



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS  
WESTERN DIVISION, SEATTLE OFFICE

Henry M. Jackson Federal Building  
915 Second Avenue, Room 3310  
Seattle, Washington 98174-1099

December 13, 2000

Mr. Stephen V. Sundborg, SJ  
President  
Seattle University  
900 Broadway  
Seattle, Washington 98122-4340

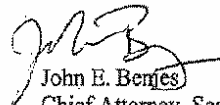
Re: Seattle University  
OCR Reference No. 10002060

Dear Mr. Sundborg:

This is to inform you that we are closing the above-referenced complaint. In her complaint, (b)(7)(C) alleged that the university discriminated against her on the basis of her age by terminating her from the university's Masters in Teaching Program on June 28, 2000. Pursuant to our office policy, we referred the complaint to the Federal Mediation Conciliation Service (FMCS) for mediation. FMCS informed us that mediation was unsuccessful and returned the case to our office for processing.

The investigative team recently met with Ms. Mass to obtain additional information regarding her complaint. After reviewing the new information provided by Ms. Mass, we have determined that she has not provided sufficient information for us to proceed. Therefore, we are closing this complaint as of today's date. If you have any questions, please call Zelda Simmons Foxall, special projects coordinator, at (206) 220-7942 or Sukien Lun, attorney, at (206) 220-7894.

Sincerely,

  
John E. Benjes  
Chief Attorney, Seattle Office  
Western Division

cc: Ms. Mary Savilla Peterson, Attorney

Since, for the reason stated above, the College did not address the Complainant's grievance as one charging national origin and sex discrimination, OCR made its own determination regarding the Complainant's allegation. Specifically, the Complainant contends that her final grade of "C" for the Course reflected the Professor's hostile attitude toward her as a minority and a female student. According to the Complainant, the Professor made statements to her such as: she could not read, misused concepts during work and as a minority she had problems with the English language. OCR found that the Professor who is a minority met with the Complainant on July 15, 1997, after the spring semester had ended and the grades for the Course had been recorded.

OCR examined the Course's roster for the spring semester of 1997, and found that 63 students were enrolled in the Course. Fifty, or 79% of the students enrolled in the Course were females and thirteen, or 20.6% of the students enrolled in the Course were males. OCR found that 47 of the female students received final grades of A to A- and three female students, including the Complainant received final grades of "F", incomplete and "C" for the Course, respectively. OCR also found that 12 male students received final grades for the Course ranging from A to A-, and one male student received a grade of B plus for the Course.

In addition, OCR found that 21 of the 63 students enrolled in the Course were of minority status. Thirteen of these students received a grade of A and six received a grade of A-. One (the Complainant) received a grade of "C", and one student received an incomplete.

Based on the above facts, OCR found no evidence to support the Complainant's allegation that the Professor's grading of her work reflected his discriminatory hostile attitude towards students based on national origin and sex.

Accordingly, we are closing this complaint effective the date of this letter. OCR thanks you and your staff for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Walker Carter at 617/223-9693, or me at 617/223-9699.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Pierce  
Program Manager