

Email to the Dean

Dusty Harrington Case, October 2025

From: Patricia Keller, Dean <pkeller@HSTU.edu>
To: Dr. Michael Cartwright, Provost <mcartwright@HSTU.edu>
Subject: Update on Professor Harrington

Dear Michael,

I wanted to update you on a matter involving Professor Dusty Harrington in Political Theory. Over the past several weeks, I've received multiple communications from colleagues and students expressing concern about his recent behavior and correspondence.

To summarize:

- Two faculty members have forwarded emails from him that contained unusually intense language and, in one case, a level of personal familiarity that felt inappropriate.
- One colleague noted that the tone of his writing suggested agitation beyond what they expect in professional discourse.
- At least one student reported discomfort with classroom remarks that blurred the line between critical inquiry and political advocacy.

Individually, these incidents may not rise to the level of misconduct, but together they suggest a pattern that merits closer attention. My concern at this stage is the cumulative impact on students, colleagues, and department climate.

I believe it may be advisable to convene a preliminary meeting with HR and University Counsel to clarify expectations, assess potential risks, and ensure any next steps are consistent with institutional policy and faculty rights.

Please let me know how you'd like to proceed. I will continue to gather information in the meantime.

Best,
Patricia