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February 27, 2009

Chad Hardy
P.O. Box 97776
Las Vegas, NV 89193

Dear Chad:

Thank you for meeting with me on February 13, 2009, to review the university's initial decision not to award you a degree. I am writing this letter to inform you of my decision after my review. As you know, the university did not grant to you a baccalaureate degree because you were excommunicated from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the "Church"), the affiliated sponsor of BYU, and removed from good Honor Code standing. I listened carefully in the review meeting, and I have given serious consideration to what you said. After careful review of the information you presented in the review meeting, I am not persuaded to make an exception to the university's policy in this case. In addition, based on your refusal to discuss your conduct after 2002, and my review of the information on your Web site, I have concluded, independent of your excommunication, that you have not demonstrated good Honor Code standing. Accordingly, the prior decision of the university will not be changed, and you will not be awarded a degree from Brigham Young University.

BYU has the authority and the responsibility to set both academic and non-academic standards for awarding degrees. A student is ineligible for a degree if he fails to meet those standards. One such standard is the requirement that all students must be in good Honor Code standing to graduate (*see* 2007-2008 Undergraduate Catalog, hereafter "Catalog," p. 65). Your name was deleted from the graduation list in August 2008 for failure to meet this non-academic requirement and standard of good Honor Code standing. BYU determined that you were not in good Honor Code standing based on your ecclesiastical status as an excommunicated member of the Church.

BYU's policies and procedures relating to the connection between a student's standing in the Church and eligibility for the benefits of a BYU education are stated in the Catalog (*see* Catalog pp. 12-21, 31, 36-39). Students who are members of the Church must be in good standing with the Church to be admitted to, continue enrollment at, and graduate from, BYU. In addition, a high moral and religious standard based on Church values is articulated in the Honor Code and required of all students (*see* Catalog pp. 36-39). Being excommunicated from the Church automatically takes a student out of good Church standing and, therefore, out of good Honor Code standing. A student out of

good Honor Code standing is ineligible for admission, continued enrollment, and graduation (see Catalog pp. 36-39, 40-42, 56, 65).

Chad, as you know, the purpose of the university review was for me to consider whether the university should make an exception to its policy and practice regarding the requirement of good Honor Code standing. The scope of the university review was to consider all information you wished the university to take into account concerning this matter as well as your conduct and compliance with the Honor Code. The university review was an opportunity for you to demonstrate that you satisfy the requirements of good Honor Code standing by abiding by the ideals and principles of the Church and maintaining appropriate standards of honor, integrity, morality, and consideration of others in your personal behavior.

Unfortunately, however, you were not willing at the review meeting to discuss your conduct and compliance with the Honor Code from 2002 to the present. Your recent status is critical to my review and decision since your anticipated date of graduation was August 2008. In the review meeting, you asked me to inquire into your excommunication because you felt that the reasons for your excommunication were not for violations of the Honor Code. I explained, however, that the university's review was independent of your excommunication and would address issues concerning your Honor Code standing. Further, if you felt that the excommunication wasn't fair, there is an ecclesiastical appeal process. From our conversation, I gathered that you had not appealed the excommunication through ecclesiastical channels, and you refused to respond when I asked if you were actively working with an ecclesiastical leader to seek re-entry into the Church.

Because the graduation requirement I was asked to review and consider is the requirement of good Honor Code standing, I was most concerned about whether the information you presented would justify the exercise of discretion on my part to grant you an exception. In light of your belief that your excommunication was for reasons unrelated to the Honor Code, I was hoping to have an honest discussion with you about the extent to which you currently are or have recently been in compliance with the Honor Code. Your refusal to respond to any of my inquiries regarding your recent Honor Code standing made it impossible to justify a conclusion that you currently are or have recently been in compliance with the Honor Code, even if I were to disregard the excommunication.

The information you provided during the review meeting about your Honor Code status can be summarized as follows:

- You confirmed that you were excommunicated from the Church in July of 2008, but you believe the reasons for excommunication would not have been a violation of the Honor Code.

- In response to my detailed questions, you stated that you were in good Honor Code standing from 1999 to 2002, but declined to answer my questions about other time periods.
- Although you would not answer specific questions about your recent status, you did indicate and confirm that the information contained on your Web site, and in articles on the Web site, is accurate. Based on that, I have reviewed and considered information available on your Web site (www.chadhardy.com).

Based on my review, in connection with your recent application for graduation, I conclude that you have not demonstrated conduct and personal behavior in harmony with the principles and values reflected in the Honor Code, including, among others, the principles of living a chaste and virtuous life, respect for others, and participating regularly in Church services. In the review meeting you gave your opinion that your involvement with the calendar “Men on a Mission” is respectful of others and consistent with a chaste and virtuous life. I respectfully disagree. I find that the material related to this calendar, as well as other material posted on your Web site, is inappropriate in light of the teachings of the Church and the applicable above-referenced Honor Code principles. For example, in my view, the material related to your calendars is offensive and disrespectful because one calendar portrays returned missionaries, who were ordained ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in an inappropriate context, while other material portrays women in an inappropriate light contrary to the value of living a chaste and virtuous life. In addition, your continued involvement with these calendars as well as apparent plans for future calendars of similar content only demonstrate to me your ongoing disregard for those principles of the Honor Code noted above. I also find some of your online comments to be disrespectful to the Church’s ecclesiastical leadership. Finally, by way of further example, in the review meeting you were unwilling to indicate whether you have recently made it a practice to attend Church services. Based on information available on your Web site, it does not appear that you have participated regularly in Church services since 2002.


Brigham Young University exists “to provide an education in an atmosphere consistent with the ideals and principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. That atmosphere is created and preserved through commitment to conduct that reflects those ideals and principles” (*see* Catalog p. 36). Thus, an education at BYU consists of more than academic learning only. It includes emphasis on moral virtues and personal commitment to demonstrate in daily living, “whether on and off campus or between semesters” (*see* Catalog p. 38), those values encompassed in the teachings of the Church and reflected in the Honor Code (*see* Catalog pp. 14-15, 36), including virtue and modesty. For the reasons noted above, you have failed to demonstrate that your conduct and behavior are consistent with those values encompassed in the teachings of the Church and reflected in the Honor Code.

In conclusion, after careful review of the information you were willing to share with me in the review meeting, you have not persuaded me to make an exception in your

case. Based on the available information, it does not appear that you are in compliance with the requirements of the Honor Code. Your excommunication from the Church as well as your failure to demonstrate adherence to the Honor Code through your conduct and personal behavior both place you outside good Honor Code standing, and thus make you ineligible for graduation from BYU.

Accordingly, it is my decision that an exception to the University's policy will not be made, and you will not be granted a degree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vernon L. Heperi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Vernon L. Heperi
Associate Student Life Vice President and
Dean of Students