



OBLATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Statement on Institutional Integrity

June 10, 2021

OST is admitting fault in an incident regarding institutional integrity.

Recently, it was discovered that a member of a doctoral dissertation committee lacked the proper credentials to serve in such a capacity. OST was informed of this lack of credentials by an outside source. Once so informed, OST investigated the credentials of the person in question. The committee member had indeed sent to OST both a CV and a transcript for a doctoral degree, as required by OST policy. OST failed to further investigate these credentials to determine the authenticity of the degree. After review, it was found the degree was granted by an unaccredited institution. This should have been discovered by OST prior to approving the member's appointment to the committee.

OST regrets this error. Further, OST admits not following its own protocols by not checking the transcript for the terminal degree.

The committee member in question has been removed from service and replaced by a thoroughly vetted and appropriate scholar with the necessary credentials and expertise. This new committee member will evaluate the work done by the student and may request changes and/or further defense of the dissertation. The student has been notified of this error on the part of OST as have the other members of the committee. The student is receiving appropriate pastoral care and support.

Further, OST will issue revised protocols for the review of faculty credentials to prevent further such incidents.

Questions may be directed to the Office of the Dean.

Scott Woodward, DMin
President