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Subject: further edited press statement
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Yesterday I submitted my request to retire from my position as Professor at ASU, at the end of this academic year on May 16, 2019. The University has agreed to accept my request and also to close its year-long investigation of me, with no admission of wrongdoing. I came to ASU ten years ago to create The Origins Project and I'm extremely proud of what that Project has accomplished. Since the University dismantled the Project earlier this year, the attractiveness of continuing at the University has been reduced. My choice to retire at this time was made easier by regulations of the Arizona Board of Regents, under which tenured faculty, if they are guaranteed the basic elements of due-process—ensuring that fact-finding is free from bias and hostility; opportunities for those accused to cross-examine their accusers or to question evidence in the presence of an impartial adjudicator, or to review investigation reports prior to finalizing conclusions regarding any allegations against them—they must first be involuntarily dismissed.

The sequence of events over the past 3 months has been as follows: The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences recommended my dismissal on July 31 following the completion of investigations by the Office of Equity and Inclusion, who's findings cannot be appealed. I appealed the Dean's decision with a comprehensive letter to the President in which I presented new evidence and information that I argued factually undermined the credibility of the claims and, in some cases, the claimants. Subsequent to that submission, the Dean and I participated in a mandated conciliation process initiated by the President. That was followed by negotiations with the University, and a final agreement to settle the matter.

I have never harassed or assaulted anyone and have most certainly not exhibited gender bias in my professional dealings. None of my students, departmental staff, faculty colleagues, research colleagues and postdoctoral fellows, or participants in the Origins events I led over the past decade at ASU, has ever issued any allegations or complaints to the University regarding my behavior. I look forward to continuing my work, including writing, research, and public outreach, now and after my retirement from ASU.

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