

Chancellor Brady Deaton
Jesse Hall 116
University of Missouri-Columbia

Dear Chancellor Deaton:

We are writing to express our profound dismay and disillusionment concerning the candidacy of Colonel Larry James for the position of The College of Education's Executive Director.

According to Dr. Roy Eidelson in a column in *Psychology Today* (Jan. 2013), Dr. James "consulted on the planning and implementation of interrogation tactics that were at the very least unethical and clearly rose," the author contends, "to a level constituting torture." The piece further notes, "His involvement in the detention and interrogation of prisoners has also been the focus of multiple professional ethics complaints, both to state licensing boards and to the American Psychological Association (APA). Evidence against James seems credible and compelling."

We are aware that Dr. James claims that none of this is true, but as far as we can investigate the issue, his denials are not substantiated.

According to Unitarian minister and Harvard PhD student, Colen Bossen, writing in the *Huffington Post*:

"Attempting to reconcile Dr. James's story with the public record, we spent over a year carefully examining declassified government documents, news accounts, and testimonials from other service members, intelligence officers, former and current detainees, and their counsel. Dr. James's story of ending abuse and protecting prisoners from harm simply did not check out. Instead, we found alarming evidence that his team of interrogation consultants were integral to the cruel treatment of boys and men in Guantanamo."

As members of the University of Missouri's community of scholars, we would rather not invite Dr. James to join us.

His possible appointment raises unresolved and extremely controversial issues. An ethical and moral cloud hangs over Dr. James's work and reputation, and, if he assumed a high-profile post here, that cloud would hang over MU, generally. Dr. James's presence here would always be scrutinized by those, both inside and outside our academic community, who believe that MU should promote and shelter independent scholarship not impugned by governmental or commercial demands, and not tainted by accusations of complicity in actions such as those in which he is alleged to have engaged.

In conclusion, and quite frankly, some of us are embarrassed that such a figure would even be considered for a position, which would signify his acceptance as an official and prominent voice of our University. We strongly urge, therefore, that you weigh this matter, and our concerns, very carefully.

Signed,

Michael Ugarte
Clarence Lo

Kerby Miller
(and 21 others)