

[Ohio State University marching band alumni continue to fight "sexualized culture" label](#)



Ohio State University marching band alumni and their parents show their support for fired director Jon Waters. (Jackie Borchardt, Northeast Ohio Media Group)



By Karen Farkas, The Plain Dealer

Email the author: kfarkas@plaind.com | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on October 20, 2014 at 12:15 PM, updated October 20, 2014 at 12:18 PM

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Former Ohio State University marching band members, who remain steadfast in their support of fired band director Jon Waters, released a survey Monday that they say shows the band does not suffer from a "sexualized culture."

The survey of nearly 4,000 members shows former members they are highly educated, have good careers and contribute to society, the alumni association said Monday.

According to the [TBDBITL Alumni Club](#) survey, more than 98 percent of the 560 respondents have completed their undergraduate degree and 57 percent have earned an advanced degree.

"OSU administration officials continuously call the marching band a "sexualized culture," club president Brian Golden said in a press release. "We strongly believe nothing could be further from the truth."

The alumni club has mounted a strong defense of Waters since he was fired July 24 after a university investigation determined he was aware of and did not defuse a "sexualized culture."

[The activities](#) of what is known as "The Best Damn Band In The Land" fell under hostile environment harassment, according to the 92-page [investigative report](#) and appendixes.

The alumni club released its own [103-page investigative report](#) in September. It said the OSU report contained "inaccurate statements, false assumptions and erroneous generalizations."

Waters has [filed a federal lawsuit](#) against the university, President Michael Drake and Provost Joseph Steinmetz seeking reinstatement and at least \$1 million in damages.

The university and band alumni are awaiting the release of a report by a [university-appointed task force](#) headed by former Attorney General Betty Montgomery. In a letter early this month to Drake, Montgomery said the full report should be complete in four to six weeks.

She wrote that the group is working to perform a thorough review of administrative processes and oversight of the band. It has interviewed 140 current and former band members, parents, and university community members and conducted surveys of hundreds of band members.

The alumni group continues to ask for OSU to rescind its report and reinstate Waters.

"The band alumni are hardly the type of people one would expect to see in a sexualized culture", Golden said in the release of the survey Monday. "These men and women are highly educated and have become leaders in their respective professions. Many are mothers, fathers and even grandparents of current band members."

© 2014 cleveland.com. All rights reserved.

Source: http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/10/ohio_state_university_marching_2.html