>

Wrongful course cancellation

Schwartz, Richard <schwartz9@cns.msu.edu>

Thu, Oct 30, 2014 at 11:34 AM

To: "Selman Akbulut (akbulut@math.msu.edu)" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>

Cc: "Promislow, Keith S." <kpromisl@math.msu.edu>, "Karen L. Klomparens (kklompar@grd.msu.edu)" <kklompar@grd.msu.edu>, "Kirkpatrick, Jim" <rjkirk@cns.msu.edu>

Dear Selman,

I don't see any problem with the general process that Keith has instituted for deciding which classes have sufficient enrollment to move forward and which do not. This process needs to have deadlines, and it looks like the process was publicized and all instructors received low enrollment warnings prior to cancellations.

The more serious issue is whether or not your student, Luke Williams, was prevented from registering for the course. Luke never registered for the course. No one blocked his ability to register for the course. No one removed his enrollment in the course. He did express interest in the course, but could not afford to pay the tuition. Your generous offer to pay Luke's tuition from your NSF grant did not offer a solution because the grant is fully encumbered. On learning this, Luke apparently chose not to enroll, not having any means of paying the tuition.

8SK
present

Placing myself in Keith's shoes, this presents the choice between scheduling a course that will likely need to be canceled for under enrollment, placing the students in the position of needing to reschedule their coursework at the last minute, or simply canceling the course now and allowing the students to set up their Spring semester schedules in a timely fashion. He chose the latter. I believe that it was a reasonable decision.

I think that it is time to move beyond your frustration at the course being canceled and focus on your other academic activities. In skipping a year, demand for the course will accumulate and the enrollment will be there for next year.

Regards,

Rich

Richard Schwartz, Ph.D.
Professor
Associate Dean for Graduate Academic and Student Affairs

(20)
AS

From: Akbulut, Selman akbulut@math.msu.edu
Subject: Inappropriate course closing case
Date: January 22, 2016 at 7:04 PM
To: Richard Schwartz schwart9@cns.msu.edu
Cc: Kirkpatrick, Jim rkirk@cns.msu.edu, Terry Curry thcurry@msu.edu, provost@msu.edu

Dear Professor Schwartz,

As CNS Ombudsman, on Oct/30/2014 in my "inappropriate course closing" case decision, you reported that my NSF grant was "fully encumbered" (which you based your decision on). Finally this week, I was able to convince our financial administrators (Ms. Wemple and Ms. Koivisto) give me the formal memo specifying the exact amount of available funds in my NSF accounts as of Oct/30/2014, it was:

\$ 85,327.18

Could you please report this correction to Associate provost Terry Curry's office, so that he can lift the penalties he gave me the a result of this misinformation. I will talk to him about this.

ps: BTW the course in question held with required number of enrolled students.

Best Regards,
Selman Akbulut



Gmail -
RichardSchwartz.pdf

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

January 19, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To Whom It May Concern

From: Carolyn Wemple *Carolyn Wemple*

Based on Contract & Grant Account-FIN 068 reports, at the end of October FY14 the following grants show the balance as indicated below:

RC062100 -- \$9,873.38 (referred to as 'personal' grant)

RC100344 -- \$75,453.80 (referred to as 'FRG' grant)



Department of
Mathematics

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From: **Carolyn Wemple** wemple@math.msu.edu
Subject: **RE: list of grants**
Date: **March 14, 2016 at 11:09 AM**
To: **Akbulut, Selman** akbulut@math.msu.edu

My apologies for the delay ... I think this is what you need ...

9/1/2009 - 8/31/2015 NSFDMS 0905917, 4-Manifolds, Calibrated Manifolds, Real Algebraic Varieties
5/1/2010 - 5/31/2016 NSF DMS 1005366, Gokova Geometry/Topology Conference
9/1/2011 - 8/31/2015 NSF DMS 1065879, FRG: Collaborative Research: The topology and invariants of smooth 4-manifolds
4/1/2015 - 3/31/2018 NSF 1502135, Gokova Geometry/Topology Conference
9/15/2015 - 8/31/2018 NSF 1505364, Exotic 4-Manifolds and geometric structures

Let me know if you have questions ... carolyn

-----Original Message-----

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 2:50 PM
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>
Subject: list of grants

Dear Carolyn,

Could you send me the list of NSF grants I had past 3 years (including this year). I need to put this in the dept progress report.

Selman

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Subject: Re: visit to MSU-Luke Williams
Date: August 18, 2014 4:25:48 PM EDT
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>

On Aug 18, 2014, at 1:35 PM, Carolyn Wemple wrote:

If you do not support Luke Williams will you be supporting another grad student this fall?

Luke has asked for his fellowship in spring 2015 and we can make arrangements to provide him with the additional \$2,700 through the student project pay process. This will bring his total compensation for spring up to the normal amount.

He currently has a 1/2-time teaching assistantship for fall semester. This is where my question lies ... will you be providing a 1/4-time research assistantship? If so we need to amend the current appointment.

Please let me know if you have questions ... carolyn

OK you can pledge \$2,700 to Luke, we still have to pay something towards the air tickets of 4 students coming to SCGP then how much would be left?

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2014 9:51 AM
To: Carolyn Wemple
Subject: Fwd: visit to MSU-Luke Williams

Dear Carolyn,

And to add: If Luke's CNS award does not provide for that (or if not enough to buy off 1/4-RA for him), of course we can use it for that purpose, which would be about 7K. then we can use the remaining 3 K towards travels of the grad students who are going to SGCP conference next week.

<http://scgp.stonybrook.edu/archives/9733>

<http://scgp.stonybrook.edu/archives/9729>

Selman

Begin forwarded message:

Date: August 15, 2014 6:34:51 PM EDT
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>
Subject: Re: visit to MSU

Before answering that question, can you answer the following: Won't the award he won from the dept (may be it was from CNS) cover that?

On Aug 15, 2014, at 3:28 PM, Carolyn Wemple wrote:

Will you support Luke Williams with a 1/4-time research assistantship for fall?

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2014 2:53 PM
To: Carolyn Wemple
Subject: Re: visit to MSU

Yes just in case I should emphasise he wrote "Let me clarify. I would like the proceeds of the 10K to go to the support of graduate students in as much as possible", this means "as much as possible" not every cent of it.

18

Beth
23

From: Koivisto, Beth koivisto@math.msu.edu
Subject: RE: A request
Date: February 1, 2016 at 4:00 PM
To: Akbulut, Selman akbulut@math.msu.edu

KB

Hi Selman,

I must have misunderstood you, there isn't a policy that math grad student with DCF cannot take more than one credit. The DCF only pays for one credit. You agreed to pay Luke the \$2,700 to supplement the difference in his income from an assistantship to the DCF.

Best,
Beth

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 3:44 PM
To: Koivisto, Beth <koivisto@math.msu.edu>
Subject: Fwd: A request

Dear Beth, I need this info by tomorrow's 9:30 AM meeting.

Selman

Begin forwarded message:

From: Selman Akbulut <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
Subject: A request
Date: February 1, 2016 at 2:17:56 PM EST
Cc: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>
To: "Koivisto, Beth" <koivisto@math.msu.edu>

Dear Beth,

Could you please send me the written rule that math grad student with DCF CAN NOT take more than 1-credit. The following are the two links Keith sent it to dept explaining DCF rules and assistantship rules:

,
<http://grad.msu.edu/fellowships/dissertation.aspx>

<https://prime.natsci.msu.edu/current-students/assistantships-fellowships-and-funding/>

The first link says "Unlike graduate assistantships, these fellowships do not include student health insurance or tuition/fee waivers".

My second question to you is: Why was it necessary to charge me \$2,700 because Luke was receiving DCF (this is what I was told by Carolyn) what did this money

From: Akbulut, Selman akbulut@math.msu.edu
Subject: Fwd: visit to MSU-Luke Williams
Date: January 31, 2016 at 4:14 PM
To: Carolyn Wemple wemple@math.msu.edu

Dear Carolyn,

Could you please verify that I did cover 1/4-assistantship support for Luke Williams for Spring/2015 (if not what did I cover?). Thanks in advance.

Selman

Begin forwarded message:

From: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>
Subject: RE: visit to MSU-Luke Williams
Date: August 18, 2014 at 1:35:38 PM EDT
To: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
Cc: "Koivisto, Beth" <koivisto@math.msu.edu>, "Promislow, Keith S." <kpromisl@math.msu.edu>

If you do not support Luke Williams will you be supporting another grad student this fall?

Luke has asked for his fellowship in spring 2015 and we can make arrangements to provide him with the additional \$2,700 through the student project pay process. This will bring his total compensation for spring up to the normal amount.

He currently has a 1/2-time teaching assistantship for fall semester. This is where my question lies ... will you be providing a 1/4-time research assistantship? If so we need to amend the current appointment.

Please let me know if you have questions ... carolyn

OK you can pledge \$2,700 to Luke, we still have to pay something towards the air tickets of 4 students coming to SCGP then how much would be left?

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Saturday, August 16, 2014 9:51 AM
To: Carolyn Wemple
Subject: Fwd: visit to MSU-Luke Williams

Dear Carolyn,

And to add: If Luke's CNS award does not provide for that (or if not enough to buy off 1/4-RA for him), of course we can use it for that purpose, which would be about 7K, then we can use the remaining 3 K towards travels of the grad students who are going to SGCP conference next week.

<http://scgp.stonybrook.edu/archives/9733>
<http://scgp.stonybrook.edu/archives/9729>

Selman

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Date: August 15, 2014 6:34:51 PM EDT
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>
Subject: Re: visit to MSU

Before answering that question, can you answer the following: Won't he award he won from the dept (may be it was from CNS) cover that?

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Will you support Luke Williams with a ¼-time research assistantship for fall?

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2014 2:53 PM
To: Carolyn Wemple
Subject: Re: visit to MSU

Yes just in case I should emphasise he wrote "Let me clarify. I would like the proceeds of the 10K to go to the support of graduate students in as much as possible", this means "as much as possible" not every cent of it.

Selman

On Aug 15, 2014, at 2:26 PM, Carolyn Wemple wrote:

Hello Selman,

I spoke with Keith regarding your visitor teaching this fall. If he arrives by August 22nd we should be able to provide a teaching assignment for fall semester. However, if he does not arrive by that date we will proceed with finding a teaching assignment for spring semester.

This will make the \$10,000 available for you to support grad students in fall and spring. Keith's terms are that the visitor can teach but you will then be required to support your grad student(s) in the coming academic year with assistantships.

Please let me know if you have questions ... carolyn

From: Ginther, Anne
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2014 2:11 PM
To: m.asadi@urmia.ac.ir
Cc: Promislow, Keith S.; Carolyn Wemple; Koivisto, Beth; Anderson, Katy; Akbulut, Selman
Subject: RE: visit to MSU

From: Selman Akbulut <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
Subject: **Re: Math 996**
Date: January 10, 2015 9:55:33 PM EST
To: "Promislow, Keith S." <kpromisl@math.msu.edu>
Cc: <kasebian@msu.edu>, <ozsarf@msu.edu>, <yildir3@msu.edu>, <ezyildiz@msu.edu>, Luke Williams <will2086@msu.edu>, "Lin, Shu-Man" <linshuma@math.msu.edu>, Wei Fan <fanwei2011619@gmail.com>

Dear Keith,

Correction: Our Topology Student Seminar is in the usual time: Fridays 4:00-6:00 PM in C-329 Wells (not to be confused with departmental Topology Seminar on Mondays 4:00 PM in C-304 Wells). The Topics course Math 996 will be TuTh 2:30- 4:00 PM in A-304 WH.

Best Regards,
Selman

On Jan 10, 2015, at 9:20 PM, Promislow, Keith S. wrote:

Dear Students,

Thank you for your letter, your dedication to your studies is commendable. My understanding is that Professor Akbulut intends to hold a seminar on Four Manifolds this spring with regular meeting times. I strongly encourage this, and suggest that you consider registering as a reading course, if Prof. Akbulut is willing, should you wish to receive credit.

Sincerely, Keith Promislow

Keith Promislow
Professor and Chair
Dept. of Mathematics
D205 Wells Hall
619 Red Cedar Road
East Lansing, MI, 48824
517-432-7135

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 3:56 PM
To: hiring-faculty
Subject: Fwd: Math 996

Begin forwarded message:

From: "will2086@msu.edu<<mailto:will2086@msu.edu>>" <will2086@msu.edu<<mailto:will2086@msu.edu>>>
Subject: Fwd: Math 996
Date: January 9, 2015 1:26:52 PM EST
To: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu<<mailto:akbulut@math.msu.edu>>>

Selman,

In lieu of a signature for Wei, I've attached the following email containing his desire to sign. Please find the attached letter from the seven of us.

Shu-Man's override request
was also rejected (this is 6th student)

27

From: "Lin, Shu-Man" <linshuma@math.msu.edu>
Subject: **Re: Math Override Request Form**
Date: January 11, 2015 9:13:41 AM EST
To: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>

My override request was never processed. I made it the day before at night.

On Jan 11, 2015 9:11 AM, "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu> wrote:
This is a reply to your "override request", when was your override request? same day or before?

On Jan 11, 2015, at 9:06 AM, Lin, Shu-Man wrote:

>
> Here are the facts.
>
> ----- Forwarded message -----
> From: "no_reply@math.msu.edu" <no_reply@math.msu.edu>
> Date: Oct 22, 2014 4:08 PM
> Subject: Math Override Request Form
> To: "linshuma@msu.edu" <linshuma@msu.edu>
> Cc:
>
>> Thank you for submitting your override request for Math 996
>>
>> Please review your request displayed below for accuracy. If you would like to edit or delete the
request, please go to the Override Request Form and update your request.
>>
>>
>> Override Request Id #: 14443
>>
>> Semester: Spring 2015
>>
>> Course: 996
>>
>> Section(s): 002
>>
>> Reason: needs extra person to be enrolled.
>>
>>
>> You will receive another email once a decision has been made. Please wait to enroll until after you
have received a response. Staff are unable to give you a timeline on how long it will take for an override
to be approved!

8

From: "Lin, Shu-Man" <linshuma@math.msu.edu>
Subject: **FW: Math Override Request Form**
Date: January 11, 2015 9:21:38 AM EST
To: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>

From: no_reply@math.msu.edu [no_reply@math.msu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 4:08 PM
To: linshuma@msu.edu
Subject: Math Override Request Form

Thank you for submitting your override request for Math 996

Please review your request displayed below for accuracy. If you would like to edit or delete the request, please go to the [Override Request Form](#) and update your request.

Override Request Id #: 14443

Semester: Spring 2015

Course: 996

Section(s): 002

Reason: needs extra person to be enrolled.

You will receive another email once a decision has been made. Please wait to enroll until after you have received a response. Staff are unable to give you a timeline on how long it will take for an override to be approved!

From: "Britta M. Altinsel" <britta@math.msu.edu>
 Subject: **RE: Spring 996-002**
 Date: October 15, 2014 9:40:24 AM EDT
 To: "Akbulut, Selman" <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
 Cc: "Wolfson, Jon G." <wolfson@math.msu.edu>, "will2086@msu.edu" <will2086@msu.edu>, "Koivisto, Beth" <koivisto@math.msu.edu>, "kasebian@msu.edu" <kasebian@msu.edu>

Selman,

Luke Williams is more than welcome to take your course. However; he is receiving the Dissertation Completion Fellowship for spring semester. This fellowship is giving selected students the opportunity to only sign up for one credit and concentrate on their dissertation. The students receiving this fellowship get paid for completing their dissertation and not having to teach courses. This is an enormous relieve for many students receiving this award.

I hope you understand that the graduate office is not trying to keep Luke from taking this class. He just won't get paid for it, unless he decides to cancel his fellowship. Which we highly discourage him to do.

Kaveh Kasebian submitted his override request on 10/14/2014 at 2:35pm. I enrolled him in the class two hours later on 4:33pm.

Thank you,

Britta

↑ GS secretary
 denying
 override
 request

From: akbulut.selman@gmail.com [mailto:akbulut.selman@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Selman Akbulut
 Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 9:29 AM
 To: Britta M. Altinsel
 Subject: Re: Spring 996-002

There were 2 Luke Williams, and Kaveh Kasebian whose emails I forwarded to you. Now I understand Grad office putting pressure on Luke Williams pay for this course. I feel this is not right, he is a very bright grad student who is finishing his thesis this year! If he is not welcomed to this course who is?

Selman

On Wed, Oct 15, 2014 at 9:17 AM, Britta M. Altinsel <britta@math.msu.edu> wrote:

Selman,

You wrote in your email below "These students" I only see one. Who else?

Let the students know to submit an override request on our website. I cannot enroll them unless they do an override request.

Britta

From: Akbulut, Selman
 Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 9:56 PM
 To: Britta M. Altinsel
 Subject: Spring 996-002

Dear Britta,

These students tell me that they have registered my Spring 996-002. But I don't see them in the registration list. Their names need to be added to do list ASAP, since there is only 6 days to the decision of whether to cancel grad classless.

Selman

 From: Luke Williams <will2086@msu.edu>

30

From: Wei Fan <fanwei2011619@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: 996
Date: December 18, 2014 8:13:17 PM EST
To: Selman Akbulut <akbulut@math.msu.edu>

Hi, Selman:

I wish to enroll your course, MTH 996 in the Spring Semester, 2015. I am very interested in the subjects which will be discussed in this course. I know this course will cover some recent developments in low dimensional topology which I believe will be very helpful in my future research. I sincerely hope you can let me enroll.

Best regards,

Wei Fan

2014-12-18 19:35 GMT-05:00 Selman Akbulut <akbulut@math.msu.edu>:

Are you a registered student of MSU, who needs money for enrolling this class? How much do you need to enroll do you know? If it is the case just write me a formal email expressing me wish to enroll. GS won't let any students to enroll, but such a note would support my cause to make this course run (yes my NSF funds can be used for such things)

On Dec 18, 2014, at 6:22 PM, Wei Fan wrote:

Hi, Selman:

I am very interested in this course, but I didn't attempt to enroll, since I want to avoid the tuition. Do you have enough students enrolling this course? If you are short of students, I want to enroll. After the course start running, I can drop it and get refund. (of course, I still want to be sitting in the class) I don't know too much about NSF, how do I apply it to cover the tuition?

Best,

Wei Fan

2014-12-18 16:21 GMT-05:00 Akbulut, Selman <akbulut@math.msu.edu>:

Dear Wei,

If you are going to be in my 996, could you confirm this. If you attempted to enroll this course and prevented from enrolling, please put the date of when this happened (earliest this happened). These info will help me to reconstitute this course legally in the university. If there is a difficulty with paying for tuition, don't worry there is always NSF grant.

Selman

14

From: **Wolfson, Jon G.** wolfson@math.msu.edu
Subject: Re: 992-002
Date: October 24, 2014 at 1:10 PM
To: Akbulut, Selman akbulut@math.msu.edu
Cc: Promislow, Keith S. kpromisl@math.msu.edu, Britta M. Altinsel britta@math.msu.edu

Wolfson

WJ

Selman,

I made a decision on course cancellations on Oct. 21 based on enrollment on that date. The deadline of Oct. 20 was announced to faculty twice over a two week period and graduate students were warned to enroll three times. The decision has been made. I cannot revisit the decision for you and then not allow other reconsiderations. The consequence of such a policy is that there are never any deadlines.

In addition, you must understand that Luke Williams cannot have a Dissertation Completion Fellowship and take courses. There is a college policy permitting only one credit in the semester that the DCF is used.

In any case, deadlines are deadlines. A decision has been made. It's time to move on. There are many things to do. You are welcome to teach a topics course in the future.

Best,

Jon

On Oct 24, 2014, at 12:10 PM, Selman Akbulut <akbulut@math.msu.edu> wrote:

Jon,

I think there is a misunderstanding. Spring/996-002 has 5 students K.Kasebian, M.Ozsarfati, U.Yildirim, E. Yildiz, L. Williams, it should not be cancelled (I just approved the override request for Luke Williams to take a course). In the past, I bought teachings for my grad students Wei Fan and Luke Williams with my NSF grants (both are finishing their PhD's this year). If need be some money can be kicked in to help Luke to take this course, even though I really don't see why there should be any obstruction for him taking this course, probably he is the one who will benefit most from this course, and his participation will generate motivation for others.

Selman

From: **Britta M. Altinsel** britta@math.msu.edu
 Subject: RE: Spring 996-002
 Date: October 15, 2014 at 9:40 AM
 To: Akbulut, Selman akbulut@math.msu.edu
 Cc: Wolfson, Jon G. wolfson@math.msu.edu, will2086@msu.edu, Koivisto, Beth koivisto@math.msu.edu, kasebian@msu.edu

Britta

BM

Selman,

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Kaveh Kasebian submitted his override request on 10/14/2014 at 2:35pm. I enrolled him in the class two hours later on 4:33pm.

Thank you,

Britta

From: akbulut.selman@gmail.com [mailto:akbulut.selman@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Selman Akbulut
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Britta M. Altinsel
Subject: Re: Spring 996-002

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Selman

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Selman,

You wrote in your email below "These students" I only see one. Who else?

Let the students know to submit an override request on our website. I cannot enroll them unless they do an override request.

Britta

From: Promislow, Keith S. kpromisl@math.msu.edu
Subject: Grad Course Cancellation/Decision on Akbulut's course
Date: August 24, 2015 at 6:19 PM
To: hiring-faculty hiring-faculty@math.msu.edu

Dear Hiring Faculty,

The Advisory Committee met over the summer to discuss the process of graduate course cancellation and the review the cancelation of MTH996.002. Building upon their advice, I have arrived at the following guidelines/decisions.

1) The Graduate Director has the right to set prescribed deadlines by which graduate courses must have prescribed enrollments in order to run in the subsequent semester. The deadlines should be broadcast to all faculty and graduate students well in advance.

2) An appeal process is required to handle cases in which there is ambiguity over the meeting of the target enrollment by the prescribed deadline. The appeal must be filed within one week of the course enrollment deadline, and goes first to the graduate studies committee. A subsequent appeal by the faculty member to the chair is possible. The chairs decision, in possible consultation with the Advisory Committee, will be final.

3) The Advisory Committee discussed the cancelation of Prof. Akbulut's spring 2015 MTH 996.002 and determined that all parties acted in good faith with the information they had at the time. They also determined that apart from a series of miscommunications, Prof. Akbulut met the established criteria, and that the appeal process outlined above would have resulted in the course running. Given that Prof. Akbulut held an associated graduate course, and had his salary reduced, the decision is to compensate Prof. Akbulut with a one-course teaching reduction effective during the 2016-17 academic year.

I reiterate that the authority to establish teaching responsibilities lies uniquely with the chair. Refusal to teach assigned courses is a serious offense with a range of possible punishments up to and including loss of tenure and termination for cause.

Keith Promislow
Chair
Department of Mathematics

same
course!

Confidential

11
Lie
*
→
Respondent Promislow said Claimant had committed \$10,000 from this grant to support Mr. Asadi. Respondent Promislow said that this grant only had \$8,000 in funding available. The grant was therefore, considered "encumbered." Respondent Promislow said Mr. Asadi needed additional financial assistance for health insurance, which was a requirement of his Visa. Respondent Promislow said he provided \$5,000 out of the Department's Michigan Center for Industrial and Applied Mathematics funding for Mr. Asadi's health insurance coverage so that his visa would not be revoked.

28
24
2015
Lie
*
Respondent Promislow said, "[The Claimant] 'also had a focus research grant.'" Respondent Promislow said this "grant is shared, and harder to use. But it is possible to use it." Respondent Promislow said that the Claimant could have used the funds from this grant to provide financial support to student Luke Williams, if he had requested this use of the grant funds. Respondent Promislow said that Claimant had not communicated to "anyone" that he would provide the financial support from this grant for Mr. Williams to take the Topics class. Respondent Promislow said that Claimant had not even communicated this information to Mr. Williams. Respondent Promislow said Ms. Wemple told him that Claimant had stuck "his head in her office" one day and said he wanted her to pay for something. According to Respondent Promislow, Ms. Wemple had no idea what Claimant meant and therefore took no action on Claimant's statement. Respondent Promislow said Claimant "could have been referring to anything." Respondent Promislow said, "No one knew what [the Claimant] had decided [regarding the use of his grants] until it became a University-wide issue."

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Lie
*
Respondent Wolfson said Mr. Williams "could also have declined the funding award." According to Respondent Wolfson, Mr. Williams told Britta Altinsel, Graduate Secretary, that he "did not want to take the Topics class." Respondent Promislow said Mr. Williams told him, "No one told me that I could get funding for that class."

13
14
Respondent Promislow said the Claimant filed a grievance with the Faculty Grievance Office ("FGO") regarding the cancellation of his Topics class. Respondent Promislow said the FGO dismissed the Claimant's complaint after Respondent Promislow filed his response to the grievance.

Respondent Promislow said the Claimant was assigned to teach another lower level class after the Claimant's Topics class was cancelled. Respondent Promislow said that Claimant refused to teach the class, even after being instructed to do so by Dr. Curry of Academic Human Resources. Respondent Promislow said Dr. Curry found that the Claimant abrogated his teaching responsibilities by refusing to teach the lower level class and thus reduced the Claimant's compensation. Respondent Promislow said the Claimant's salary was reduced to compensate the Department for funding another instructor to teach the class and to cover Dr. Asadi's expenses. Respondent Promislow said the total salary reduction was \$15,000: \$10,000 to cover the other instructor's salary and \$5,000 to cover Dr. Asadi's expenses.

Respondents Wolfson and Promislow were interviewed together on September 29, 2015.⁷ The Respondents were advised of the Policy, the investigation process, investigator neutrality, confidentiality, and the no-retaliation policy. The Respondents were provided with a copy of the Policy.

Respondent Wolfson said it was Department policy to cancel a class if fewer than five students had enrolled by the registration date. He said the Department “needs deadlines” or there would “be no end” to students enrolling and dropping classes. Respondent Wolfson said students were notified by email of the October 2014, enrollment deadline and reminded again line via email. Respondent said he “encourage[ed]” students to enroll.

Respondent Promislow said the process for class enrollment was “applied uniformly” to all classes. When asked if there were any classes with fewer than five students enrolled which were not canceled, Respondent Promislow said there was “one qualifying exam class that had to run.” Respondent Promislow said that Department policy required that qualifying exam classes be run even if only one student enrolled. Respondent Wolfson said Industrial Math 844 also ran although there were fewer than five students enrolled. Respondent Wolfson said Industrial Math 844 is not part of the PhD program. Rather, according to Respondent Wolfson Industrial Math 844 is a master’s degree program service class for engineers that runs regardless of the number of students enrolled and does not get cancelled. Respondent Promislow corroborated this information and said that Industrial Math 844 did not open until November 2014 and was “outside of [Respondent Wolfson’s] scope” to cancel. Respondent Promislow said he cannot “cancel that class” either.

Respondent Promislow said the Department’s policy of canceling classes with fewer than five enrolled students, was “very longstanding” and was a “college-level policy.” He said however, “It was not enforced strongly before.” Respondent Wolfson said, “Previous to Casim Abbas [the Graduate Director who immediately preceded Respondent Wolfson], [the policy] was rigorously enforced.”

Respondent Promislow said that in September 2014, it was “announced broadly to students” that they would need to enroll in classes by mid-October, 2014. Respondent Wolfson said he sent students reminder emails of the enrollment deadline on October 7 and October 14, 2014. Respondent Wolfson said the Claimant responded to one of the emails and thus was aware of the enrollment deadline. Respondent Wolfson said, “There was no lack of understanding on [the Claimant’s] part that [the Topics class] would be canceled” if the enrollment threshold was not met. Respondent Promislow said the Claimant taught a “reading” class on the same subject matter during spring semester 2015, although the Topics class had been cancelled. Respondent Promislow said the Claimant had two grants. The first grant was encumbered as Claimant had invited Dr. Mohammad Asadi, a scholar from Iran, to come to MSU to study and teach a class.

⁷ Ms. Abdnour and Ms. Leahy conducted this interview.

There is
no first/second
grant Chair
Doesn't know

NO
25

25

List of
900
courses
not
cancelled

NO

From: Carolyn Wemple wemple@math.msu.edu
Subject: RE: Health insurance -verification
Date: January 25, 2016 at 4:44 PM
To: Akbulut, Selman akbulut@math.msu.edu

ASADI

CW

35

Professor Mohammadai Asadi Golmankhaneh paid his own health insurance premium in the amount of \$1,408.84. I do not remember the specifics relating to how/why this was reimbursed from department funds.

Carolyn Wemple
Research Administration
Michigan State University
Department of Mathematics
619 Red Cedar, Rm C-209 Wells Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

Phone: 517.432.8430
Fax: 517.355.5279
Email: wemple@math.msu.edu

-----Original Message-----

From: Akbulut, Selman
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 11:02 AM
To: Carolyn Wemple <wemple@math.msu.edu>
Subject: Health insurance -verification

Sear Carolyn,

Could you please verify the validity of the following: "The visitor Professor Mohammad Asadi did cover his health insurance himself (he presented his credit card receipts showing that he did that). At no time neither Professor M. Asadi nor Professor S. Akbulut asked his health insurance to be covered (or what he had paid for his health insurance to be compensated) by the math department".

Best Regards,
Selman

From: Selman Akbulut <akbulut@math.msu.edu>
Subject: **Correcting the course closing misinformations given to you by Keith**
Date: November 23, 2015 11:29:54 PM EST
To: "Abdnour, Elizabeth" <abdnoure@pres.msu.edu>

less than 5
900 courses (36)
not canceller

Dear Liz,

Now you told me that I write too many e-mails. I will hold this short, it is reply that course closings info Keith gave you. I have been here for 34 years I have never seen advanced grad courses closed even with 4 students, and there are many courses ran with 3 students until last year. You can check this from <https://schedule.msu.edu> For example, in recent years the following courses ran with 3-4 students:

Fall 2013

MTH 853 Num Mthd Ordinary Dif Equation 4 enrolment (Y.Cheng)
MTH 914 Lie Groups and Algebras I 4 enrolment (U.Meierfrankenfeld)
MTH 935 Complex Manifolds I 4 enrolment (X. Wang)
MTH 995-I Spec Top Numer Analysis and Oper. Res. 4 enrolment (G.Wei)

Spring 2014

MTH 915 Lie Groups and Algebras II 3 enrolment (U.Meierfrankenfeld)
MTH 991-I Special Topics in Algebra 4 enrolment (R.Kulkarni)

Fall 2014

MTH 940 Applied Analysis I 4 enrolment (B.Yan)
MTH 960 Algebraic Topology I 4 enrolment (E.Kalfagianni)
MTH 996-I Special Topics in Topology 3 enrolment (N.Ivanov)

Spring 2015

MTH 920 Functional Analysis I 4 enrolment (J.Schenker)
MTH 961 Algebraic Topology II 4 enrolment (E.Kalfagianni)
MTH 991-I Special Topics in Algebra 2 enrolment (A.Levin)
MTH 994 Spec. Top. in Applied Math 4 enrolment (R.Schwab)

3 The other
900 courses
remained opened

-In case Keith tells you these numbers are the numbers at the end of Semester (after students dropped courses), it is not the case. For example I know for fact that Math-915 Spring 2014 (Meierfrankenfeld), and Math-996-1 Fall 2014 (Ivanov) had started with 3 students and ran with 3 students.

-Another fact: Last year Wolfson's arbitrarily imposed Oct-20 registration deadline policy (which he was trying to imposed on me), didn't even survive 1-year period. This year he had to set the deadline to Nov-11 (otherwise there would be too many courses not running).

Regards,
Selman
