

# DR. FAUST: IT'S TIME TO DO THE RIGHT THING OR RESIGN...

Serving on the Staples board sullies Dr. Faust's reputation—and Harvard's.



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**HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT Dr. Drew Faust sits on the board of Staples**—and will earn over \$300,000 this year for her participation. Nice money if you can get it.

But serving on the Staples board sullies Dr. Faust's reputation—and Harvard's.

**Staples is notorious for paying its employees poverty-level wages and offering meager benefits.** A 2012 study by the National Employment Law Project listed Staples among the 50 largest low-wage employers in the country. Since 2007, Staples has paid roughly \$80 million to settle more than a dozen class-action lawsuits alleging “wage theft.”

Now, as part of a no-bid deal with the U.S. Postal Service, the troubled retailer is opening postal counters in its stores—and not just selling stamps. Staples' pretend post offices will accept and process letters and packages.

**Staples' foray into the postal business will have serious repercussions:** It will facilitate the transfer of stable, living-wage jobs to high-turnover, poverty-wage jobs; downgrade the quality of postal services, and hasten the privatization of the United States Postal Service.

## USPS VS. STAPLES

|                                 | U.S. Post Office | Staples |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| Training                        | 72 hours         | 4 hours |
| Oath of Office?                 | Yes              | No      |
| Accountable to the People?      | Yes              | No      |
| For Public Service?             | Yes              | No      |
| Enjoys Protection of U.S. Mail? | Yes              | No      |

**The Postal Service is already using the Staples deal to reduce hours at nearby Post Offices** and compromise service. Staples' postal counters may eventually lead to the shuttering of local public Post Offices.

Dr. Faust is one of the decision-makers allowing this to happen. Is this the proper role of a Harvard University president? Without public debate, should Staples become a replacement for the local Post Office? Should Harvard's leader be undermining the United States Postal Service, an institution older than the nation itself?

**Dr. Faust should tell the Staples board that the U.S. mail is not for sale.** Personal letters, business mail, packages ordered online and sensitive financial transactions should not be treated like ink cartridges or packs of gum.

If Dr. Faust can't use her influence to end this dirty deal, she should resign from the Staples board.

## Show Us That a Harvard University President Can't be Bought