

January 19, 1983

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you because I need to establish clarity between us and neither of us likes the telephone.

Since the night of the Caldera dinner last year, I have been placed in an untenable position. I don't know if you fully understand the extent of my distress. That night, when I brought you to my home to discuss your condescending remark about me to the Venezuelan president ("Ella es mi esclava."), you made an inappropriate sexual advance. You discussed my promotion, my book and my career at the same time that you were trying to kiss and embrace me, a situation which could only make me feel threatened and anxious. Since you are my senior colleague as well as my direct supervisor in many ways, your introduction of sexuality into our relationship was intimidating. I felt helpless and afraid to indicate to you how strongly I objected to your behavior. I had the same feelings at the LASA conference. Later, when we had lunch together at the Atrium, I hoped that we had reached a mutual understanding regarding the inadvisability of our mixing a personal and professional relationship.

In spite of several conversations to this effect, you have continued to make sexual overtures to me. I was particularly dismayed by your attempt to kiss me in my office several days before my back surgery when it was obvious that I was unwell and in pain. I was forced to acknowledge once again that, as far as you are concerned, the distinction between a friendly professional relationship and a romantic involvement is still unclear. Thus I must reiterate what I have said before: for me, any type of sexual involvement with you can only be destructive.

I want you to understand that these incidences affect me on a day-to-day basis. They produce tension and anxiety in all of my interactions with you. I need assurances that I no longer have to fear such advances from you. I also need to know that neither my career nor my students will suffer in any way as a result of this unfortunate matter.

I have often told you how much I value you as my colleague. I have great respect for you as a teacher. I have learned much from you. As you know, I am deeply committed to building a [REDACTED] program with you. I would very much like to put this matter behind us and work together harmoniously in the future.