INTRODUCTION
[Chanting "Shame on USF..."]

[GARY MCDONALD, VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS]
Good evening. Welcome to the University of San Francisco. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to address your concerns about KUSF and our decision to move KUSF to an online-only format and to sell the radio station to...

[boos/yelling]

A little note about tonight's format. We want to hear from as many of you as possible, so we have passed out cards for you wishing to ask questions. We'll try to answer questions from as many groups as we can, including KUSF volunteers, community members, USF faculty and staff.

[yelling 'Students']

Students as well. So when we call your name, step to the end of the row and then you'll be able to ask your questions. We'll get to as many questions as possible. If we don't get to yours tonight, you can always send your comments to president@usfca.edu.

[edit]

FATHER STEPHEN PRIVETT, PRESIDENT OF USF: I want to be honest with you. I have a funeral tomorrow morning that I have not prepared for so I have to leave here at 9:30.

[Yelled: This is a funeral right now].

So in the course of the evening I think we can best use the time if we all try to be as concise as we can and give maximal opportunities for everybody to speak and to have their time. I'd like you to indulge me and I'd like you to join me in a prayer as we do here at the University at gatherings of this size.

So let us pray: Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts of wisdom and compassion. We thank you for this opportunity this evening to engage one another across differences. We ask you grace us with patience and understanding that we may to be true to ourselves and to Your good graces. Amen.

[Amen]

So I want to thank, I think it's about 200 volunteers many of whom I think are here this evening those of you who have staffed the program over the years. I want to thank you for the time and effort [APPLAUSE] It's very clear to me that there is justifiable anger and disappointment with the decision that I made. I don't expect or anticipate that you're going to agree with me. And that's not what I'm trying to do. I'm not here to argue with you. I'm just hoping you will understand the perspective from which I'm coming and how I understand my responsibilities for this decision, which is a decision that I made. From my perspective, my primary responsibility is to
our students. My fundamental mission of the University is stated clearly. That is to offer education in the Jesuit Catholic tradition to graduate, undergraduate and professional students. And it is my responsibility to see that all of the University's resources are directed to ensuring a quality education for our students.

[end YouTube segment]

[---------------------------]

[Audio segment - joined in progress]

PRIVETT: That is the rules of the game. I may not like it. You may not like it. But these are the rules when you enter into these negotiations.

--You sold out!
-- It was (?) the way you packaged it.
-- Quiet!
--You chose to do it that way.

PRIVETT: So when--

[catcalls]

PRIVETT: Can I finish?

--Let him finish.
--Why couldn’t Howard finish?!

PRIVETT: When we were presented this opportunity and determined we were going to explore it, we were in a nondisclosure situation. Looking forward, this is not my perspective, the death of KUSF. This is moving to an online format. This will ensure that those emails which I have gotten from from Europe, from Latin America, those people will have access to the programming that KUSF offers.

[catcalls]

PRIVETT: Our intention is to use the $3.75 million to re-invest in educational programming that will directly benefit our students. We anticipate that KUSF will, in a sense, go back to its roots, it will return to be a student-run enterprise, a learning laboratory, that matches the mission of the University, which is to teach students how to broadcast. So bottom line, that's the rationale, that's the decision that I made, and I will be happy to address the questions that I think are on cards...?

MCDONALD: Yes.
PRIVETT: [?] Fire away!

MCDONALD: So, we have a number of questions; if I call your name, you just come to the end of the aisle...[inaudible] microphones. So, we have Linda Champagne, she is a KUSF DJ [loud applause]. Linda? After Linda we have Pete Smith, Pete Smith [more applause].

LINDA: Um...I just don't get it. It's hard for me to speak, but [pause] the station is more to everyone than just part of this University, and it should have been handled better, there should have been time for everyone to understand what was going [inaudible] and to prepare themselves and hopefully come up with a better solution than to just take it out. [inaudible] That's all I have to say. [applause]

MCDONALD: OK, we have Pete Smith--

PRIVETT: I do want to be clear that KUSF will continue with online programming.

[boos/catcalls]

PRIVETT: Just so you know, I can't hear, up here, I can't hear you [inaudible]. What we're going to do is we're going to expand, I think currently we're limited to about, a relatively small number, we're going to expand that massively. So I do think that there's a positive side, from my perspective, and I hope you realize that I understand the significance of this to the community; I want you to understand that this is funded by our student tuition. And I don't think it's fair to our students to be funding an enterprise that primarily benefits the community--and it genuinely benefits the community. It does not--

[catcalls/heckling]

MCDONALD: Excuse me, please! We're going to answers as many questions as we can, but we can only do that if you're respectful.

PRIVETT: There are 5800 undergraduate students at the University. There are 10 students who volunteer at KUSF.

-- Oh, that's not true!
-- Not true!
-- Ten students!? Ten?
[audience hubub; Fr. Privett's math skills questioned by heckler; laughter]

PRIVETT: Ten percent. Ten percent. Ten percent. [inaudible]
MCDONALD: Uh, Pete Smith. [catcalls/hubub] Excuse me, if you'd like to ask a question [inaudible]. Pete?

PETE: If this decision wasn't primarily about money, why were there no attempts made, before the sale, to include students in the current formulation of KUSF?

PRIVETT: Because we were in a non-disclosure situation--

PETE: Before that!

PRIVETT: There wasn't a before, there was--

Pete: The University had no qualms with the way it was running, if there was an imbalance--

PRIVETT: Oh yes, yes--

PETE: If there were students that were underinvolved, if the community involvement was too much a part of it--

PRIVETT: [inaudible] made efforts to try to more directly engage students in the running of the radio station. So that--

PETE: When?

PRIVETT: [stammers] Can I give you specific details? No. I basically, ideal [inaudible] Dean of the college, and there have been efforts in my 11 years, to try to turn it more into a student-based learning experience. Those haven't been successful, so I have to make the judgement, what is the best use of our resources for the maximum number of our students. And in my judgement, this was a tremendous benefit to the community, it was of minimal benefit to our students. That's my judgement.

-- You should be part of the community!

PETE ?: From the standpoint of the station, aside from committed students like Chad and like many of the other students, Michelle--

-- Students, raise your hands!

PETE [?]: Students--

[AUDIENCE: calls to students and "what about alumni?"]

PETE: --involved at every level of KUSF--

Male voice from AUDIENCE: --they're on Christmas break, most students aren't here, you didn't tell us--!
PETE: But beyond that, we feel no support from the University in involving students with the way KUSF currently operates, or operated until yesterday, during DJ Schmeejay's show.

PRIVETT: Pardon me, you feel no support from the University?

[AUDIENCE: no, none!]

PETE: As far as involving students.

PRIVETT: Oh, I was going to say, because we supported the space, we supported the salaries, and we supported a number of indirect costs. The University has supported the radio station for 30 years.

PETE: Yeah, I know, that wasn't my qualm.

PRIVETT: OK.

MCDONALD: OK, Kevin Kunz [sp?] and then Josh Prentiss [sp?]. [applause] Kevin and Josh Prentiss.

K: [inaudible] being a student who's in classes where KUSF was something you could intern in, I think it's going to be very detrimental to the school, to the community, to talk about, y'know, you don't want it there for entertainment, you want it there for information. And that's what it was doing! I can guarantee you that whoever's getting your information about ten percent of the students being involved is completely off of their statistics, and while you can't look at me in the eye, I understand that, but [inaudible] think a little bit more about the way you run your Jesuit university, because just cutting people mid-sentence is not really very Christian or Catholic or whatever you want to call it--

[loud applause]

K: -- [inaudible] I keep telling you that, online [inaudible] two thousand three, over two thousand--

PRIVETT: I was not able to hear you for the screaming from the crowd. So maybe you want to go back and--

K: Oh yeah, [inaudible/crowd noise] basically you there's not enough student involvement, there are over two thousand, three thousand people who've joined "Save KUSF" within the last, like, what, 24-48 hours? When you do this thing, during a vacation, it's not, you're not going to get a huge student turnout. Why don't you do another one of these when students are actually back on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday--any day-- [sustained applause]

MCDONALD: Then next on deck, Jennifer Waits.

-- Josh Prentiss!
PRIVETT: I didn't get the question? What was the question? I'm happy
to answer, honestly, I'll answer the question, I didn't get a
question, I got a --

K: How do you sleep with yourself at night? [laughter/applause]
--Answer the question!

Josh[?]: And then you would use the 3.75 million to help out the
education of the students of the school. Will you put that money
back into the audio and video department, and not use it to build
other things that people don't want at the university?

-- Palm trees! Palm trees! Palm trees!

J?: If you're gonna put the 3.75 into, directly into where it's
going--

PRIVETT: [inaudible] question.

J: ...OK.

PRIVETT: Some of the resources will be devoted to the media lab, and
some of those resources—will they all be devoted to it? No, they will
not. It is my decision to determine the top priorities at the
University, and I will assign those dollars to what I think are the
greatest needs at the University. Some of it, yes, it will go back
into our broadcasting capacity, and development of our broadcasting
program. So, the partial answer is "yes." And also, I think that you
probably all know this, that this process, now that it's in the public
phase, there is an opportunity for anybody who doesn't agree with this
decision to make it's [sic] case with the FCC. [applause] The
process itself builds in opportunities for the community to express
itself in regard to the decision.

[unidentified]: Hello, good evening, thanks for this opportunity to
speak with you. My comment to you directly is: I'm not a student,
I'm actually a native San Franciscan, longtime Richmond District
resident, small business owner, taxpayer, all those things, and I just
enjoy KUSF. I've been a longtime listener and supporter of KUSF, and
as a result of my affiliation with KUSF, I've become a USF donor, and
I've given literally hundreds if not thousands of dollars over the
years to the University-- [applause]

[still U?] -- I have two questions for you. And the first was: Why
didn't you give us notice? You've answered that, you said you entered
into non-disclosure agreements, which is kind of standard for this
type of thing. But what I really want to know is: why didn't you
give the station an opportunity to become self-supporting? That could
have happened. [applause] [inaudible] -- all these other stations
followed the same model, [inaudible] often wondered why KUSF didn't
have a pledge drive. And I thought: Oh, well, that could happen, but I think that--all the people that listen and love KUSF, we've all given generously, and, that's one of the things that we were willing to do, and that opportunity was never given to us. And the final comment is, you said--

PRIVETT: Can I just clear--?

-- We gave on our own, where were you?!

PRIVETT: We gave plenty. We gave salaries, we gave space, we gave up a significant amount of revenue, so that KUSF could be housed on the campus. From my perspective--

[heckling from audience/shushing from audience in response]

PRIVETT: So, from my perspective, this was a radio station that was housed at the University, it wasn't integral to the educational mission of the University. It was important to the community. I don't know how realistic it is to expect the University to continue to fund an institution or operation whose primary benefit is to the community. So the answer to the question is: Why didn't KUSF have a fundraiser? I don't know. I didn't run KUSF--

[audience ruckus; "that was not the question!"]

U?: Excuse me, sir! The question was, why didn't the station be given the opportunity to be self-supporting? This is a financial issue, an issue of USF using it's resources for a radio station, which by your estimation doesn't serve the students best, it serves the community primarily, then the station should have been given an opportunity to support itself. And then that follows up to one of the comments that you made. You said USF supports the community by graduating students. Well, I'm not a student, I'm a resident, a local, a person that lives here, and USF does have an impact on the City itself, at large, by using the City services. So, by following that rationale, you should have an obligation to serve the community around you--[loud sustained applause]

MCDONALD: OK, next up--

PRIVETT: I don't disagree. The University does serve the City; the University serves the City with hundreds, thousands of service hours, part of USF students, in numberless not-for-profit organizations--

-- Answer the question!

PRIVETT: I'm answering the question, why doesn't the City serve the University, the City does--

[audience ruckus]
[15:00]

PRIVETT: The providing—so a radio station is a great service. Radio stations are radio stations and universities are universities. We are USF, we are not CBS, NBC or Fox News. (Yells from audience). Please, please. I told you, I don’t expect you to agree with me, I just hope you can understand and listen to what I’m trying to say. Now that you don’t agree is pretty clear

(yells from audience).

Voice from AUDIENCE: Why can’t we be self-sufficient?!

PRIVETT: I don’t know why you can’t be self-sufficient (more yells from audience). So from my perspective, this was a radio station that was housed at the University, it wasn't integral to the educational mission of the University, it was important to the community. I don't know how realistic it is to expect the University to continue to fund an institution or an operation whose primary benefit is to the community. So the answer to the question is: Why didn't KUSF have a fundraiser? I don't know, I didn't run KUSF—

[audience ruckus - "That was not the question!"]

Q: [inaudible] --other private universities [inaudible] ask them--

[19:00]

PRIVETT: The first offer that came across across my desk, was [inaudible]

[more yells, boos]

PRIVETT: I supposed I could ask: why didn’t you take the initiative?

Voice from AUDIENCE: Bad faith!. [Yells and boos].

MCDONALD: OK, next up is Jennifer Waits and then Bobby Lee. Jennifer, then Bobby Lee.

Jennifer Waits: With that said, people from the New Public Radio Organization said that they're not out soliciting stations, that they're only approaching stations that have already said they were for sale? So does that mean that you did actually announce that you were for sale, but you did not tell the staff at KUSF?

PRIVETT: No, no. (yells)

Jennifer Waits: So an offer came in without you announcing you were for sale?
PRIVETT: That’s absolutely--a letter came across...a letter came on my desk...

Jennifer Waits: Who solicited you?

PRIVETT: [stammers] The, the broker. I forget the technical name of the organization... (Yells from audience).

JENNIFER WAITS: And then my second question is...

PRIVETT: The answer to your question is: no. We took no initiative to dispose of the radio station. We were approached and we responded positively.

JENNIFER WAITS: And then my other question is: You’re saying that KUSF will continue as an on-line station, but I’ve also been hearing rumors that you’re planning to move the station to a new location, that they may not be able to take their record library and I also wonder what that means for the cultural affairs programs, which I know at least one of them is now going to be on KDFC. So, will it really be the same KUSF on-line that you’re talking about? I don’t think so. But you can answer that.

PRIVETT: Okay. So, what we-- (yells from audience)

JENNIFER WAITS: But I would like to hear your answer.

PRIVETT: We sold the license and the frequency. We retain all other resources. So the library, all of that stuff, remains the property of KUSF; the call letters and the music, all that stuff, that ours. So that’s all available for broadcasting should the programming, the broadcast managers want to use those materials, they’re all there.

JENNIFER WAITS: OK. And will you be providing space for a record library?

PRIVETT: Well I would presume it... yeah; it’s our collection, so sure. We’re not going to... yeah, the answer’s yes.

MCDONALD: Bobby Lee, Bobby Lee, are you ready? And then after Bobby Lee, Tom Houseman.

Bobby Lee: Hi, Father Privett. Hi, I’m Bobby Lee. I’m a 2007 graduate here at USF and also an alumni donor. (Cheers). I just have a couple of comments and a question. One, earlier you said that students don’t benefit or take advantage of KUSF. I for one am a student that did take advantage of it. In fact, I started at USF as a finance major and I left with a finance degree, but KUSF helped ignite my passion in media and broadcasting (cheers). So to say that students don’t take advantage of it is simply untrue. In fact, I’ve talked to many prospective students that have come on campus who have
said that they wanted to join USF because of student media like KUSF. Now, one of the things I’ve noticed is that USF has for a very long time tried to silence media on campus, whether it’s the Foghorn [inaudible]. KDNZ is another example that has gone dark last year. And I just want to say I think this is part of a pattern, in my opinion. But my question is: I heard that 3.75 million dollars is what the University got for the frequency. Is that really all we could have gotten for the frequency? I mean, there is [sic] no open frequencies in the Bay Area--

PRIVETT: Okay, this is not my business… [Yells from audience]. So there is a fairly standard formula that counts the number of people, et cetera, et cetera. So it’s pretty standard. We benchmarked against… other universities are disposing of radio stations for the same reasons that we are. We benchmarked against those universities…

AUDIENCE: Didn’t USC buy it? Didn't USC buy it? So other colleges are dumping their stations and USC bought this one?

PRIVETT: Correct. Not everybody is doing the same thing.

AUDIENCE: Okay, so not everyone.

PRIVETT: We benchmarked against those universities that were selling their radio stations and this is the right price. Now I’ve heard everything: you could have gotten ten million dollars, fifteen. We looked at all that pretty carefully and this seemed to be a fair price. I don’t mean, when I say students, I don’t mean all students. I understand that there were some… I’m talking in terms of a vast majority of our students. In terms of those students who come here to learn broadcasting, those opportunities are going to be multiplied and more robust then they were previously.

AUDIENCE: How?

AUDIENCE: No audience! [laughter]

PRIVETT: So part of this will be to develop a curriculum with our faculty media studies to enhance the offerings in broadcasting, which is--

Audience member: Excuse me, father, I’m curious…

MCDONALD: Excuse me, we have, we’ve got a hundred people here asking questions…

AUDIENCE: She’s a student…

MCDONALD: Yes, but we have, no, you can… we’ve got a hundered people here with questions. We have a process (yells from audience). We have a hundred people who have questions…[inaudible]

[audience ruckus]
AUDIENCE: Is it going to be offered to everybody? Not just media study students? Not like philosophy...

PRIVETT: Like our courses, like philosophy courses are open to non-major students, I assume media studies courses will be open to non-majors. That’s a question--

AUDIENCE: Is it only going to be open to students?

PRIVETT: This is the kind of... Only to students?

AUDIENCE: Only to students.

PRIVETT: Correct.

AUDIENCE: Okay.

PRIVETT: And this is, but... these kinds of particular questions I think students will have an opportunity to meet with the Dean and he can give you much more specific and concrete answers with regard to...

AUDIENCE: Which Dean should I meet with?

PRIVETT: Marcello Compari, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. He’ll be happy to meet with you.

AUDIENCE: OK.

Bobby Lee: Father, the last thing I want to say is that I’ve spoken to about ten different donating alums, even the present ambassador alums, who’ve donated to the University and they, they’ve all agreed this has been a terrible deal and will not continue to contribute to this University. (Cheers)

MCDONALD: Okay, Tom Houseman and then Dorothy Kidd.

AUDIENCE: Tom Houston!

MCDONALD: Tom Houston.

Tom Houston: Father Privett, thank you for allowing us to speak and for gathering this assembly. I attended universities in the 60s and 70s and earned degrees from two of them. And in both cases there were much worse conflicts associated with Vietnam War demonstrations between the students or large groups of students and the university administration. And I spent my life as an alumni, both alumns of, excuse me, quite alienated from universities because my... bad feelings about how... did Wisconsin didn’t really need to bring in the National Guard, did Fr. Daly [?] really need to bring in the Somerville [sp?] Police. I... my thought is that there are clearly high levels of emotion and I think that many thousands of people at the institutions
I attended are... don't really regard themselves as alumni, they continue to be alienated decades later despite our obligation as Christians to forgive, that the university isn’t as good-hearted at forgiveness as another human being. I... this is not really a question, but I hope that the university has some plan or will develop one for dealing with the high level of alienation. A full page in the Chronicle this morning, half a page in the horrible Republican paper, that when things cool off to... to try to regain the trust and love of your students and of the community. I live eight blocks away; I listen to an amazing radio station – or had been listening – and I hope that re-establishing a good relationship between the administration and the community and the students... that it’s not obvious how to do it. Harvard didn’t figure it out; Wisconsin stopped being a good university. As an alumni withdrawn support and faculty, and this is a much smaller matter I hope that you can control. But for the good of this jewel, a Jesuit education, I hope that things can be brought to a kind of resolution. Jesus would have wanted us to. (Cheers)

MCDONALD: Okay, Dorothy Kidd and then Iggy Sogota.

DOROTHY KIDD: Hi Steve.

PRIVETT: Hi.

DOROTHY KIDD: You know that I teach in the media studies (cheers). You probably also know that I am a historian of community media and one of the things that I want to remind you about is that the Catholic Church is very well aware of the importance of community media to public education, to citizenship and to democracy around the world. In fact, in the 1920s in this country, the Catholic Church and labor unions and jazz musicians contributed to making localism part of the mandate of the Federal Communications Commission. (Cheers) It’s an exception. It’s not the mandate of many national bodies. The Catholic Church has also been involved – especially in Latin America, and this is partly why I learned Spanish and went to Latin America – in supporting social justice community media. I know that you’ve been to El Salvador, that’s very important, and one of the reasons why we know about what’s going on in Latin America is the role of community media who have broadcasted and been able then to gather people on a face to face and community... a geographic community together to be able to talk about their experiences, to be able to sing and share their music, to be able to chant and shout and claim their demands as people here have been doing. And they’ve been now in the last twenty years leaking out through the digital mechanisms of the Internet. But the two of those things necessarily go together. And I think that this is what will be lost. We will lose the kind of face-to-face solidarity that allows people – as the previous speaker was talking about – reach across their differences, reach across conflict, reach across gender and racism and sexism and homophobia in a way that is not possible on the internet as you are very well aware. So, having said that – you
can tell I have a lot more to say, but this is my question: If it is to be a teaching facility, why is the first time that I learned about this decision last night? I am a teacher who has worked-- (Cheers).

I want to say one more thing: there would be more of my faculty members here tonight, but we had very short notice. We have not yet put out a collective statement; we will be doing that. I am here as an individual, but I happen to know because of a circulation of emails today that there are a lot of faculty members who are very upset with this decision. (Cheers)

PRIVETT: You're not going to like this, but I’m just repeating myself. We were not able to engage the faculty-- (jeers from audience)

AUDIENCE: How could our teachers [inaudible] don't tell them!

PRIVETT: That's right--

AUDIENCE: You made that agreement; you signed the non-disclosure.

Privett: That’s correct. That's correct.

AUDIENCE: You’re hiding behind it. [audience ruckus]

MCDONALD: Okay, let’s try to get some more questions in.

PRIVETT: We did it because if you don’t sign the non-disclosure, you cannot pursue the end price [?] (yells). I made the decision to pursue it for the reasons-- (Yells)

MCDONALD: After Iggy, is there a Michelle Kane, Michelle? Is Iggy here?

Chad Heiman: Hi father, my name is Chad Heiman. I’m a junior media studies major here, also a paying student at the University of San Francisco. I just want to let you know - first a comment - yesterday when I was at KUSF and thrown out, I didn’t feel like a student, I felt like a criminal. I felt like a criminal, I was thrown out; I was embarrassed. I’m a USF tour guide ambassador; I give tours practically every day around the university. I did not give a tour today because I was too embarrassed and ashamed of my university to give a tour (cheers) and speak praise about USF. I didn’t want to go and give a bad tour because I didn’t want to have to say anything bad about the university and so respectfully I didn’t give a tour because I respected, but it’s really hard to when you don’t tell your students, you do it a week before we’re back. Most students - all my compadres - in the USF media department, they’re back home with their families. Faculty didn’t know about it. When I found out I went to the program director, Lydia, at the media studies department in K Hall and she was shocked as I was. No one knew. I don’t know how to expect to teach these students if you’re not informing the faculty. Another thing, since I’ve been with KUSF for three and a half years - I’m also the head of student recruitment - I know for a
fact as just a student and just a collective of students, we can’t do this without the community. (Cheers) I can’t run a radio station without the volunteers. They don’t have PhDs. I work for these people. Sometimes I hate them. Sometimes I say, “Hey, why isn’t it just a student run radio station?” But I love them and I learn from them (cheers). I don’t pay $50,000 a year to feel like a criminal and thrown out of the radio station. I don’t want to feel like that. I don’t want to give money to feel like that. Thank God I’m graduating early in December so I don’t have to feel like that anymore. (Cheers)

MCDONALD: Michelle Kane?

AUDIENCE: Do you have a response?

PRIVETT: I didn’t get the question. (Boos)

CHAD HEIMAN: How are we going to let the students know? How… I’m just, they’re so many questions and it’s just so hard to get an answer because everyone I talked to yesterday I was shunned from. I tried to talk to Charlie Cross yesterday and he said… I said I pay $50,000, he said, “I don’t care,” shut his door and I said, “How are we going to figure out what happened?” He said, “You figure it out.” I don’t know how… I just… I just feel so betrayed by the school I loved so much. I’ve worked for this school for three and a half years giving tours. I’m a student; I’m a full time student, like… I just… I just don’t know and I’m really ashamed to say right now “I go to USF.” I just want you to know that, as a student.

(Cheers)

PRIVETT: I’m sorry that you feel…

CHAD HEIMAN: I’m not very happy getting… having you give my diploma in December, I’d prefer it be someone else.

(Cheers)

PRIVETT: Just to be clear, if students were here and faculty were here, we were still bound by the non-disclosure (yells). I signed it…that's correct, that's correct, and I signed--

AUDIENCE: You’re hiding behind it!

PRIVETT: No, I’m not hiding behind it--

AUDIENCE: Yeah, you are! (yells)

PRIVETT: I signed it--[yells] -- I signed it--

MCDONALD: We’re trying to get as many questions in as we can and you’re actually preventing that, so you want to get some more in, so is Michelle Kane and then Justin Hunter, Michelle? Is Michelle
around? Justin Hunter? Justin, okay. And after Justin we’ll have Tony Vidard.

JUSTIN HUNTER: Hey there. I’ve actually lived in the neighborhood for about ten years; I’ve been listening the whole time. I evangelize the station; I’m sure most of the people here do. It sounds like you accepted the first offer that came across your desk, so why not maybe ask the City if maybe they can come up with maybe… you could sell it to the City? Maybe for a little bit more or even, you know, can you match this? You know, why not… why take the first offer you got? Why not, you know--

PRIVETT: You can’t use the offer as a leverage--

JUSTIN HUNTER: Absolutely you can! I mean, from a cultural…

PRIVETT: It's off the table.

JUSTIN HUNTER: Are you aware of the cultural impact that the station has on the community?

PRIVETT: Yes…

JUSTIN HUNTER: So why not use that as a leverage to sell it back to the City, you know, it just doesn’t make sense.

PRIVETT: You can’t disclose… if you… (Yells)

JUSTIN HUNTER: Prior to signing it. You have the offer on your desk, before you sign anything.

PRIVETT: You start these negotiations, then it’s off the table.

JUSTIN HUNTER: But you can negotiate with more than one party at one time.

PRIVETT: You could, you could.

JUSTIN HUNTER: It’s a bad business decision. Culturally and business, it’s just [inaudible] (yells).

MCDONALD: Okay, Tony Vidard and then Annie Chevelle. (Cheers)

Tony Vidard: Hi Father, my name is Tony and I book a live music venue here in San Francisco, the Hemlock Tavern. I have a couple of questions: One, I was curious as to whether or not the University of San Francisco enjoys any tax breaks or tax benefits from the City of San Francisco, by the nature of it being a religious institution, even though it’s a private college. Does the University enjoy any tax breaks or tax benefits from the City?
PRIVETT: It enjoys the same tax benefits that any not-for-profit in the City enjoys.

TV: So, in other words, so you are getting, you are deriving some sort of benefit from being a religious non-profit institution--

PRIVETT: Every non-profit in the City has the same tax breaks--

TV: But not everyone has a radio station.

PRIVETT: That's correct.

TV: And so, I would just think that part of--

PRIVETT: It stays a--it still is a community radio, it's a non-profit--

[audience ruckus]

TV: OK, well, that brings me to my second point: As far as the actual Internet presence of KUSF existed before, y'know, up until a couple of days ago, I would describe it as very poor. It certainly doesn't really rate or rank up there with any of the other radio stations in the US that are aspiring to have an Internet presence. For example, the radio station on the East Coast, WFMU, is really sort of a model for technological advanced situations, with streaming and archiving and all sorts of stuff like that. I guess my other question would be: What percentage, or can you actually say here tonight, what percentage of the 3.75 million you obtained for the sale you would be willing to devote to the expansion and modernisation of KUSF's woeful Internet presence. Thank you.

PRIVETT: From my perspective, what the University is going to invest in, is the resources needed to teach broadcasting to our students. That will determine how much we will invest. I'm not prepared at this point, I don't know, what that amount will be.

[catcalls from the audience]

MCDONALD: So, Annie Chevelle--Annie, are you around? Then Dan Benet? Or Dan Bennett.

[cross-talk and shouts from audience; shushing in response]

AC: As a listener of KUSF, I'm extremely--as a listener, I'm really disappointed in this decision [interrupted by audience noise]. I'm a listener, I'm really disappointed in this decision and outraged, like so many other people that have spoken, and I'd like to actually give this opportunity for DJ Schmeejay to have the word he didn't get when he was cut off the air.

[loud applause and cheers]
H: I'm not allowed to hold the microphone—I'll acquiesce to that! Father, number one, I'd like to thank you for being here tonight. In sincerity, I'm really glad that you showed up here tonight, I really disbelieved it earlier today, when I heard that Fr. Privett's going to be there. Me and a few people went up to your office yesterday, weren't allowed to see you, barely allowed to plead our case before security said, You've had your chance, now it's time to leave. While I was waiting in your little lobby there, you've got a little table where there's these pamphlets, and while I was waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting and waiting for the secretary to come out and let us know that you were, in fact, not going to see us, I opened them up. You probably know this particular brochure. It talked about you spearheading, or putting together a committee that was in charge of community interaction and reaching out to the community. This is one of the new things that you're involved in? Do you know what I'm talking about here? It's a pamphlet on a table outside your office door. The first page—

PRIVETT: [inaudible] in the USF magazine—

H: It was a brochure, it wasn't the magazine.

PRIVETT: I don't know what you're talking about.

H: Are you a member or head of the new committee that is looking into outreach to better serve the community of San Francisco?

PRIVETT: No.

H: Interesting. So I'm probably a liar, then!

PRIVETT: No, I don't think you're a liar. I'm not aware of the committee, but...

H: OK, maybe not a 'committee,' but are—this is part of my question. And it's a two-part question, because I still don't feel like we've gotten an answer to a question that's been asked twice [inaudible]. How do you feel this business transaction reflects Jesuit ideals? I understand that you want to be of service to the students. And that's a priority. We as a radio station wanted to be of service to the students. I'm also a baker; I work at Arizmendi in the Sunset. [applause] Thanks! We're based on the Jesuit ideals of Fr. Jose Maria Arizmendiarrieta, who maybe you know, or don't know, from Spain. I'm not a devout Christian by any means, but the Jesuits despite the— I shouldn't say "despite"...some horrible history in South America [inaudible] for the Jesuits to live with, or not live with, or not sleep at night with, but the community ideals of the Jesuit principle amazed me. It helped build my business, because we're about making a buck, but we're also about feeding our neighbors, our homeless neighbors, and non-profit groups that can't afford to buy food for
their members. And this University, I thought, when I first started volunteering at the radio station, this community station with, I think at the time, 13 languages being spoken on the air, was quite a service to the community. [applause] When there was this dark cloud that starting coming over the campus, and over the radio station, and people were saying: They're gonna sell us, they're gonna sell us! I'm like: "Chinese Star Radio" man, they're not gonna sell us! They would never turn their back on the Chinese community, not in San Francisco! That's what's gonna keep them from selling us. If we were all just New Music, we probably would have been gone years ago, but all of these cultural programs are vital to the community. [applause]

And the community is vital to the University. So I thought, foolishly, that that was a safety net. That's a question: How do you feel this business transaction reflects your core--not students, [inaudible/audience noise]

PRIVETT: Core? [inaudible]

H: About community.

PRIVETT: The Mission Statement of the University [heckling/shushing] [inaudible] and the Vision Statement of the University--we want to be recognized as a premier Jesuit Catholic urban university. Vision--Mission Statement, very core mission of the University is to offer education in the Jesuit Catholic tradition, to undergraduate, graduate and professional students. That's the core mission from the University. I am not denying the value to the community of the radio station. I'm not denying the significance of the programming. I'm simply saying that in this situation, we simply cannot afford--we can't, the University, this is not our core mission, and we cannot afford to support this community service, because it is denying us opportunities to support the core mission of the University. That's the kind of decision that I have to make, and I make it as best I can. Realize--

H: I understand. But again, I'm not talking about the core values of the University--

PRIVETT: That's what I'm talking about!

H: I'm talking about Jesuit, core community ideals. Outside of the University, don't you feel that this conflicts with a basic Jesuit principle of being true to your community?

PRIVETT: No, no, I'm saying--no, see, this is where we disagree!

H: OK, so let me follow that question then. [some cross-talk] This the real, more core part of the question, and it goes back to our great listener over there in the corner, that tried to ask that question, and you got distracted by somebody else yelling something,
and this person over here also wanted to know why you [inaudible] can't withdraw the offer as it comes across the table. Don't you think that would have been a better thing for everybody, right, like you're thinking of selling the station, somebody's made you an offer, maybe the best thing to do here is to see if the people that run the station, the community behind the people that run the station, can first buy the station.

-- Friends of KUSF.

H: Friends of KUSF! Whoever this entity might be, instead of bringing in somebody from a corporate world.

PRIVETT: It's another university. [catcalls: "Entercom!"]

H: Entercom we're talking about, right! Don't you think it isn't the station allowed to have the opportunity to be self-sufficient, to purchase the station? I really think you could have got more money than 3.75 million dollars, and I challenge you, even though you've signed papers, to reconsider this, and to allow us to buy the station in lieu of Entercom. [sustained applause]

-- Please allow the DJs to speak, please!

PRIVETT?: You're Dan Bennett?

-- Yeah.

[crowd noise: "Answer!" etc. ]

PRIVETT: I gave you the same answer: In order to pursue this we could not go public and--[crowd noise: "That's not true!" etc.] --I signed a non-disclosure--[crowd noise] -- I signed it, because I wanted to pursue this opportunity to put our resources behind our core mission. That's why I signed it. I understand you don't agree with [cross talk close to mic/inaudible] that's why I signed [inaudible]. I care about how we invest our resources to serve our students, that's what I really care about. [crowd noise] I care more about supporting our students than [inaudible] providing [crowd noise] -- Can I finish?

[inaudible comments from crowd]

-- [inaudible] when the students are back, that's all I want to know!

[applause]

[cross talk in AUDIENCE: "Can we get that in writing?"]

PRIVETT: [inaudible] I want to work with you. Is there a Dan Bennett? Dan? The deal that right now, we've signed a binding agreement, and it's not reversible, and I'm not in a position, and I won't [inaudible]

-- It's always reversible!
PRIVETT: --change the decision. No, it's not!

[catcalls]

PRIVETT: It's reversible if you want to take the opportunity provided by the process to represent your case to the FCC. That's how you [inaudible]

MCDONALD: Excuse me, after Dan Bennett, we'll have Daniel Everett.

DB: I don't really have a question, just a comment here, so I'll make it real easy for you, you don't have to answer anything 'cause that's not working or anything. [laughter] I listen to the radio a lot, I really do. I listen to it myself, I drive a van full of autistic and neurologically impaired kids a lot during the day. I listen to a lot of radio, most of it really, really bad. I listen to the same 12 songs over and over again on channel after channel. And that's all these kids will listen to. It is such a treat to listen to KUSF. As a former student and native of San Francisco, I've listened to this station for as long as I could, whenever I get reception, which has been a lot better in the last couple of years. So I just wanted to let you know that this really does affect people, this is a terrible thing. And you may be absolutely right, and made a brilliant business decision, but it's not gonna really look good on you, I don't think, in the future, that you're just a sellout corporate douchebag made of two million dollars, and really stunk shit up for the rest of us. Thank you! [applause]

MCDONALD: OK, Daniel Everett and then Chris Cook. I would remind you that clearly, we're not going to get through the huge stack of questions from people who want to speak here, but we are taking comments at president@usfca.edu.

DE: Hi, and thanks again for coming. I'm also a student here, a graduate student, and I also host a show here called "Folk Law." I'm an attorney here in San Francisco. It sounds to me like the only way out might be through the FCC process that you've illustrated. Maybe you can tell these people a little something about that process and how they might go about voicing their concerns and possibly getting the station into the hands of everyone here. It seems to me that there's a lot of people here, and maybe we could pool our resources to try a counter-bid or something. If that is a possibility, maybe you could tell us how that might go.

PRIVETT: I don't think a counter-bid is a possibility. I think there's a 60- to 90-day period [inaudible] the final decision is, this is the time for the community to make its [inaudible] known to the FCC.

DE: Do you know what kind of form that--?
PRIVETT: No, I don't, I don't know whether it's a hearing, or whether it's in writing, that I don't know. I'm sorry.

DE: This gentleman here would like to know if you can email that information to people. It seems to me that if there is going to be some sort of public comment, this came about a bit begrudgingly, maybe we could have public comment on the FCC [inaudible] get the information.

PRIVETT: Understood, yeah, sure, I will try to find out that information, sure.

DE: And lastly, a young woman who is sitting next to me wanted to know if she'd be able to get her records back.

PRIVETT: Yes!

[laughter/applause]

MCDONALD: So [inaudible] and then Harry Duncan.

CC: Hi, I'm Chris, I'm a DJ here at KUSF. [applause] I notice you've made a lot of comments about how it's important for you to look out for student needs, I understand that that's your position and that's your job. However, I've noticed over the last three years, especially, of the seven years I've been at KUSF, well, actually before that too, but a huge push to get student involvement. As Chad had mentioned earlier, we even have a department set up, to get students recruited and more interested in KUSF. What, specifically, was the University doing in order to point students our way as well?

PRIVETT: Well, the University...probably, Dorothy could answer better than I. We have a whole media studies cirriculum, we believe that this is an internship opportunity for students who are on the broadcasting track, so we give credit, we encourage students by grading courses, I think that's how we do it.

CC: Right. But my question is, if you're so concerned about student involvement, why wouldn't you have some more effective programs to send students our way? We love new students, and we want to give them the most opportunities that we could at the time.

PRIVETT: I'm not saying that we don't, I'm just saying that from my perspective, I'm not sure what happens at that level, I honestly don't know, I'm not sure what the dep--I was saying, Dorothy could probably answer better than I. I'm pretty far removed from what gets into the cirriculum and how students actually [inaudible]

CC: OK--
PRIVETT: I was looking at this from a resource perspective. How are we investing our resources? What are we doing with our tuition dollars? I'm suspecting that very few of our students would want us to invest their tuition dollars in the radio station that serves the larger [inaudible/crowd noise]

CC: How do you know that? Did you do research, or are you just conjecturing?

PRIVETT: I'm basing the judgement on what we offer to students and the kinds of responsibilites that universities have. Universities--I'm...I'm not denigrating the service to the community. All I'm saying is that, universities don't necessarily run radio stations--

[audience noise: "Yes they do!" College radio station call letters yelled out.]

PRIVETT: Universities...I can name you--[audience noise]--so there's nothing in the nature of a university--there's nothing in the nature of a university that requires that it run a radio station. It is [inaudible] essential to [garbled] any more than it runs a hospital because it has a nursing school, or a law firm because it has a law school--

--Or a library! [laughter]

PRIVETT: So universities--or a library. Dorothy, do you want to answer the question of how we incentivize?

DK: Yes, I'd be very happy to, I don't think we're going to agree on this, though, Steve.

PRIVETT: That's OK.

DK: I think there's a pedagogical difference we have here. First off, I think I agree with you that KUSF could be a better student- and community-run facility. I don't think anybody here disagrees with that. I think that the faculty and the students and KUSF should have been involved in this decision, and in this planning process much earlier [applause]. And there should have been a much more concerted effort, rather than individual professors like me doing as much as I can. If we had the support, which we have asked, from the Dean, and from other people, to do this, we could have done a better job. And I will say, as a faculty member, and as a member of my department, we haven't done as good a job, and we would like to do a much better job to make this a better facility. This is the second thing I want to say: I tell students that broadcasting is dead. The model of broadcasting, where one corporate entity sends out a message of mostly homogenized messaging, is not what a Jesuit Catholic, or any university, should be teaching. [applause]

PRIVETT: I agree--no argument.
DK: So here's an argument that I would like to engage you with, because I think this is something that we do agree with, on a principled basis. I know you have to make decisions about money. But, on a principled basis, I think you understand that the kind of model that KUSF has done on a very sort of low-resource, DIY basis, is actually the model of the future for communications. Cooperative, collaborative, music, public voice, public decision, multiple languages, a partnership between the best intellectuals in both formal and non-formal education, and a partnership between a University that's based in an urban community, is really an embodiment of the best Jesuit-run community radio stations that I know. I think we could do that here. And I ask you to think about a way that we could do that. I can tell you, I'm also a scholar on the FCC, it's all very nice to say we can respond and write to the FCC. I can tell you that very seldom do they turn over decisions, they just made a historically bad decision, merging Comcast with NBC. [applause] So, it's a wonderful option for us--and I actually do write to them, y'know--but it's kind of like clicking on the Internet really doesn't have much power. [applause] I'm going to give up my time now, because I realize there's a lot of people who want to speak, but I really would love to talk to you about a better way to make a community/student-run operation. Thank you.

PRIVETT: That's a conversation we can have--definitely. [applause]

MCDONALD: Our time is coming to a close, if we could have a final question from Madeleine Scarp.

[AUDIENCE: What about Harry Duncan?]

MCDONALD: Madeleine Scarp? Oh, Harry Duncan? OK, Harry, and then Madeleine. I'm sorry, Fr. Privett said he was good until 9:30, that's an hour from now! It's 8:30!

Harry D: Father, I want to thank you for being here tonight, I appreciate it, and all my fellow DJs at KUSF appreciate it. You're taking your lumps, and I appreciate that. First, a comment, and then a proposal to you--meaning the administration--to the station management that's here, and to all my fellow DJs. Firstly, speaking from the perspective of someone that has produced a weekly show on KUSF for 27 years [applause] that's a lot of focused time, energy, effort and, I might add, as every DJ here knows, personal expense, transportation, music, so forth and so on. The way that the notification of KUSF staff, the way the station was shut down, so
forth and so on, I think by anybody's standards was handled very poorly. "A" "B" - by my fundamental understanding of what the operative principles are of a Jesuit university--fairness, inclusion, diversity, democracy--everybody has a right to feel violated, given the way things were conducted yesterday.

PRIVETT: OK, I understand [inaudible].

Harry D: With respect to a proposal, so that everyone is ensured a voice--by "everyone" I'm talking about hard-working people on KUSF, it's irrelevant whether they've been here 10 months or 10 years--I want to propose that we have an advisory board that's composed of: two people from New Music programming; two people from Cultural Music programming, chosen by their peers; a veteran, experienced KUSF alumni, that regularly meets with you, meaning administration, and station management to affect intelligently, and creatively, policy, and that also, in essence, will prevent an ambush or sabotage like yesterday happening again.

PRIVETT: This is for the online format that we're going to move into.

HARRY D: Yes, correct.

PRIVETT: I think that's probably negotiable with the Dean, but I want to be clear that the fundamental consideration for this format is going to be the engagement of our students, and their education and their involvement with this program, and I hope that our faculty will be working on this. This is going to be a University enterprise that serves the core mission of the University. I think--we would welcome help and assistance, but I do want to be clear, that we want this to be for our students, so that they can learn how to do and acquire the skills that you guys have.

HARRY D: Father, you've made that abundantly clear, but what I'd like you to speak to, as much as you're able, with respect to your understanding of going forward, we're moving forward here--

PRIVETT: Correct.

HARRY D: There's a lot of people, myself included, that have a lot of anxiety about: where do we go from here? Is the current, existing KUSF programming just going to be picked up wholesale, and put into--

PRIVETT: You know, honestly, I'm not trying to deceive you, I don't know the answer to that--

HARRY D: Well, when in fact will we learn about that? And how can we affect, have input in that?

PRIVETT: I think we'll learn as the Dean and the faculty--there's a lot of work to do--I think as the Dean and the faculty start putting the curriculum together, I think for the time being, the programming
is going to continue more or less as usual, and I'm not sure beyond that--

HARRY D: Beginning when?

PRIVETT: The fundamental--I don't have the date honestly. It's [inaudible].

-- Do you not [inaudible] the contract that you signed?

PRIVETT: Pardon?

-- Can you tell the buyer you made a mistake?

PRIVETT: No!

-- Why not? You did? [laughter]

HARRY D: It would be really helpful, and again, I want to speak on behalf of all KUSF DJs and producers. If there were--there's a thing that exists, that I'm sure you're aware of, called the KUSF volunteer list, it serves a number of folks. I'm not on that list.

PRIVETT: How about--what?

HARRY D: I'm not on that list. But I'd like to see an official mechanism, so that all existing KUSF staff--meaning office staff and management, KUSF DJs, KUSF producers, all receive whatever official communications there are from your office or from the Dean, with respect to how things are going to move forward here, relative to the Internet-only station.

PRIVETT: OK. [applause]

[audience chatter/shushing/catcalls]

PRIVETT: [in a very low voice, presumably to audience, not Harry D] [inaudible] no, I'm not going to tell [inaudible] I don't think I made a mistake, we're going to pursue this opportunity, I just want to be clear about that, and I'm not going to change the decision, I made the decision, we're going to pursue the opportunity. We're going to do it--

-- How much do you get paid?

PRIVETT: I don't get any salary, as a matter of fact. I'm a freebie. You get what you pay for, right?

[catcalls from audience]

1:08

MCDONALD: OK, OK, Madeline, question?
MADELINE SCARP:  Good evening, Father Privett.  Over here.

PRIVETT: Where are you?

SCARP:  Right here!

PRIVETT: Oh, OK.

SCARP:  I'd just like to say, I'm a senior at the University of San Francisco, and this decision didn't come as much of a surprise to me; the University administration seems to have a certain affinity for the first three weeks of January for making decisions about campus and community life. When I returned my sophomore year, class was informed that a favorite sociology professor, who received for the first time in the history of the department straight "5's" on his reviews, that he was no longer coming back. I came back my junior year, to see a bunch of trees on the top of Lone Mountain cut down during winter break; and I come back this year to find out that the radio program is being cut. And because you and I are familiar with the mission, the core values, I just wanted to illuminate for some community members other aspects that Father Privett has failed to mention, and then pose a couple of questions in regards to the compatibility of this decision with those core values.

So, firstly, from the Mission:  How does this decision contribute to the University's ability to "distinguish itself as a diverse, socially responsible learning community," and then I'm continuing, "that draws from the cultural, intellectual and economic resources of the San Francisco Bay Area.... " I have a little bit more, if you'll indulge me. I would like to know how the closing of the station, the selling of it, and it's transfer to an online format, contributes--or, I'm sorry, shows a commitment to advancing the freedom and the responsibility to pursue truth and follow evidence to its conclusion. I would like to know how the selling of the station contributes to "a common good that transcends the interests of particular individuals or groups", and contributes to a commitment to "reasoned discourse, rather than coercion, as the norm for decision making." [sustained applause] And lastly, I would like to know, I would like to know how the closing of this station contributes and demonstrates a commitment to the diversity of perspectives, experiences and traditions, as essential components of a quality education. Please address those three core values, and how this decision is compatible with those.

PRIVETT: First of all, the trees were cut down, because in the course of--

-- [audience ruckus: "Answer the question!"  "That was foreshadowing!"

PRIVETT: [inaudible] The question [inaudible]
SCARP: A quick rephrase is, how does it contribute to pursuing the truth--?

PRIVETT: Reasoned discourse means that we listen to each other, coercion means--[audience ruckus]-- coercion means screaming and shouting, and nobody hears anybody.

[audience ruckus]

PRIVETT: For the last time, in the common good, whether you want to acknowledge it or not, the KUSF population is a particular interest group. I tried to say that I made this decision based on what I think the best interests of the University community, and for me, the University community means the University community. So--

SCARP: I'm part of the University community, and I wish, I wish that I had had my voice heard--

PRIVETT: I understand, can I finish? I listened respectfully to you, I'd like you to listen to me.

SCARP: Yes.

PRIVETT: So I made that decision based on what I think serves the greatest good of the greatest number of students, and I don't think the radio station does that. We may disagree on that, I'm not, you don't have to agree with me. So, I think this was a common good decision, I think we are among the most--

--Why didn't you discuss it with anyone?!

PRIVETT: --We are among the most diverse University communities in the nation. The contribution to diversity comes from--perhaps some of this money would go towards financial aid, for example, so that we can keep that diversity alive in the University community.

-- You don't allow people of color in!

PRIVETT: KUSF is not the single and sole way that the University connects with the City of San Francisco. You don't agree with that; I understand that. We have multiple connections, through internships, through service learning, through art courses at the museums, through kids working with the Giants, we have all these ways that we link up with the City. We want to create more and more--we had a very small number of volunteers on KUSF. You have to acknowledge that, this was not a student-run enterprise--

SCARP: That wasn't my question--

PRIVETT: [raises voice] It started up as a student-run enterprise, and ended up, and ended up as a community-based program. So this is going to engage our students--pardon me?
SCARP: Does closing the station, very simply, contribute to diversity?

PRIVETT: Does it contribute to diversity? No.

SCARP: Thank you. And regardless of the bearing about this being rationed discourse, was the decision that you made, and from my understanding you alone made, is that compatible with the core value of reasoned discourse?

PRIVETT: Yes.

SCARP: That’s compatible in your opinion?

PRIVETT: And I didn’t make this in splendid isolation. This decision was made with the cabinet and the leadership team of the university. That’s an ordinary...

---Did they ever say why don’t you try talking to the students before we take up the letter?

PRIVETT: This is the ordinary

---Can we see the Minutes?

PRIVETT: No.

---Why not?

PRIVETT: Because they’re confidential.

---Liar! [catcalls]

PRIVETT: Can I read your diary?

[Crosstalk, catcalls]

SCARP: Thank you.

[Applause]

PRIVETT: We have about 20 more minutes.

UNIDENTIFIED: My name is ?? ?? . I graduated last year. And I wanted to clear up the myth about the ten percent involvement of students. And I wanted to say that over the past five years that I was participating at KUSF, it was completely... I’m actually really nervous because I’m so used to having the board and the mic at the station. It’s so weird.
Again, the experience I had with KUSF, the Foghorn and also USF TV, I also experienced similar insecure and vulgar displays of power from the Administration. Those, namely KUSF 90.3 FM, those resources were completely integral to my experience at USF. Much more so than the hollow, prescribed and invisible values that we’ve been discussing all night. Also, I thank you. I wanted to acknowledge Supervisor Ross Mirakami [sic] in the back.

[Applause]
UNIDENTIFIED: It’s important to realize the domino effect of the broadcast aspect and involvement with sports that will be dissolved with the absence of our FM presence. Thank you.

[Applause]
MCDONALD: As Father Privett has indicated we’ll go about 20 more minutes until 9 o’clock. So Eric and, I’m sorry I can’t say your last name. Eric [unintelligible] Is Eric here?

ERIC: Right here.

FARI: Goodbye kids.

MCDONALD: Sorry Eric.

FARI: [Unintelligible] almost all my shows. Shame on you.

MCDONALD: Eric?

[Applause. Crosstalk]
ERIC: As a formerly Jesuit-educated student with post-secondary degrees, I would hope that you would understand as I do, that the ethical responsibilities that you have as the president of a university. And that those responsibilities don’t just end at a business transaction. That the duties that you teach to your students and that I was taught as a student were far greater than just what was the bottom line, how much what this was worth to me. We always considered what are, what were the implications to the community at large. You have a large program---excuse me. I’m sorry. You have a great program that teaches international business. I hope with from the deepest parts of my heart that you do not teach your students to conduct themselves in the same manner.

[Applause]
ERIC: It is really unconscionable to see a Jesuit-based university conduct itself no better than Enron or Chevron

[Applause]
--Shame on you!
ERIC: And I would, heaven forbid, have to ever have seen this being done by the president of my university. Because if that had happened, I don’t think that I would ever have any communication with the university. I would never support the university. Nor would anyone that I was related to, interacted with, conducted business with, do so either. And you must understand the ramifications of your 3.75 Million dollar decision may actually cost the university much more than that in the future.

[Applause]

PRIVETT: Just so we’re clear. This was not crass business decision about dollars.

[Laughter. catcalls]

PRIVETT: If it were a crass...

--It wasn’t? It wasn’t?

PRIVETT: If this were a crash, a crass business decision about dollars, we probably would have done what you suggested, try leverage this thing somehow to increase all things so that we could have gotten more money.

--You didn’t do that. You were in too much of a hurry to get rid of KUSF.

PRIVETT: This was about ensuring that our programs involve our students. This is about investing our resources in educational opportunities for our students. This was about mission integrity. And I know you don’t like to hear this, but our primary mission is to our students. It is not to the community at large. We serve the community at large as a university by educating responsible citizens who will take on their role in society. Universities don’t. Some universities run hospitals. Some universities run radio stations. Some universities run TV stations. This university wants to focus very sharply on the educational mission. So this was about my judgement, integrity of mission. This was not about get as much dollars as we could or we would have lobbied this thing all across the state to try to get as much money as we could. And that is not what we did.

[Catcalls. Crosstalk]

---You could end their disclosure agreement.

ERIC: I’m a little, I feel that there’s definitely a contradiction then in what you’re telling us or at least in what I understand you’re to be saying. On one hand you’re saying that you want to serve the students best and that you had an offer on the table of a certain amount. And that that money could be used to better the goals of the university as they relate to providing for your students.
PRIVETT: Well that money and we would be able to recoup what we were investing in the radio station in terms of space and monies to ensure that that space and those monies had a direct payoff for our students. This is what they pay their tuition for.

---Students listen to the radio!

PRIVETT: They don’t pay their tuition for us to run the radio station as a valuable resource for the community. ---How do you know? Did you ask them?

PRIVETT: Their parents pay tuition for their education. That’s just the bottom line. You need to understand that. You may not like that. That’s the position I’m in.

[Catcalls]
--Radio is media.

ERIC: If I like or not is inconsequential at this point. I’m just trying to understand the decision.

PRIVETT: Well that’s, that was the basis of the decision.

ERIC: And so then my second part, if you were trying to get the most for your students, it behooves you then to get the most money that you can. Then you should be acting as Enron or Chevron. But you don’t cut your own throat...

PRIVETT: You got the contradiction, not me. You don’t want us to act like Enron but then you tell us we should?

ERIC: No, no, you’re telling me that...

PRIVETT: I don’t understand the question.

[crosstalk]

ERIC: If, if you operate as a business...

PRIVETT: Yeah.

ERIC: ...your first goal is...

PRIVETT: Yeah. We do operate as a business. We don’t operate as a cutthroat business.

ERIC: Yes. Your first goal is to your shareholders. As your first goal...

PRIVETT: To our students. --Whatever.
ERIC: Your first goal as a business is to your shareholders. You first goal of a university is to your students. If the monetary reward of selling this station is, that is the benefit to your students, then your duty should be to get as much money as possible. But it’s. But I’m just, my reaction and how I interpret this is that it was much easier and it was far easier to disallow any public discourse by just accepting a bid that came on the table and as soon as you sign this, that nondisclosure agreement, you can then prohibit any public discussion. So the bare fact of wanting more money was not necessarily the goal as it was to preclude public discourse in this decision.

[Applause]

MCDONALD: We have on deck Tomas Palermo, then Kathy Harr. Tomas and then Kathy Harr.

TOMAS PALERMO: Good evening Father Privett. I’m Tomas Palermo. I’ve been a, I’ve been a volunteer producer at KUSF for 15 years. Prior to that, a volunteer producer at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles for 8 years. So I have a little bit of experience with, you know, college radio under my belt. First though, I just want to, on behalf of all our volunteer dj’s and producers, acknowledge all the listeners who came out tonight to support the station.

[Applause]

PALERMO: As well as the bands, and artists, and the record labels, and the theater people, and also the [unintelligible].

[Applause]

PALERMO: For all of us dj’s that had the opportunity to play your music or promote your artists or in any way, uh, help or impact your small business we thank you for that opportunity. And we also thank you for the underwriting dollars that you pledged to this university to keep the radio station on the air. So thank you for those.

[Applause]

PALERMO: Thank you for your contributions over the 15 years that I was on the air because it would be a falsehood to say that the university alone, uh, funded or supported the radio station. In fact it was the volunteer efforts of hundreds of individuals. Students, former students and alumni, uh, just your average community people who basically went out and on their own time went out and raised money for the university by way of this radio station. So we would hope that you
would acknowledge that contribution to enriching the university, not only through our volunteerism but also through actually raising hard cash dollars for the university. Do you understand that?

PRIVETT: I was very happy to do that and I tried to do that in my opening comments where I acknowledged the volunteers and the listeners. Yes. And we’re grateful for that. We’re moving into a new mode.

[catcalls]

PALERMO: Going forward, going forward sir. I would ask you as a man of faith, and a man of virtue, and a man of morals, probably as a man who prays, to take seriously the passion and emotion in this room and incorporate that in a process where the people sitting in this auditorium have more of a voice in what KUSF becomes in the future so that we won’t feel disempowered again and reverse this and come, and go back to an FM broadcasting radio station. At the very least, that would be a concession.

PRIVETT: We’re not going to go back to the broadcasting mode. We’re moving into an online streaming. Unless, unless the case is postponed with the FCC. And I think in fairness to you I want to make sure the dean and the faculty have an opportunity to review the curriculum, design the curriculum, etc. etc. as is their primary responsibility. And the consideration will be involvement of the community. But as I said before, very frankly, the primary focus is going to be a more robust learning experience for our students. That’s going to be the primary focus moving forward. Secondarily...

---Whoa, whoa Father, go back to radio?

PALERMO: Sorry just in conclusion, this is my final question actually to all of the students in the audience, which is: Would you trust this person with other decisions about your well-being and [unintelligible]

[ yelling ]
--No!
--Hell no!
--I respected you!

MCDONALD: Kathy Harr, then Harrison Chastain.

KATHY HARR: Can I hold the microphone please? It's really hard to modulate my voice when I can't hold the microphone.

I graduated from another Jesuit University with a degree in Communications and I came here to USF, to KUSF, involved here in the 90s, I was not a USF student. I taught your students. That was my contribution to your school. Not only did I have fun at the radio station, did I spend like 30 hours a week there for four years, but I
took my knowledge, real world knowledge, the kind of knowledge that students are not going to get from a student-only online radio station and taught people about business, and more importantly, I think we taught people about how to get along with each other, because that's always the big lesson at KUSF. [LAUGHTER] I gave a lot of my time not just for myself or for the music or for the listeners, but also because of the students. We were really good at involving students when I was at KUSF in the early 90s in part because we were mandated to do so and we went out and did it. I picked the guy with a T-shirt out of the cafeteria and made him my successor. So I just wanted to say that I gave to your students, and sorry Harry D, if I was involved with KUSF right now I wouldn't go and run their little online station until they get it up and running and kick the non-students out. I would walk away now, while it's still clean.

[APPLAUSE]

HARR: I can't help but see all of this as a way to get rid of this "problem" of community involvement here on campus. There's been a lot of history of that. And I do want to say, I'm a really good fundraiser now, and I would have been happy to be involved in an effort to buy the station, and I would also have been happy over the years to be involved in having the community pay their fare share of the expenses of the station, had we ever been allowed to do a fundraiser, had we ever been allowed to reach out to the community, over the airwaves that belong to you, we could have paid our share of the expenses for your station, and probably given more back to your school than you could have imagined.

[APPLAUSE]

HARRISON CHASTAIN: Good evening Father, glad you were able to make it this evening. You didn't have to come out here to hear the comments from the community, so I'm glad that you're out. That said, I have two points I want to make. There's a perception among many people in the technology community that everybody has access to the internet -- that's not necessarily the case. Many people who listen to KUSF are low income people who don't have access to the internet, can't afford broadband connections, can't afford smart phones. My first question is, How will they listen to the new KUSF? And my second point, you're saying that you would like USF to concentrate on the education mission and you want to get USF away from the peripherals like running a radio station. I want to know how will the decision to take KUSF off the air affect the broadcast of the basketball program - both the mens and womens programs - and secondly if you want to get rid of peripherals, will the soccer program, the basketball program, and the baseball program, which has been successful at USF be next on the list since they don't contribute directly to student education, and as you say since many of the people who send their children here are not paying $50,000 a year to have a soccer, basketball, or baseball program?

[APPLAUSE]
PRIVETT: The difference between the athletic program and the radio station is the athletic program is 100% student participation. The radio station is not. [yelling] So the funding for athletics directly and immediately support every USF teams is entirely made up of USF students. First question, I'm well aware of the inequities with regard to access. That's a national problem we can't solve, and that's a shortcoming of what we're gonna do. And I acknowledge it, I think it's regrettable, I think it's not a USF problem, I think it's a national problem. I think it has just as much to do with access to healthcare and access to education as it does about access to the internet and it is poor people who get excluded from numerous opportunities in this country which is a problem that has to be addressed. It's not a problem we can solve by ourselves.

[yelling]

TED HUDACKO: Good evening father, I didn't expect to have the last word, and I'm going to take a little bit of a different approach. I hope you can help me understand a few things. I have actually here the FCC application for renewal of broadcast license which was I believe completed by the station sometime in 2009, the license runs to December of 2013. Box number 3, "if this application has been submitted without a fee, indicate reason for fee exemption," and it references title 47 of the federal code which governs telecommunications, and you've checked here "non-commercial educational licensee." You were given the license for this station without paying any money yet you've made $3.75 Million. Kind of a neat trick.

PRIVETT: Made what, I didn't catch that?

HUDACKO: $3.75 Million is what you quoted the sale of the station?

PRIVETT: Yeah.

HUDACKO: So, um, I'm just trying to understand. There's gonna be a couple of specific questions, but in a general thing, we've got a gross profit on basically this license for this FM Spectrum, um, really incredible gain right there for a public common good. Let me continue please, so um, and I'm not an attorney but this does mention again, telecommunications code, so through the miracle of internet on your phone I looked a few things up, one thing in here, and I'm not gonna go full chapter and verse here, but a non-commercial educational FM broadcast station will be licensed only to a non-profit educational organization and upon showing that the station will be used for the advancement of an educational program. Now I understand you've transferred the license to USC, I don't quite understand how a Southern California University benefits from having the license up here in San Francisco and it seems like you've denied that educational benefit locally.
PRIVETT: It's a non-commercial public broadcasting facility that's gonna do classical music. The opera, etc, etc, so the question should probably be directed to USC.

HUDACKO: Okay, well, let me continue. A few more paragraphs down here, so actually I'm gonna paraphrase, and actually I turned on the station, I turned on 90.3FM and I did hear classical music, and so if I'm to understand correctly someone paid $3.75 Million to you or the university so that was the consideration for them to broadcast this classical music on the station for which you or the university holds the license. As I read here, "A non-commercial educational FM broadcast station may broadcast programs produced by or at the expense of or furnished by persons other than the licensee if no other consideration than the furnishing of the program and the cost incidental to its production and broadcast are received by the licensee." Now I would think that $3.75 Million is far in excess of the cost to produce the programming that's now going out. So please help me to understand how this actually works.

[CROSS TALK]

PRIVETT: I think you have to take this up with the FCC. I'm not a lawyer either and I don't know all the particulars of the detail. But this is why the process so you have the qualifications and the process will allow representation to the FCC. I don't have the answers to your questions. I'm not a lawyer. So I can't help you.

HUDACKO: $3.75 Million seems like consideration for the privilege of someone else to broadcast their material over the station for which you hold the license. Now you also agreed at the time you submitted this application to abide by certain conduct and not misrepresent facts. You also said that you didn't enter into this deal for the sale of the station haphazardly or quickly, so one would guess, did they renew the license in 2009 knowing that you were going to sell the station?

PRIVETT: No, the offer came across my desk about I think maybe 3 or 4 months ago.

[yelling]

UNKNOWN
Steve Runyon said 5 years ago.

PRIVETT: That was a separate offer.

UNKNOWN
By the same station though.

PRIVETT: Can I finish? You know the answers then, I can't tell you. Can I tell you?
[yelling, yes]

PRIVETT: We had an offer, I think about 5 or 6 years ago

UNKNOWN From who?

PRIVETT: From KUSC. We turned it down. It was unacceptable to us. [yelling] The next time we were approached it was not by KUSC it was by the broker, I forget what they're called. Independent Broadcasting Corporation or something like that. We didn't even know it was KUSC until after we had signed the non-disclosure. When you get into these kinds of.

UNKNOWN Why was the staff told last year we were move. We were told we were moving last January?

PRIVETT: Because, we were remodeling Phelan Hall...

[yelling]

PRIVETT: If you walk into Phelan Hall, you will see that the ground floor is being completely remodeled. Last January it was clear that because of the surplus of students that we needed more beds for our resident students. KUSF was going to be moved out of what had previously been student rooms and were going to be returned to student rooms and we were thinking of relocating KUSF perhaps even off campus. That's what the warning was about last January, it had nothing to do with the proposed sale of the station. That's the truth. Whether you want to believe it or not is up to you. Thank you for your time [inaudible].

[Booing, "shame on you."]

[END OF MEETING]