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Chancellor Donna Shalala
500 Lincoln Dr.
Room 158, Bascolm Hill
Madison, WI 53706

April 25, 1990

Dear Chancellor Shalala,

This letter is to register my protest over the way my recent efforts to solicit a comment from your office were handled.

Last Wednesday, April 18, I spoke with Kaye Gapen, dean of libraries, about the investigation last year into the theft of book-sale proceeds in which she emerged as the principle suspect. Dean Gapen may several statements regarding the university's handling of the matter, and directed me to Vice Chancellor of Legal Affairs Melany Newby and to your office for comment. I called Ms. Newby that same day, but she would not comment, citing attorney-client privilege. The client in this case, she said, was the UW--more precisely, your office--which could waive that privilege and comment if it so desired. She suggested that I speak with you.

The following day I called your office and asked to arrange for a moment of your time. The person who answered the phone--Debbie was not in--wanted to reroute my inquiry through News Service. I explained that I had already spoken with Vice Chancellor Newby and had been referred to the chancellor's office. I also said it concerned a matter I didn't wish to discuss with News Service.

I was told that Newby was in the office and that she denied having referred me to you. In was asked about the nature of my inquiry and told that Newby would get back to me. Newby never did; her intervention in this matter served merely to block my access.

When we had lunch in February 1989, you told me that if I ever needed to discuss a matter with you I should feel free to call. I appreciate this offer of access, and have not abused it. In fact, in the two and a half years that you have been chancellor, I have asked to speak directly to you on only two occasions. The first concerned the DeLuca story; this was the second. On one other occasion I routed an inquiry through News Service.

I understand that you are a very busy person; so am I. If I make a request of your time, you can rest assured it's because I regard it as a serious matter. But in this instance I think was inquiry was not taken seriously, and that I was treated like a pest.

My questions regarding the Gapen matter remain unanswered: What is

the university's disposition with regard to the investigation? Has the university taken a look at the state's file? If so, did information about Dean Gapen's "precarious" personal finances raise concerns about her abilities as a money manager? How does the university respond to charges made by library workers that Gapen is to blame for the current budget crisis?

I hope you are able to answer these questions and address these concerns. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,



Bill Lueders
News Editor