

NEWS FLASH (March 30, 2014)

RUTGERS withholds Dr Trivers' Salary for THREE MONTHS (April 1 to June 30, 2014) as Punishment for his Honesty to Undergraduates

On the same logic outlined below, Rutgers has followed through on its threat to withhold my salary (letter from Vice President Edwards, March 28, 2014). The Vice President backs up a letter from the Dean saying that he, the Dean, and his committee found that:

“It is inconceivable that Amy Jacobson a PhD student whom you trained, was able to give a successful course on this topic, but that you, a world-renowned evolutionary anthropologist, somehow were not qualified.”

THIS is mistaken on several grounds.

1—I am not an anthropologist. I have never taken a course in anthropology. I am an evolutionary BIOLOGIST. If I am world-renowned it is for good reasons. I have worked hard for 45 years to master major areas of evolutionary biology, including topics on which I teach courses at Rutgers—social evolution, natural selection and social theory, selfish genetic elements, deceit and self-deception, human evolutionary genetics. I have consistently received high evaluations from students.

While Rutgers chooses to refer to me as “world-renowned”, it nonetheless gets my discipline wrong and

utterly fails to explain their sudden decision to assign me a brand new course that had already been developed and taught twice by someone else. One might question why would Rutgers choose to make this move against one of its (arguably) greatest scientists?

Second Rutgers *presumes* that the student learns from the professor not the other way around. Note the language. They choose to describe Dr Jacobson as “a PhD student”. No, folks, she has had her doctorate since 2005. She has taught courses at Rutgers since 2010, including twice the course she developed and refined on “Human Aggression”.

Rutgers apparently imagines that Amy could become proficient in the subject but not without me also becoming so at the same time. This is magical thinking at its best. In fact, Dr. Jacobson spent six months creating a superb course on the subject (without any of this information entering my brain) and then Rutgers summarily removed it from her for no good reason whatsoever. At no time has Rutgers discussed this course assignment with me. All of my letters and those of my lawyer, as well as personal meetings, have been completely disregarded, with the Vice President’s m

It is also noteworthy that Rutgers chose to make its decision in the face of a number of letters sent in protest by biologists alerted to the original decision (see media connections below). People such as David Haig and Richard Wrangham (Harvard), Doron Zeilberger and Peter Morin (Rutgers), Lord Robert May (Oxford), Jon Seger (U of Utah), Bernhard Fink (U of Göttingen), Jon Wilkins (Ronan Institute) and Bill von Hippel (U of Queensland), most of whom wrote me and asked if I minded a letter sent on my

**behalf to the head of Rutgers, President Barchi
(president@rutgers.edu). I certainly did not and was
touched by the content of each and every letter, a feeling
evidently not shared by Rutgers.**