

Patrick McCallum Statement as printed in Chronicle of Higher Education

I am very sorry for what my words and actions have done to hurt and make some women uncomfortable. I was devastated to learn how my behavior made some people feel. I am deeply sorry for the damage and hurt that I have caused. It was never my intention to disrespect, make uncomfortable or harm anymore. I accept responsibility and hold myself accountable for all that I did. I am outgoing, extroverted, gregarious, and an enthusiastic personality. Judy did talk to me about being more reserved and toning it down. However, it wasn't until I attended a workshop for presidential spouses a little over a year after Judy began her presidency that I understood how my role was different than I had thought. As a volunteer, I engaged with Sonoma State employees as if they were casual friends. Now upon reflection, my behavior was too relaxed and informal. I did not always act in a completely professional manner. After losing our home and almost dying in the Tubbs fire, I later learned that I had PTSD as did Judy. She sought help and immediately addressed it. I didn't stop to heal and take care of myself. I jumped in to find places for us to live. We ended up moving 6 times in that year. I also did the tough time-consuming negotiations with the insurance company. Additionally, I continued to represent my lobbying and consulting clients in Sacramento. I had not effectively dealt with my PTSD and was stressed. On one occasion, I expressed my frustration with Interim Vice President for Advancement Gordon McDougall about his lack of follow up on new friends and potential donors that Judy and I had met. I heard complaints from faculty and students, before and after the fire, about how Lisa was trying to run the university as if she were the president. The complaints that I heard included racial discrimination, abrasiveness, lack of collaboration, unwillingness to listen and concerns about her constant criticism of Judy's leadership and leadership style. In over a year I heard from 8 faculty and 2 students regarding their concerns about Lisa's behavior. On four different occasions Lisa made belittling comments directly to me about Judy.

I know that Judy was having performance challenges with Lisa and was working with others to address them. This was happening well before Judy heard from the then CSU Chancellor Tim White that concerns were raised about my behavior. No names nor specific behaviors were provided. After that I was very careful in how I greeted people and behaved on the campus. I deny that I ever asked anyone to go into a private room alone with me on campus. I do, however, have multiple disabilities that I do not readily disclose. I am completely deaf in my left ear and have major hearing problems. Sometimes I move closer to people to be able to hear them or to be able to see their lips. This might be closer in proximity than is customary and may feel uncomfortable for some. Occasionally, in a crowded or noisy space, while engaged in conversation, I might ask the person that I am talking with if we could move to a quieter space so I can hear you better. This could be misinterpreted. I am deeply sorry that my words and actions hurt people, were perceived as disrespectful and made some uncomfortable. I am so proud of what Judy has accomplished in her tenure as president at Sonoma State. She changed the campus culture, redirected resources back to student and academic affairs, lifted the campus after the devastating wildfires, created an inclusive and more diverse campus for faculty, staff and students and led through the Pandemic. In her very effective but unique leadership style, she brought hope, joy and success to Sonoma State. I hope that with my sincere public apology, my willingness to personally apologize to anyone who was affected and with some healing, that individuals and the campus community can forgive me and move on to focus once again on inclusive excellence and the campus.

