

Dear Governor Bevin

All of us that support the University of Louisville understand the challenge you were handed concerning the leadership of the university when you became governor. You were forced to take action on a situation that was not of your doing and made what you thought were proactive decisions to return the university to a well-functioning institution.

I'm sure you were of the impression that the individuals that you selected to serve on the board of trustees were capable and accomplished leaders. In some cases you were correct in your appointments that more than likely were recommended to you but did not know them personally. Most have impressive resumes and are well thought of in the community.

Unfortunately some do not have a passion and a love for UofL and most have shown no support for the university in the past. Several have given very little or no financial support for the institution, an indication that they do not have a 'heart' for the university. It is an affront to us that have given thousands of dollars to the university that these people are now making decisions that diminish our contributions of time and money.

Chairman David Grissom is the best example of this duplicity. The University of Louisville now has a chairman of the Board of Trustees that does not love or have a passion for the school that thousands of us do that have helped to lift the institution over the past 30 years. UofL has improved dramatically in all areas, academics, facilities, appearance and athletics but the new leadership attempts to denigrate that success as indicated by the dismissal of the most successful manager on campus, Tom Jurich.

Mr. Grissom and his hand-picked interim president, Greg Postel have both made the statement that they want to deemphasize athletics, an indication that they have no idea what has been the impetus for the schools ascent as a major university. This change in direction for UofL is an offense to those of us that have given millions to the university. How do they expect to raise funds for the university in the future when they send the message that those who have given in the past for new facilities and support wasted their money?

The draconian attempt to deemphasize athletics will impact more than the universities sports teams but also the City of Louisville and the State of Kentucky. Jurich' vision to make Louisville the 'Best College Sports Town in America' was no dream. Louisville over the past few years has been the site of numerous ACC and NCAA championships helping to lift the local and state economy. Thousands of fans attend sporting events on campus and downtown bringing much needed revenue to the city.

I know you are limited in what you can do but there is no reason you cannot contact David Grissom and ask for his resignation from the board. UofL is not Centre College and Louisville is not Danville. This change needs to be made before more damage is done to UofL and it's growing prestige as a major university. At least ask him if his passion is in Louisville or Danville. Mr. Grissom has a reputation as a person that tears things down instead of building them up.

It would also be helpful if you would ask all the new board members if they really have a passion for UofL. Thanks for taking time to read this letter.

Jack Coffee, President CardFans, Inc.