

Anonymous report received on website portal July 8, 2022:

My economics professor in class yesterday said that female Russians were much more likely – statistically speaking - to have an abortion than any other percentage of individuals in the world. This professor then called on my friend Sofia, who is an international student from Russia, and asked her if she or anyone she knew has had an abortion! This is incredibly inappropriate and absurd. This professor needs to be reprimanded for this type of statement as this is NOT professional AT ALL. If something is not done about this, and soon, his comments will be sent out to the media. I don't think that the Board of Curators wants this type of media attention for the University.

What do you do after receiving this anonymous report?

You knew that this report came in July 8, 2022. You then checked which economics courses were offered on Thursday July 7, 2022 to narrow down which class this statement might have been made. Then you check with the Registrar’s office to find out if there is a Sofia registered in any of those courses. BINGO! You find out that Sofia Petrov is registered in Global Economies: Economics 205, a course taught by Dr. Gabriel Tatum. Dr. Tatum is a tenured professor who has been teaching economics here for 11 years. He came here from Michigan University.

You decide to contact Sofia to conduct an interview. Sofia agreed to meet with you on July 12, 2022.

Interview with Sofia Petrov:

Sofia Petrov is an international student attending school on an educational VISA; she is in her second year. She was a bit nervous to speak during the interview but after explaining your reason for wanting to talk with her, she appeared to relax.

Sofia described her interactions with Dr. Tatum throughout the summer semester course, Global Econ. She said it was a small class, only about 25 students, and because of this, the students all got to know each other and Professor Tatum pretty well. The professor even hosted a BBQ about half-way through the semester at a local park. She enjoyed the class until the day in question – which she said was humiliating.

Sofia said that Dr. Tatum was discussing how social justice events can have a major impact on global economy and he raised the *Dobbs* decision. He then said what he said about Russian women and abortion and just out of the blue called on me to discuss whether I had ever had an abortion or knew anyone who had. It was clear that it was because I was Russian that he called on me to ask me these really personal questions. Sofia said she did not answer his questions – only shrugged. She said that Dr. Tatum reminded her that participation was 15% of her grade and that she needed to engage with the class discussion and that they were all friends “here.” Dr. Tatum, Sofia said, then re-asked her the same question about abortion. Sofia told him that she did not feel comfortable answering his question and Dr. Tatum told her that her grade would reflect her failure to participate.

Sofia then stated that she went to Dr. Tatum’s office hours to discuss what had happened in class. Dr. Tatum told Sofia that he did not understand what she was embarrassed about. Dr. Tatum said that she was the only Russian in the class and that her class had a great opportunity to learn from her; that he was disappointed that she would not participate and share with the rest of her classmates’ information she knew.

What would you do after learning this information?

On July 15, 2022, you get a call from Sofia. She tells you about what occurred in class on July 14, 2022. She meets with you in the afternoon on July 15, 2022.

Second Interview with Sofia:

Sofia says that when she went to class on Thursday that Dr. Tatum called on her again. This time, inside of asking her about abortions, Dr. Tatum asked her about the Ruble – about its value, how significant the U.S. dollar seemed in Russia, would he be able to use dollars in Russia today, and much more. Sofia said she is embarrassed because she is not any sort of expert on the Russian economy and does not appreciate her professor calling her out to discuss Russian social issues. Sofia discloses that she is having a tough time being able to focus in class and really does not want to return to class but there are only two classes left before the end of the summer semester.

What would you do after learning this information?
