

Merit review -- my inquiry to Provost's assistant
HOLZ Carsten A <socholz@ust.hk>
Wed 12/11/2013 8:20 AM
To: [SOSC faculty]

Dear colleagues,

following one of [the division head's] earlier emails sharing with us what the Provost wants, I wrote to his assistant asking for clarification. Appended immediately below. I then received a response (or rather: non-response) via [the division head] (from Wei to his assistant to [the division head] to me). Appended far below.

Carsten

Carsten's email to Provost's assistant:

Dear Peggy,

I am asked to attend a division meeting whose task it is to:

“In follow- up to Wei’s visit to your Division on November 20, it will be great if you could engage your colleagues to brainstorm and address the issues raised at the meeting. The strategic plans and feedback to other concerns raised should reach us by early January, say January 7 2014, copied to James.”

A division meeting and all the before-and-after easily knocks out 100-500 research wo/man hours. If you decide to take such destructive action against the core interests of the university, then I expect you to be clear about what you want, why you want it, and what the consequences are of us providing you with what you want.

As to what you want:

1. Please identify the issues that you have in mind.
2. Please specify *how* you wish us to address the issues.
3. Please be specific as to what you have in mind with “strategic plan.”
4. Please be specific as to what you mean by “other concerns.”

Shall I assume that you are authorized by the Provost to make your demands? Please confirm or disconfirm.

Sincerely,
Carsten Holz
Prof., SOSC

Provost's response via Peggy via [the division head], arriving at my end with the quotation marks:

“While the submission is a follow up to address the issues raised in the division meeting, we have not set out the scope of contents in your submission. Instead of a top-down approach, we deliberately intend to give some room for the Department Head and faculty to frame the discussion and bring up any issues of concerns your division feels it necessary.”