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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement regarding Professor Thomas Hodgman:

Adrian College has never and will never condone sexual abuse, harassment, assault, or imposition of any kind. Since our founding in 1859, we have affirmed, without equivocation, the dignity and worth of each individual.

In 2003, the College was notified of allegations against Professor Thomas Hodgman, allegations that included inappropriate sexual activity during the mid- to late-1980s in the State of California. When the College learned of these allegations, the College hired a law firm to investigate these allegations and through this process it was confirmed that Dr. Hodgman engaged in inappropriate behavior while teaching in a California high school approximately thirty years ago. However, to the best of our knowledge, the investigation further revealed that no criminal charges were filed and that Dr. Hodgman was never convicted of a crime. Additionally, we are not aware of any evidence that Dr. Hodgman engaged in any subsequent similar activity. In particular, there was no evidence that Dr. Hodgman had engaged in any such conduct while at Adrian College.

Further, Dr. Hodgman is a member of the Adrian College Faculty Union, known as the Adrian College Association of Professors (ACAP), an affiliate of the Michigan and National Education Associations. Through legal consultation, the College concluded that under protections given to Dr. Hodgman as a tenured professor and member of the union, no additional actions against Dr. Hodgman were possible.

In the fourteen years since the College first learned of this incident, it has closely observed Dr. Hodgman's activities and behavior at the College. This heightened scrutiny has not revealed any misconduct or additional allegations.

From time to time during Dr. Hodgman's employment at the College, including recently, various individuals and groups have demanded that the College discharge Dr. Hodgman because of his prior misconduct. Given the circumstances in Dr. Hodgman's case including the remoteness of the misconduct, the absence of any additional evidence of misconduct while at Adrian College, and the contractual obligations that the College must follow, the College will take no action at this time concerning Dr. Hodgman's employment.

Adrian College will continue to uphold its longstanding commitment to providing a safe environment for all students, faculty and staff.