



**RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE**

Master of Social Work Department

December 14, 2004

William Felkner
14 High Street
Ashaway, RI 02804

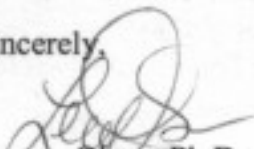
Dear Bill,

I have reviewed your recent e-mail correspondence with Dr. Sue Pearlmutter regarding Dr. Bromley's research on welfare reform. I am concerned about the tone of your letter to Dr. Pearlmutter. While it is the College's policy to encourage the exchange of opinions, the Rhode Island College Student Handbook clearly stipulates that such exchanges be guided by mutual respect. The NASW Code of Ethics also requires that professionals treat colleagues with respect. Your statement that Dr. Pearlmutter "walk down to the psychology department and take a refresher course" in descriptive research is not consistent with those expectations. I have found nothing in her e-mail to you of a similar tone.

With regard to your request that further exchanges with Dr. Pearlmutter be handled through e-mail, it is the faculty member's responsibility to determine the most appropriate mode of communication with students. Such assessments are made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account each student's individual learning needs. Dr. Pearlmutter has indicated a willingness to meet with you and respond to your questions.

I am hopeful that your future exchanges with faculty can be conducted in a constructive manner that will further your education at the College. If you would like to discuss these issues further, I would direct you to Dr. Dan King, Acting Dean of the School of Social Work and Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Sincerely,


Lenore Olsen, Ph.D.
Chair, MSW Program

Cc: Dr. Dan King, Dean and VPAA
Dr. Sue Pearlmutter, Assoc. Professor
Prof. Heather Rheaume, Faculty Advisor