

As board support drops, Aguillard asked to resign as Louisiana College president

Written by Leigh Guidry
Mar. 26, 2014 |

thetowntalk.com

Joe Aguillard has lost support on the Louisiana College Board of Trustees and has been asked to resign as president of the private Baptist school in Pineville, multiple sources have told The Town Talk.

Aguillard met with his senior leadership team Wednesday afternoon, telling them he had no plans to resign, multiple sources said. LC nor Louisiana Baptist Convention officials have issued a statement. Aguillard could not be reached for comment Wednesday. Board Chairman Tommy French declined a request to be interviewed by The Town Talk.

Aguillard's loss of support on the board represents a major turnabout within the last month. In February, French told The Town Talk the board was working on the details of a contract extension for Aguillard. His contract expires July 1.

The change reportedly came about, in part, because David Hankins, the executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, has dropped his support of Aguillard. Hankins dropped his support when word began circulating that Aguillard had been recorded saying that Hankins might be behind Calvinism becoming an issue on the LC campus.

Recordings of several conversations with Aguillard have been provided to The Town Talk by Charles L. "Chuck" Quarles, a former vice president at the school.

In the fall of 2012, Aguillard can be heard on the recordings telling some of his senior staff that students — not professors — were advocating Calvinism at the college.

"We have no case where it's professors," Aguillard said on the recording of a meeting Quarles said took place Aug. 28, 2012.

A few months later, in January 2013, Aguillard wrote a President's Pen column that was published on the school's website, saying "a fight over our College's identity with respect to Calvinism" was one of the things that he said had made that year the most challenging of his years as president of the school.

The column was published a month after Quarles and Timothy L. "Tim" Johnson, then also a vice president at the school, filed separate whistle-blower complaints against Aguillard, alleging the president had inappropriately diverted funds from the college's Caskey School of Divinity for LC's projects in Tanzania, Africa.