



Published June 08, 2013, 07:53 PM

UND's nursing college loses more faculty members

An associate dean and director of research at UND's College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines is the latest of several faculty members who have quit or had their positions eliminated since Dean Denise Korniewicz was hired in 2011, according to faculty members the Herald spoke with.

By: [Jennifer Johnson](#), Grand Forks Herald

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Korniewicz sent a memo Wednesday to faculty and staff about the departure of Cindy Anderson, who recently accepted a position as an associate dean at Ohio State University in Columbus. Present faculty members estimate 11 benefitted faculty members no longer work at the college out of 40 who were employed when the dean started her job. Some of the faculty members have since been replaced.

The absence of these faculty members — some of whom have worked at the university for decades — worried remaining employees who said in a document of concerns read at a previous faculty meeting that a toxic work environment caused by Korniewicz forced several to abandon their posts. These departures leave fewer classes taught at the university's sixth-largest college, they said.

Experience

Several faculty members who departed the college had extensive research and decades of experience.

Anderson took her most recent position at UND in 2009. She was previously elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, one of about 2,068 chosen nationwide. She received her Ph.D. from UND and started her first job there in 1992 as a clinical instructor. Anderson, like several other faculty members, had also spent many years working at various health care locations in Grand Forks or around the state.

Another faculty member, Linda Shanta, spent two years at UND as an assistant professor and director of the college's Nurse Educator Track until this past May. Shanta was also an associate director for education for the North Dakota Board of Nursing for a decade. She's now a faculty chair for a college in Phoenix.

Korniewicz has made no public comment responding to allegations by faculty. In a 2012 report intended to review the impact of structural changes in the college, she said she chose not to cut staff at the time even though there was "ample data to demonstrate that there is adequate staffing" for the college.

Past and present faculty members have also declined to publicly comment on the leadership of Korniewicz. They fear retaliation from the dean or the loss of a future position at UND, they said.

In April, they compiled a document of concerns they had about Korniewicz's leadership, including the "issuance of termination notices for well-respected, long-term clinical faculty ... and the decisions of tenured and tenure-track faculty to resign or to actively consider leaving the college."

Nearly all nursing faculty supported the statement, which was read at a faculty meeting, according to those present at the meeting.

Although they requested that the dean respond to their concerns, Provost Thomas DiLorenzo told them he advised the dean to address the issues at a future date. Faculty will present their concerns to him at the end of June.

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