Subject: Fire Ron Wellman Aerial Banner

On Saturday, those in attendance of the Wake Forest/NC State game who look toward the sky will see an aerial banner calling for the firing of Wake Forest Athletic Director Ron Wellman. Paid for by Wake Forest alumni and fans, the banner will read "Demand Accountability. Fire Ron Wellman."

Justifications for firing Ron Wellman include:

* Using “culture change” and “doing things the right way” as his reasons for retaining Jeff Bzdelik while employing former Krispy Kreme “book cooker” Randy Casstevens, as his Finance Director. In an interview with the Winston Salem Journal in December of 2012, Wellman was asked to describe his definition of culture and responded “I can tell you that we want a culture that reflects Wake Forest, that reflects the values and the ideas and the standards of this university.”
* Lying about the reason for firing basketball coach Dino Gaudio and hiring Jeff Bzdelik.
* Hypocrisy of firing a very successful Gaudio after 3 years and then retaining Bzdelik after 3 years, even though Bzdelik had the worst ACC winning percentage in over 40 years. When asked if Bzdelik would be retained for the 2012-13 season, Wellman replied “Oh heaven’s yes. You’d better believe it” and “I couldn’t be more excited about our future.”
* Misleading supporters about attendance numbers at basketball games. When asked in March of this year about declining attendance, he replied, “Our overall attendance increased this year by 11 percent… Our student attendance was up 55 percent this year over last year.” It was obvious that the Joel, including the student section, was almost empty for most games last year. In fact, Wellman gave away tickets to the Maryland, game in which Chris Paul’s jersey was retired, so that he could announce a sellout. Was he specifically referring to that game?
* Misleading supporters in multiple interviews about freshman playing over 60% of the minutes last year in basketball. It is true that freshmen played 60% of the minutes, however, Wellman failed to mention the 9 players that have transferred over the past 3 years. Had some of them stayed, Bzdelik would have had one of the most experienced teams in the ACC last year.
* Dismissing fan concerns and feedback. We have sent hundreds of letters, emails, facebook posts, etc to Mr. Wellman. Not a single one has been returned.
* Banning live calls from the coaches' shows to prevent public criticism. Wellman’s justification was "More and more schools have eliminated the call-in, because callers tend to get on and, rather than asking a question, they preach…And this is our show. This is an opportunity to talk about Wake Forest basketball, the direction we’re going. And if the fans want to ask a question, we’ll respond to a question.”
* Declining performance in men’s basketball: 34-60 overall, 11-42 in the ACC, and 74 double digit losses in the past 3 years.
* Declining performance in men’s football: 14-21 overall, 9-15 in the ACC, and 14 losses by 20 or more points in the past 3 years.
* Wake Athletics finishing last place among ACC teams in the Director's Cup the past three years. The Director's cup is a measure of an athletic program's overall success. Wake’s ranking of 98th in 2013 was a record low for the ACC.
* Started the 2013 football season at (2-3), including bad losses to The University of Louisiana at Monroe, Boston College, and a 56-7 embarrassment to Clemson.

For the record, almost everyone who donated to the banner supported Wellman a mere 2 years ago. After all, he had done many wonderful things for Wake Forest Athletics, including hiring Jim Grobe and Skip Prosser, fundraising, and improving facilities. Unfortunately, over the last few years, Mr. Wellman has demonstrated a pattern of bad hires, poor athletic performance, dismissing supporter’s concerns , and displaying questionable ethics. Wake Forest has a strict honor policy for students. Shouldn’t our Athletics Director abide by the same standards? In our opinion, Ron Wellman’s actions more closely resemble those of a corrupt politician than those of an administrator of an elite university.