

VVC faculty members claim defamation, sue trustee

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VICTORVILLE • Two part-time faculty members at Victor Valley College are suing the vice president of the college's board of trustees, claiming in the lawsuit that he referred to them as "domestic terrorists" on the Daily Press website.

In a civil lawsuit filed in San Bernardino County Superior Court on June 7, VVC faculty members Lynne Glickstein and John Reid claim that Michael Krause libeled them with the website comments in response to a story about a meeting to discuss the school's accreditation struggles published on May 12.

According to the court complaint, on or around May 12 Krause wrote, "Most of the naysayers of VVC are part time faculty. ... Reid and Glickstein are trying to get rid of the President of VVC not because of his performance but because he will not give in to the Part Time teachers and raise their pay ... ! They are trying to pressure him to give them that money! Let us rally around these ungrateful, greedy and domestic terrorists and stop them from harassing any more people."

Reached by phone and email for comment, Krause said he had no idea what Glickstein and Reid were talking about and didn't know much about the comments. Krause suggested that he was "set up" and said that maybe somebody posted those comments using his name.

He said he handed over the summons to his attorney for review.

"My family and I have been through enough," Krause stated in an email. "We have not bothered anyone and it is sad that someone has seen fit to try to harass Mr. Reid and Ms. Glickstein, of whom I have not really ever talked to since being elected. I wish them no harm and hope this matter can be resolved quite quickly."

Reached by phone Wednesday, Glickstein, a local attorney, said it was unprofessional and a disappointment that an elected official could stoop so low.

Reid said it was kind of appalling and could not believe a board member would make such comments. Reid added that it was somewhat disgusting and didn't see any sense in the comments or why Krause would even make them.

"I've made statements at board meetings that Krause shouldn't be allowed to vote on items that deal with (part-time) faculty," Reid said on Wednesday. "Krause is sitting on the board with a prejudice towards me and the (part-time) faculty, and should not be allowed to vote on items dealing with the (part-time) faculty."

Since Reid made those suggestions to the board of trustees, Krause has not attended any of the scheduled board gatherings.

Krause recently resigned from the board, effective June 30.

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