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Review finds complaints against professor unsubstantiated

Complaints that a professor at Wilfrid Laurier University used sexist language in the classroom and endangered students by bringing weapons into a classroom have been found to be unsubstantiated.

Dr. Donald Baker, vice-president: academic, released a statement today on an administrative review regarding Prof. Alan Auerbach of the psychology department. The review was prompted by a student complaint.

"Normally," Baker said, "the university would not make a public statement on a student complaint, or on any personnel matter. We are doing so now to clarify the record about a professor who has been subjected to anonymous allegations which were reported in the press."

A report prepared by Dr. Art Read, dean of arts and science, and Dr. Bruce Hunsburger, chair of psychology, found that a charge of using sexist language was not corroborated by other students.

Baker added that "Prof. Auerbach's professional writing includes critiques of sexism in scholarly works; that

demonstrates his sensitivity to the nuances of language."

The review found that the weapons were non-operational antiques used to illustrate a point relevant to the course and acquired by Auerbach for the purpose of the demonstration, which he has given for years without student concern.

Baker said that, insofar as various minor complaints were concerned, "there is no question of Auerbach's professional competence."