

Speaker 1: [inaudible 00:01:00]

Speaker 1: [inaudible 00:04:03]

Randy Stinson: Hello.

Robert Lopez: Hello.

Randy Stinson: Good afternoon.

Randy Stinson: [inaudible 00:05:13]

Randy Stinson: Good to see you.

Robert Lopez: These are [inaudible 00:05:17]

Randy Stinson: [inaudible 00:05:17] Good to see you.

Robert Lopez: They're alumni. So. And they're pastors.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: Yes.

Randy Stinson: For what purpose?

Robert Lopez: Well, I don't want to go into the meeting by myself.

Randy Stinson: Why is that?

Robert Lopez: Because I would not feel comfortable going in there by myself. So they'll join me or else I just won't go in.

Randy Stinson: Hmm. All right. Well, let's go.

Randy Stinson: [inaudible 00:05:51]

Stephen Jenkins: Hi, I'm Stephen Jenkins.

Stephen Jenkins: [inaudible 00:06:06]

Stephen Jenkins: Associate VP for academic administration.

Stephen Jenkins: [crosstalk 00:06:07]

Randy Stinson: So what church do you pastor?

Stephen Jenkins: Canyon Creek Baptist Church.

Randy Stinson: Candy?

Stephen Jenkins: Canyon.

Randy Stinson: Canyon. Okay. And where's that?

Stephen Jenkins: It's in Liberty City.

Stephen Jenkins: Are you familiar with Liberty City? In East Texas?

Randy Stinson: Yeah.

Stephen Jenkins: Well, technically it's not even a real town.

Stephen Jenkins: [crosstalk 00:06:20]

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Stephen Jenkins: So we're in the middle of several different communities: [inaudible 00:06:24], Lake Water. We actually have a Wynona address, even though we're south of I20 and Wynona's north of it. So it's a wonderfully crazy area. You can pull from all kinds [inaudible 00:06:36]

Randy Stinson: Yeah, okay. And what church do you-?

Speaker 4: Currently I teach high school. The last church that I pastored was Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Rosebud.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Speaker 4: Currently I live in Temple and teach high school in Killeen, and run a Christian action group called "Concerned Christian Citizens."

Randy Stinson: Okay. And what do they do?

Speaker 4: Well, we, oh, for instance: one of the first things about four years ago when we formed this group we- Killeen ISD, where I work, got a notice from the Freedom from Religion Foundation to stop praying before their board meetings. And so we, within a week's time, by God's grace we collected over twenty-five hundred local signatures

Randy Stinson: Mm

Speaker 4: Saying "Please don't back down to this." And they didn't. So they're still praying. And then so we, we take a stand for the unborn, take a stand. Bobby has been a keynote speaker of ours in Killeen for the LGBTQ issue. Um, how to provide the salt and light and all.

Randy Stinson: Good. So that's how you all- how do you know?

Speaker 1: It's the same way. I know Joe.

Randy Stinson: All right.

Speaker 1: Because we were working on CCC.

Randy Stinson: Right.

Speaker 1: Dr. Lopez joined, and they did a- that presentation that he's talking about. One of them that I did the audio video for.

Randy Stinson: Yeah. Okay.

Speaker 1: So that's how I met Dr. Lopez.

Randy Stinson: Good. Good.

Randy Stinson: All right, well let's pray before we get to the topic at hand. Father we are thankful for good brothers and good friends and pray that our time over this meeting would be fruitful and insightful. We pray for your wisdom and ask for your blessings. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Randy Stinson: So, the nature of this meeting

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Randy Stinson: Is, uh, I had intended to have a conversation with you and Will and go through the conversation. Regarding, most recent interaction we were with Colby Adams, and you and I had agreed, weeks ago, about- and just seminary-wide in terms of professors and being asked to submit articles or interviews et cetera, that our communication plan would be that the professor would, as they had requests, would bring those to Colby Adams and Colby would either help massage it, give it a thumbs up, thumbs down. Or, you know, help make it better et cetera. Get the right people together, if necessary.

Randy Stinson: And so, you sent an email to Colby letting him know you had-this article was going to come out on Thursday, or that you were submitting it.

Randy Stinson: So that triggered a couple of things. One: that wasn't the protocol everybody agreed on. So I reached out to Mike Wilkinson, just to kind of have him talk to you and see what the situation was. And so, he had a second interaction with you that seemed to go a little bit more negative than what I had anticipated.

Randy Stinson: And so, I wanted to have a conversation with you. One, about your disposition in terms of- I don't know if you just forgot to go to Colby, or didn't want to go to Colby. So I wanted to find out where you were with that, because I didn't want to assume you had disregarded him.

Randy Stinson: All sorts of things can happen, and so I wanted to talk to you about that.

Randy Stinson: And then secondarily, based on what I understand your interaction was with Dr. Wilkinson, I wanted to just have the conversation with you about: this is, I think about the third time you and I have had to have a conversation like this. And there seems to be a growing, at least in my mind, failure to relate constructively to this administration.

Randy Stinson: Then, I happen to be around some folks from the ERLC, where your reputation is not good there with those folks. So now there's a growing concern of mine in terms of a failure to relate constructively to another major entity of the SBC. Which in turn compounds the problem of failure to relate constructively to this institution.

Randy Stinson: So those are the two main topics that I wanted to discuss.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Randy Stinson: How would you like to proceed?

Randy Stinson: Would you mind just talking about the thing with Colby?

Robert Lopez: I have followed all of the instructions that I was given. And I have put everything in writing, in terms of what I understood the instructions were.

Robert Lopez: So, I did go to Colby, that's why we're having this conversation. I notified him that an article was going to come out on Thursday. So he asked for a copy of it, and I gave it to him so he had adequate time if he wanted me to retract it.

Randy Stinson: But you didn't understand the instructions to be to not notify him what was going to happen, but to say "Here's what I've been asked to do."

Robert Lopez: Right. Okay.

Robert Lopez: On June twenty-seventh I sent an email after one of our meetings, and I said "This is what I understand." Or I said "These are the suggestions drawn from the meeting."

Robert Lopez: So I said I would clear media requests with Colby, and I said that I would apprise my dean of opportunities as they arise.

Robert Lopez: So I will not comply with demands that I have Colby Adams basically have control over my scholarship.

Robert Lopez: I can't work that way.

Randy Stinson: This is not a control over your scholarship.

Robert Lopez: Yeah, it is.

Randy Stinson: Okay, go ahead.

Robert Lopez: Yeah.

Randy Stinson: It's not, but go ahead.

Robert Lopez: Okay. So, so that's the situation. That is: I followed all the instructions that you had given me every time I've met with you. We met over lunch and you told me to avoid getting involved in SBC politics and avoid antagonizing people in positions of power.

Robert Lopez: So-

Randy Stinson: I did not use that language.

Robert Lopez: But-

Randy Stinson: That's your language.

Robert Lopez: Well, we went to lunch, and that was what I-

Randy Stinson: We did go to lunch.

Robert Lopez: Right. And I did understand that that was because you were very concerned about a resolution that I had submitted.

Randy Stinson: Correct.

Robert Lopez: With the Southern Baptists-

Randy Stinson: Correct.

Robert Lopez: So I did not, I very notably avoided anything that was going to antagonize entity heads, or people in Southern Baptist politics.

Robert Lopez: And then I was called in because you said that because of the lawsuit regarding Paige Patterson, that a new policy was that I had to clear media requests with Colby Adams.

Robert Lopez: So I-

Randy Stinson: Not just you.

Robert Lopez: Well, that's what I understood my obligations were as a worker.

Robert Lopez: So I did notify Colby Adams that I had received a media request, and after that there was a discussion between myself and my dean that it was inappropriate for me to send the same email to the reporter and to Colby at the same time.

Randy Stinson: Correct.

Robert Lopez: So, following that I followed their instructions. And when it came to my article, which I wrote of my own free will, sharing my testimony and discussing sex abuse in the gay community. I wrote the article and then I told Colby about it in one email, and I communicated with the editor in another email.

Robert Lopez: So I followed all of the directions.

Robert Lopez: It sounds like what you want me to do is to submit my work to Colby Adams-

Randy Stinson: Did you consider that that article to be scholarly?

Robert Lopez: I think that it is an important piece of Christian witness.

Randy Stinson: Right. But you said that you didn't want to submit your scholarship to Colby Adams.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Randy Stinson: And I said [crosstalk 00:14:59] that's not what we're asking you to do. That is not- nobody- I don't know anybody that would consider that article to be scholarly.

Randy Stinson: So that's my point, is that I'm not asking you to submit your scholarship to the Director, the VP or interim VP of communications. That's a different category.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Randy Stinson: So-

Robert Lopez: You're asking me to submit my discourse to his control.

Randy Stinson: So it's discourse?

Randy Stinson: So this is what we've been saying since we got here, and this is what we would have said at our previous institution.

Randy Stinson: When you work at Southwestern Seminary, you're not an independent actor.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: Everything that you do represents this school in one way or another. So that's why in particular, with media requests and even things like what you submitted last week or the week before last. Are more in the category of communications and not scholarship. So Colby Adams is not monitoring articles that you submit to a scholarly, refereed journal et cetera.

Randy Stinson: That would be on the academic side, and we're a confessional institution. So that already falls under the governance of this office. So we're not- this is not censorship in terms of scholarship.

Randy Stinson: This is how you're publicly representing

Robert Lopez: Okay.

Randy Stinson: Us in other venues.

Robert Lopez: Right. Okay.

Robert Lopez: Not only did that piece run under a pseudonym, but I also, in the email to Colby Adams, with which you take issue, I indicated to him that I did not mention or make any connection to my workplace at all.

Robert Lopez: So if you are saying that everything that I say and write reflects upon the institution, and I need approval to say or write it, then you are in the realm of censorship.

Robert Lopez: It's unethical. And it is not acceptable in the field of higher education.

Randy Stinson: Well...

Robert Lopez: It is absolutely- it is not something that I will comply with. Because it's wrong, and you are trying to prevent me from sharing my Christian witness. And what I heard when in the meeting with the dean was not a question about the process, but he told me that your understanding which you communicated to him, and I'm assuming that he was just relaying it faithfully, was that I was not to comment on matters of sexuality and sex abuse at all.

Randy Stinson: Mm. I never told him that and I never told you that.

Robert Lopez: Well that it what I heard at the meeting last week.

Randy Stinson: Yeah. I've never said that.

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:18:02]

Randy Stinson: My concern is about how you relate to this institution. And I've got to decide-

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: How many times- how much of my energy and time is going to have to be used up to be meeting with you to have these types of conversations.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: So, your disposition coming in here I can tell was already defensive when you and I have not had- we have not had a lot of great conversations. But, I- coming in here

demanding, telling me you're not going to meet unless these two gentlemen are here.

Randy Stinson: Which, I'm happy for anybody, in general, I think, to be in here. That they can request.

Randy Stinson: But, even the fact that you wouldn't even let me know ahead of time.

Robert Lopez: Well, I did email you. I emailed you to open up the discussion as to who was going to be at this meeting, what the agenda was, and you did not require the answer was. You just said "I look forward to seeing you."

Randy Stinson: That's right.

Robert Lopez: So-

Randy Stinson: You were asking me questions.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: As to who was going to be in here and what the topic was, and all of that. I didn't feel an obligation to let you know that. But it's my meeting that I called in this office. And if you're going to bring two people, there'll just be a level of courtesy that I would have expected. And so, you- you are coming off to me, not just in this meeting, but as a little bit antagonistic, in the sense that you're telling- you're demanding and telling me what you are and aren't going to do.

Randy Stinson: I'm not even sure how you think that you have- you are- have the position in terms of leverage to be telling me how anything is going to be going.

Robert Lopez: I'm going to be obedient to God. And I'm going to share my Christian witness and share my salt and light on an issue that is urgent, that is affecting the churches. This seminary belongs to them. It doesn't belong to you or me. And they are dealing with these issues in the trenches. And to the extent that the Southern Baptists-

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:20:04]

Randy Stinson: This seminary belongs to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: They are the Southern Baptist Convention.

Randy Stinson: They are part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: But those two gentlemen individually do not own this place. Or do not- it is collectively-

Robert Lopez: Okay.



Randy Stinson: The churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Robert Lopez: Right.

Randy Stinson: As they have entrusted-

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: The authority of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Robert Lopez: So you're asking me who do I think I am to have the leverage to do this, and that's my answer.

Robert Lopez: I am- I am going to be obedient to God. I am not going to shrink away from evil when it is out there and I'm going to bring salt and light.

Randy Stinson: I'm not asking you to deny your Christian testimony.

Randy Stinson: I've never done that. I've never told anybody else to deny you that.

Randy Stinson: So this isn't about your Christian witness in my mind. It is about your just relationship to this administration. Repeatedly. And even your relationship to another entity of the SBC.

Randy Stinson: So you're coming in here telling me that what you are and aren't going to do when number one I haven't asked you not to do the thing you're telling me you're going to keep doing.

Randy Stinson: It's the way that you go about it and the way that you related to this administration is my concern, even in this conversation. I'm not sure- I'm coming to this conversation with a legitimate conversation. You're coming into this conversation attitudinally, just telling me what you are or aren't going to do. It sounds to me like you're not willing to have a conversation. About-

Robert Lopez: I'm having a conversation. So...

Speaker 4: The reason that we're here, if I may, is because his conclusions from the conversation precious to this would have put anybody on the defensive.

Speaker 4: If it seemed like they were basically being told "Either do this or you're going to be fired." Which is my understanding-

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:22:15]

Randy Stinson: Have I said the word-

Speaker 4: Not you-

Randy Stinson: Do this or you're going to be fired?

Speaker 4: Not you. Not you. But the conversation where Bobby called me the next morning to say, you know, [inaudible 00:22:25]

Speaker 4: And you know, this was in a series of, you know, devolving steps of basically muzzling, if I may use that term.

Speaker 4: [crosstalk 00:22:39]

Randy Stinson: I don't receive it, but you can use whatever term you want to.

Speaker 4: And I may be wrong. I'm using the term based on my understanding. Correct me if I'm wrong. But when you tell a man of God who's been put in the gap by God with an elite calling and gifting and qualifying, you know, to speak to an issue that is tearing our country and our world apart. And you're not not wholeheartedly support- I don't hear anything- and I'll be quiet- but I don't hear anything about the nature of his article in terms of support. And yet this man has been a warrior for Christ. He's got a target on his back.

Speaker 4: He came here after getting fired at a secular institution.

Robert Lopez: I wasn't fired, but-

Speaker 4: Whatever it is.

Speaker 4: And that here, of all places, when a man sticks his neck out on the chopping block, in an issue that needs the salt and light almost as much as any issue that we face, and very few have the guts to do it, and to do it in love as he's done it, and then he just keeps getting pushed into a muzzled corner by, if I'm wrong, correct me, but take your Facebook page down, don't criticize this person.

Speaker 4: You know and constant, you know, whatever. I would call that antagonism. But I might be wrong. I might be wrong and I'm saying it. But I'll be quiet. But that's why he came in here like this or why we would be willing to leave our jobs to come over here, not living in the area.

Randy Stinson: Yeah. Um. Again. The professors at this institution are not independent actors.

Speaker 4: I think we all understand that

Randy Stinson: Well, I'm not sure that you fully do. Because when we talk to somebody about their Facebook page, we're not talking about because he just had some content that rubbed us the wrong way. He had rants on there that sounded like a twelve year old going back and forth with people.

Randy Stinson: And getting into skirmishes on social media that were not constructive for anybody and were poorly representing this institution.

Randy Stinson: So I'm not going around telling people to shut their Facebook page down because they rooted for the Washington Redskins and I'm a Dallas Cowboys fan. It's because it was poorly representing the institution, and he's the one that said "Well then I'll just take it down."

Randy Stinson: So I did not demand for it to be taken down. He said he had just gotten back into the social media situation and now he has got back in it and now he said he's going to get back out of it.

Randy Stinson: So I didn't demand any of that.

Randy Stinson: And I'm still sticking with my commitment, that anybody, I've had to deal with all sorts of things over the years. Anybody that is going to poorly represent this institution, is not going to be able to be here. I mean that's just the bottom line.

Randy Stinson: So-

Robert Lopez: Well I think the- you know I think the- we've met several times. And I have made an effort to put things in writing. And as far as I understood, I have followed the instructions that you've asked me to.

Robert Lopez: You- after that meeting I said "These are the things that I will do." I did say in that that I'm not going to stand down on the LGBT issues because they're too important. And I- it just seems as though every time we meet you give me verbally instructions, and then I follow them, and then there's still another issue with it.

Robert Lopez: So I've done everything that I can. And I'm at the point now where I've just laid down what I'm willing to do and what I'm not willing to do.

Robert Lopez: So I'm prepared for any decision that you feel you have to make.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Randy Stinson: Well that's good to know.

Randy Stinson: You may be the type of person that needs to have everything spelled out in terms of the spirit of various conversations. We have said in front of the full faculty, the entire faculty at workshop and in other situations what our expectations are.

Randy Stinson: You haven't just been given private instructions between us. The whole faculty has been hearing this type of instruction.

Randy Stinson: So it's not just our private meetings, it's also our very public meetings.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: Where every faculty member was given the same set of instructions.

Randy Stinson: And so, we have not talked about "scholarly" work, where there are publishers and editors and all sorts of people involved. What we have talked about are the same exact things that you- you did in your article. And even when you did eventually get to the pseudonym, but that wasn't your original plan.

Randy Stinson: Right?

Robert Lopez: Well, the point was that I wrote to Cohen and to my dean, which was the agreement. And when my dean responded with some concerns I changed the pseudonym. That was the whole point: we're supposed to be engaged in this dialogue, or whatever, this conversation.

Robert Lopez: So that I can-

Randy Stinson: Well initially it didn't come off as a dialogue. Initially it came off as "This is what's getting ready to happen." Not "What do you think about this?"

Randy Stinson: And again, you may think that's a subtle difference, but I don't have anybody on- I don't have to call anybody else in here with regard to this. You're the only person that I've had these- had to have multiple conversations with on this topic. About these types of things.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: So you made your own decisions, and I'm in the middle of making mine. In terms of how much time and energy is it worth for me to be giving to these kinds of conversations.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: So I'm not making a decision today.

Randy Stinson: I wanted to talk to you. I have had a good feel for where you're at at this point. You seem to be very clear.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: That you're going to do it how you want to do it, or- What? You're going to quit?

Robert Lopez: I'm not going to resign.

Randy Stinson: So then what are you saying?

Randy Stinson: That sounds to me like that's what you're saying.

Randy Stinson: That if I say "No, you're going to have to do this," what are you going to do? What are you going to tell me?

Robert Lopez: I'm going-

Randy Stinson: If I say "You need to do it this way-"

Robert Lopez: I'm not under any principle, whether it's a Biblical principle or employment law, or accreditation standards. I do not have to comply with commands that are unethical, and that go beyond the professional standards and practices.

Randy Stinson: So it's your disposition that if I tell you- I just want to be clear here-

Robert Lopez: Sure!

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:29:20]

Randy Stinson: It's your disposition that if I tell you "Dr. Lopez, you are going to have to- any kind of testimonial, non-academic discourse, you're going to have to run that by our communications office, like everybody else, on the entire campus, that's a professor." And you're going to tell me "I'm not going to do it."

Robert Lopez: If you run by Colby Adams- so you want me to ask Colby Adams to approve or disapprove of everything that I present publicly.

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:30:02]

Robert Lopez: I will-

Randy Stinson: That's what everybody's required to do around here. And it's not Colby making a unilateral decision.

Robert Lopez: Okay, but-

Randy Stinson: There's one, central location-

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: For these things to be run.

Randy Stinson: Colby would- the next step for Colby would be to reach out to me and say "What do you think?"

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: So, the fact is, yes. That is in place.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah, you-

Randy Stinson: That was in place day one when we got here. And we made that clear to every faculty member, multiple times. Including you.

Robert Lopez: Okay. I will not comply with what I understand is what you're saying. Which is: that my decisions as to what I share of my public testimony, of my Christian witness, of my commentary, is dependent on whether Colby Adams's office and his superiors say I can or I cannot.

Robert Lopez: I can't comply with that.

Randy Stinson: Including where you say it as well?

Robert Lopez: I have already tried to follow your earlier instructions about avoiding venues. I've pulled out of conferences. And we're still back at square one.

Robert Lopez: And I did run this article, by the way, by Colby Adams.

Randy Stinson: Well.

Randy Stinson: Okay. By your own definition. Fine.

Randy Stinson: That is not how I saw it. That is not how the president saw it. That's not how Colby saw it. I don't think that's the way anybody would have seen that the way that you presented it.

Robert Lopez: You seem to have a lot of confidence in your interpretation.

Randy Stinson: I do. I do.

Robert Lopez: Okay.

Randy Stinson: And you seem to have a lot in yours. So-

Robert Lopez: Sure. I do.

Randy Stinson: We're at an impasse here.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: And -

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:31:37]

Stephen Jenkins: I'm interested to know what is the rubric by which you determine what is good enough to put out?

Randy Stinson: It's not whether or not it's good enough.

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:31:53]

Stephen Jenkins: The approval process-

Stephen Jenkins: [crosstalk 00:31:55]

Randy Stinson: There are multiple factors that go into what might be acceptable or unacceptable.

Stephen Jenkins: And I would like to know what that rubric is.

Randy Stinson: Well there's not- I didn't say there was a rubric. There are multiple factors.

Stephen Jenkins: Okay.

Randy Stinson: That we would consider.

Stephen Jenkins: Then-

Randy Stinson: Who the audience is. The venue. What's being said. How is it being said? [crosstalk 00:32:19]

Randy Stinson: If it is going to be received poorly by the entity that pays the bills here, in terms of SBC.

Randy Stinson: You know, all of those things are in place.

Stephen Jenkins: But if I were here as a professor and I wanted to write an article, and I wanted to make sure I followed the standard by which you're saying, if I don't have it written down, I don't really know what that is.

Randy Stinson: Because I'm not talking about articles.

Stephen Jenkins: Whether-

Randy Stinson: What I'm talking- I'm talking- this is where- I'm not talking about articles. Okay? We're a confessionally aligned institution. So an article, a scholarly article that falls out of our confessional commitment, well that is its own gauge.

Stephen Jenkins: Right.

Randy Stinson: The other-

Stephen Jenkins: But you may not even know that until the article comes out, because-

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:33:09]

Randy Stinson: Well, sure!

Randy Stinson: I'm not censoring. But these professors serve under those parameters and knowingly do so.

Speaker 4: Professor here could write a book and you not even know

Speaker 4: [crosstalk 00:33:20]

Randy Stinson: Right, cause I'm not checking

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:33:21]

Speaker 4: Give you a copy of the book.

Randy Stinson: Right. And I'm not checking off on all those things ahead of time.

Randy Stinson: So, it's a different way. There's not a confessional alignment, so it would be at the collective wisdom of everybody that would be involved as to whether or not something is or is not wise at a particular place, at a particular time. How it's written in a particular way, even.

Randy Stinson: So it is not, I don't want to repeat here over and over: it is not- Dr. Lopez's challenges with this administration have nothing to do with his past or his desire to educate people in terms of the LGBTQ dangers, wickedness, and other issues that he deals with.

Randy Stinson: That is not what this is about. This is about a repeated challenge that he's posed internally and externally. And now what's happening here is- again, you say it how you want to say it.

Randy Stinson: You do.

Randy Stinson: You've thrown a gauntlet down in here. Okay?

Randy Stinson: "You want me to do this? I'm not going to do it." That's what you told me. Okay?

Randy Stinson: But you're also telling me you're not going to resign over it.

Randy Stinson: Right?

Randy Stinson: You're not going to say, as a man of integrity, "I can't abide that. So I'm going to go somewhere where I can abide whatever rules and whatever freedoms."

Randy Stinson: You're saying- What?

Randy Stinson: That you're going to just put yourself in direct opposition to this administration? And just continue to go to your office? And teach your classes? And do whatever you want to do?

Randy Stinson: Is that what you're telling me?

Robert Lopez: No.

Randy Stinson: Okay. Well it sounds like it, so help me understand.

Robert Lopez: I do not consider you the equivalent of the institution.



Robert Lopez: I understand that you are in a position of authority. Okay?

Robert Lopez: But I have invested a lot in the students here and I love the seminary and I love the students. So I'm not going to ever say that I quit on them. Okay?

Robert Lopez: But I have tried very hard to deal with you. And your policies, which are, they're very problematic. And sometimes even if you're in a position of authority, if you're the shepherd overseeing your flock, sometimes it is good to be told by someone in the flock that this is not right. That it's not appropriate. That it's not professional and it's not ethical.

Robert Lopez: And a lot of what you're talking about here, however you phrase it, you're ultimately trying to tell me that Colby Adams and whoever he talks to is going to determine who I talk to, who I write for, what I say, how I say it, where I say it.

Robert Lopez: And what I'm telling you right now is I have tried, very patiently, and my tone has been very measured, all along. All here. I have tried to placate you, because you are in a position of authority. And I want to do honor to the lord. I don't want to be a disrespectful person.

Robert Lopez: But I guess you, and because sometimes it doesn't come from you, sometimes the dean speaks on your behalf, I'm constantly being told that there was something wrong when I honestly try in good faith to follow your instructions.

Robert Lopez: So, I don't- my disposition- I don't consider a problem. I've looked on it, I've prayed on it. And I don't think-I can't see anything Biblically or otherwise that has been wrong in the way that I have related to you.

Robert Lopez: I have been very respectful to you. I have tried very hard to do what you asked me to do. But this is crossing a line, because you are basically engaging in censorship. This does not match accreditation standards. This is not how a higher education institution operates.

Robert Lopez: I don't care if every other professor on campus accepts this level of censorship.

Robert Lopez: I am going to stand with what I know is right. And I am going to be obedient to God. And that is all I have to say on it.

Randy Stinson: So we're right back to what I just said.

Randy Stinson: Now what I have clarified for you. All of the matters that I just clarified.

Randy Stinson: You're saying you're not going to do that? Is that correct?

Robert Lopez: You're grouping a whole bunch of things in and you're being rather vague. So?

Robert Lopez: What?

Randy Stinson: I don't know how much more clear I could be when I say that-

Robert Lopez: You could be much more clear than that. Okay? So, go on.

Randy Stinson: You. You are going to need to run those things by Colby Adams.

Robert Lopez: When you say "Run those things by," could you please define what that means? Because it sounds like-

Randy Stinson: Media requests. Your discourse that you're going to be putting out there.

Robert Lopez: When I hear "Run those things by," that means I literally am going to bring it to his attention.

Randy Stinson: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Robert Lopez: That doesn't imply before or after. It doesn't imply he gets to veto it. It doesn't imply you get to tell me "No, don't do it."

Robert Lopez: Do you understand?

Robert Lopez: So that's where we are at an impasse. Because you are ultimately couching it in one way, but inside of what you're saying, you are ultimately trying to control what I say.

Randy Stinson: I am not couching it in any way.

Randy Stinson: I am telling you ahead of time you are going to have to run media requests, just like everybody else, and the types of discourse that you put out there last week or the week before.

Randy Stinson: Yes.

Randy Stinson: I am telling you that.

Randy Stinson: And you're telling me- I mean that's what you're saying that you're not going to do.

Robert Lopez: I am not going to submit it to him[crosstalk 00:39:13]

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: For his permission.

Randy Stinson: Okay. All right.

Randy Stinson: So then. We're back to what I just said.

Randy Stinson: You're telling me, that I'm telling you that very clearly, that you are going to need to do that. You're saying you're not going to.

Randy Stinson: And yet you're telling me also that you're not going to quite over it.

Randy Stinson: What you're going to do is still continue to do your normal day to day activities here as if nothing else has happened.

Randy Stinson: Is that what you're saying?

Randy Stinson: Yes or no?

Robert Lopez: It sounds like you've summarized what you heard.

Randy Stinson: I'm asking you a direct question.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: Am I accurate in what it sounds like[crosstalk 00:39:53]

Robert Lopez: No. Because I think a lot of your tone is quite dismissive and insulting.

Robert Lopez: And so that is not the way I put it. That is not the implications. That's not the spirit in which I said it.

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:40:01]

Randy Stinson: That's what you just said

Stephen Jenkins: [crosstalk 00:40:04]

Stephen Jenkins: It's the reality. You're going to walk out of this room and you're still going to be employed at this institution. And if you've got classes tomorrow you're going to go into class and you're going to teach.

Stephen Jenkins: And if you get a media request tomorrow-

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Stephen Jenkins: His question is what are you going to do? And by your own admission you've said you're not going to abide by the policy.

Robert Lopez: No, then-

Stephen Jenkins: What's going to happen tomorrow?

Robert Lopez: Right.

Robert Lopez: See, the media requests, from what I understood that's someone calling me up and saying am I going to interview. So I did that. I ran that by Colby Adams. And from what I heard from the dean, that was flagged as a problem because I emailed the reporter and I copied Colby Adams.

Robert Lopez: And they said "You shouldn't do that."

Randy Stinson: It's the tone that you even took with the reporter. "I can't say anything unless this guy gives permission, so I copied him."

Robert Lopez: That is the honest truth.

Randy Stinson: You know what? Are we-Okay. I'm- There are ways to say things. There are ways to do it. It just- are you just putting out the truth? Unvarnished truth everywhere you go?

Robert Lopez: Yeah!

Randy Stinson: Or are there ways to have conversations? Pardon?

Robert Lopez: Yeah.

Randy Stinson: No you're not.

Randy Stinson: No you don't. You don't talk like that in your everyday life.

Randy Stinson: Just everything that's true comes out of your mouth? Is that true?

Robert Lopez: I speak truth. I strive to.

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:41:24]

Randy Stinson: No. No!

Randy Stinson: If you meet somebody that's disheveled during the day you walk by them- you don't tell them "Hey, you look ridiculous."

Robert Lopez: No. I didn't use a tone like that when I spoke to that reporter.

Randy Stinson: My point is, you said you just told the truth.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: I'm just saying there are ways to tell the truth, and there are ways to do it without copying other people and taking a particular tone.

Randy Stinson: That's not even what this is about.

Robert Lopez: Okay.

Randy Stinson: Again. You at one point you used the word "discourse" for that particular-those types of things. I don't know what other ways to categorize those types of things. But yes, what you turned in last week or week before last is something, so I don't

know what category you want to put it, is something that you would need in the future to run by Colby.

Robert Lopez: Okay.

Robert Lopez: So does that mean that Colby gets a veto, to tell me[crosstalk 00:42:26]

Randy Stinson: Because Colby is going to have the right conversations with the right people to talk about the wisdom of doing particular things that may or may not reflect poorly on this institution.

Robert Lopez: And if he decides that it's not a good thing to do-

Randy Stinson: If we decide, or the people that he involves decides, that it's not helpful for this institution, then you're correct. We would say "You can't do it."

Robert Lopez: And if I decide to do it anyway, then I'm going to be subject to discipline.

Randy Stinson: Um. The answer is, yes. You would be subject to some conversations that would be disciplinary, I suppose.

Robert Lopez: So there would be duress involved and intimidation. And this would devolve into a system of harassment. So this is completely unacceptable.

Robert Lopez: I've worked in higher education since 1998.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: I've worked at many institutions.

Robert Lopez: what you're doing here is really sketchy.

Robert Lopez: It is not the way things are run. I don't know if they ran it that way in Southern- I don't know if you guys had that much control over people- but it's not the way that things are run. And-

Randy Stinson: So where are you headed with this?

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:43:38]

Stephen Jenkins: How has it changed? The previous administration?

Stephen Jenkins: [crosstalk 00:43:44]

Robert Lopez: I did- I never had to deal with this with the previous administration.

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:43:44]

Randy Stinson: There may have been some change.

Randy Stinson: But here's the thing: we're- I'm happy for you to be clear with me here. And what you're saying is- I mean- I don't know if maybe I'm miscommunicating.

Randy Stinson: You're saying that if we do end up saying to you "You cannot run that article," or "That is not going to help this institution,"

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: You're saying you're going to do it anyway.

Robert Lopez: I'm going to be obedient to God. And if I am called to do something that you are trying to block, I will do what God called me to do.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: I will be obedient to God. Not you.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Randy Stinson: Well, we're all trying to do that. Right?

Randy Stinson: You may not think I am. But I have to be obedient to God in my calling.

Randy Stinson: Correct?

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: Right.

Speaker 4: So from your perspective, the issue has nothing to do with the subject. It's the communication that perhaps was either misunderstood or dishonored by Bobby, in terms of coming to Colby to get, basically to submit something.

Speaker 4: And his understanding, apparently, is that he was to present it to him before it got published. And if there were-

Randy Stinson: Right. Right.

Randy Stinson: That's what led to this meeting.

Randy Stinson: Now. Having got a little deeper into this at this meeting, we're at a different place than when we started.

Randy Stinson: So, this meeting started out as a conversation to figure out what was going on. Where I'm at now is I've got an employee telling me, when I've clarified what the issue is going forward, we're still- have not talked about the content.

Randy Stinson: And I want to be very clear on that. The issue of content has not even come up.

Robert Lopez: Yes, it absolutely has. You said "He's going to look at what you're saying, how you're saying it, where you're going to say it." All of those things.

Robert Lopez: I mean, that's basically going to reflect back on-

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:45:59]

Randy Stinson: But that's true for everybody. It's not your particular content.

Robert Lopez: I never said it affected anybody other than me. Or that it didn't or did or whatever.

Randy Stinson: I know, but what I'm saying is I'm not singling out your particular type of content, with the LGBTQ and all of that. I have never done that. That is not what this is about. And so, we're at a different spot now that we've had this meeting.

Randy Stinson: And that is: I've clarified what the policy is and what the expectation would be. And now I've got a gentleman saying he's not going to abide by it.

Speaker 4: And where I was- can I?

Speaker 4: [crosstalk 00:46:32]

Robert Lopez: No. It's just- let's just-

Robert Lopez: So, I mean, I don't know.

Robert Lopez: It sounds like we've met several times and up until now I have tried very hard to go by what you're saying. And there is- people reach a line that they won't cross.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: And I think it's-

Randy Stinson: And you've reached it.

Robert Lopez: I've reached a line that I won't cross.

Robert Lopez: I'm not going to basically submit my statements and my writings at this level to your censorship, or whatever you want to call it.

Robert Lopez: I'm not going-

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:47:03]

Randy Stinson: Well, it's. Yeah. So.

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:47:08]

Randy Stinson: But you're going to expect to get a paycheck from here? Is that what I'm hearing?

Robert Lopez: You can make any decision. I'm prepared for any decision.

Randy Stinson: No. I'm asking you. You ought to be a man of integrity.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Randy Stinson: To make your own decision.

Robert Lopez: I have mad my decision.

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:47:20]

Robert Lopez: I have made my decision.

Robert Lopez: And you know what? I resent you implying that I don't have integrity.

Randy Stinson: I'm not implying it.

Robert Lopez: Okay.

Robert Lopez: Uh huh.

Randy Stinson: I'm saying it.

Robert Lopez: Uh huh.

Randy Stinson: If you are planning to not go by the requirements of this institution, then why would you stick around at the institution? That lacks integrity.

Robert Lopez: Because I believe in the students, and I believe in the seminary. And I believe in the mission.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: So.

Randy Stinson: But you don't believe it the administrative decisions that are made around here.

Robert Lopez: I don't agree with your policy.

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:47:53]

Robert Lopez: I don't agree with your policy.



Robert Lopez: And it's not just that I don't agree with it, this is a policy that violates basic standards of academic professionalism.

Randy Stinson: It really doesn't. But we're not talking about academic professionalism.

Randy Stinson: Okay?

Randy Stinson: So. I am telling you, I want to be clear on this, if you are deciding right now in this room that you are not going to abide by that policy, but you still expect that you're going to be employed at this institution, then that lacks integrity.

Robert Lopez: I'm not going to answer it, because that- I'm not going to answer that.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: I never said what I expected, or what I don't expect. I understand the position that you're in.

Randy Stinson: You were expecting it! Or you would quit!

Robert Lopez: Why are you telling me what I expect?

Robert Lopez: Why are you dealing with me in this way? It's a very disrespectful way of dealing with me.

Robert Lopez: And I-

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:49:01]

Randy Stinson: How is it disrespectful for me to say

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:49:03]

Robert Lopez: It's just, you're trying to make assumptions about me. You're casting aspersions on my character. I mean, this is just-

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:49:08]

Randy Stinson: I'm not making assumptions.

Robert Lopez: Yeah, you are.

Randy Stinson: You said you're not going to abide by the policy. And I asked you "Then do you expect to continue to get a paycheck from here?" Even though you're going to be in direct opposition this administration of this institution.

Robert Lopez: I said that I am prepared for any decision that you want to make. So if you want to make it so that I don't get a paycheck from here-

Robert Lopez: [crosstalk 00:49:32]

Randy Stinson: But why wouldn't you make it on your own? That's my question. Why wouldn't you make that decision on your own? As an act of integrity.

Robert Lopez: (laughs)

Robert Lopez: I'm not going to-

Robert Lopez: Why don't you just- let's get to the whatever you want to get done. With the meeting.

Randy Stinson: Okay then here's what I want to get done with this meeting.

Robert Lopez: Okay.

Randy Stinson: I want it to end right now.

Robert Lopez: Okay.

Randy Stinson: All right? So we'll end the meeting right now. And I will deliberate on the contents of this meeting.

Robert Lopez: And when would be the date by which I can expect your decision as to whether I'm going to continue to work here?

Randy Stinson: I didn't say that I am making a decision as to whether or not- you're making the decision. I'm not making decisions here. You're making decisions.

Randy Stinson: And I want that to be very clear.

Randy Stinson: You're making decisions.

Robert Lopez: But you said you're going to be deliberating on the contents of the meeting. So when will I hear from you-

Randy Stinson: I don't know.

Randy Stinson: I don't know.

Robert Lopez: Open ended?

Randy Stinson: I don't feel any obligation to give you a deadline on anything right now.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Randy Stinson: You've dropped a bombshell in here, and then you want me to give you a deadline as to how long I'm going to take to think about what we discussed?

Robert Lopez: Yeah.

Randy Stinson: Okay. Well you don't- I don't work for you. So, you're not giving me a deadline on anything.

Robert Lopez: Okay. So tomorrow I should continue to report to work?

Randy Stinson: Well, yeah.

Robert Lopez: Okay.

Randy Stinson: That's your expectation, isn't it?

Robert Lopez: Okay, well yeah. Well, no. I didn't say it was my expectation. I didn't say it was my expectation. I'm trying to find out from you where this will go.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Robert Lopez: So, um.

Randy Stinson: Well. I'll let you know.

Robert Lopez: So I will continue to report to class until I get a written notification from you that I'm not to come back to work and it's over. So I will just continue to-

Randy Stinson: I don't, I didn't say those were the only options. So, again, you're asking me not to put words in your mouth. I'm telling you I haven't said any of that. You're putting those words in my mouth. That you'll wait until I send you a written request. I haven't said what I was going to do at all.

Robert Lopez: Yeah. You haven't. I had asked you, and you said you're not going to tell me what you're going to do.

Randy Stinson: That's right.

Robert Lopez: So, [crosstalk 00:51:39] I'm just wanting to conf-

Randy Stinson: [crosstalk 00:51:41]

Randy Stinson: I think what you would want is for me to give some wisdom and some contemplation to this. That's what I think you would want me to do. And not put down some pseudo-deadline here, or even make a decision right here in this room.

Randy Stinson: I think what you want me to do, what you should want me to do, is to not make an impulsive decision, and an emotional decision. And to pray about it, get collective wisdom, and thing through what the best way forward here is. That's what I think you would want me to do.

Robert Lopez: Well, all I can say from my end, because this is your office and you're the person in position of authority, is I have to be obedient to God. And I said that I would

notify or I would inform people, the appropriate offices, about things that I am doing that involve media or publication or public speeches. And so I'm going to continue in that.

Robert Lopez: But the one thing I'm not going to do is I'm not going to cancel or unpublish or not say things that I feel called to do by God because your office says not to do them.

Robert Lopez: So that's the one thing.

Robert Lopez: That's where I stand.

Randy Stinson: That's good to know.

Robert Lopez: And I'll continue on it.

Randy Stinson: That's good to know.

Randy Stinson: Okay.

Randy Stinson: All right. I think we're done here.

Robert Lopez: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Robert Lopez: [inaudible 00:53:07]

Stephen Jenkins: May I?

Randy Stinson: Sure.

Stephen Jenkins: Dear heavenly father. We're struggling right now. This is not good. The enemy is coming between us, father. I hate it. We want to stand up for truth. We want to stand up for you and for your word. Dear lord there are people dying and going to hell. And we're up here arguing about policy.

Stephen Jenkins: It breaks my heart. Dear lord you love every single one of us in here. You know our relationship to you. And I thank you that you're the all knowing one.

Stephen Jenkins: You know what's going right. You know what's going wrong. You know where each one of us is making a mistake in our thinking. Dear lord I pray that you will touch all of us. Change all of us so that we can have a humble spirit, dear lord.

Stephen Jenkins: I thank you for these gentlemen. They are here at seminary. Their purpose, all three of them, are to teach the men and women here about your word. And how to do ministry. Sometimes business has to get in the midst of all that and it's frustrating sometimes.

Stephen Jenkins: Dear lord, Joe and I we're not here day in and day out, we don't know what all's going on. We hear things, source here and source there. What we want to know is what you're doing, dear lord, so that we can join it.

Stephen Jenkins: And I pray that, I pray that the feelings that have been hurt can be healed. Dear lord, I pray that the right decision will be made, dear lord. And I pray that as all three of these men pray to you, that you will speak clear to them. Help them to know exactly what they're supposed to do.

Stephen Jenkins: Again I thank you. Thank you for letting me be a part of this. And I pray that you will be glorified through this. And that more people will get saved even from this conversation, dear lord. From this. That somebody will get saved because of this.

Stephen Jenkins: In the name of Jesus I pray.

Stephen Jenkins: [crosstalk 00:56:29]