

Questions Columbia Journalism Review failed to answer

1. On or about what date did you first agree to run a joint project with The Nation on climate change?
2. When you spoke to author Duncan Campbell on 10 April 2019 about conflicts of interest affecting potentially affecting the CJR report on The Nation, why did you not mention this relationship with The Nation?
3. Do you recall sitting with The Nation editor Katrina van den Heuvel on 30 April 2019 at Columbia to launch the joint climate change project?
4. How much money did you and/or Columbia receive from the Rockefeller Foundation for this project during 2019 and 2020, directly and/or shared with The Nation?
5. How much money did you and/or Columbia receive from the Schumann Center for Media and Democracy for this project during 2019 and 2020, directly and/or shared with The Nation?
6. How much money did you and/or Columbia receive from other donors for this project during 2019 and 2020, directly and/or shared with The Nation?
7. How much money did you and/or Columbia receive from The Nation, Katrina van den Heuvel and/or her charitable foundations during 2019 and 2020?
8. Why did you choose not to inform or have informed the author Mr Campbell of the relationship you had created or the funds you were thereby receiving, either during your conversation on 10 April 2019 or at any time before seeking to kill the story in August 2020?
9. Did the creation of a relationship with the major subject of a critical report you had commissioned raise concern in your mind about the risk of conflict of interest, or the risk of perception of a conflict of interest?
10. Do you think that you should have recused yourself from editing an article about Katrina van den Heuvel after you created and promoted the project relationship, and taking paid commissions from The Nation? If not, please explain why not.
11. If your response is that the developing personal situation between Katrina van den Heuvel and yourself did not create a conflict of interest, please explain your point of view.
12. Please disclose the contents of a note you received from Katrina van den Heuvel on or before 16 May 2019, which you told your deputy Betsy Morais expressed concerns about the report you had commissioned from Mr Campbell. Please disclose the reply you sent, and any related further correspondence about the article on the Nation.
13. Is it correct that Ms Morais carried out an edit of the article to her satisfaction in June 2019, and that it was not then ready for publication on 6 August 2020. If that is not correct what do you say the correct dates and events were?
14. Is it correct that during that period you re-edited and cut the article on multiple The Nation? If that is not correct what editorial changes do you say you made and required?

15. Do you recall that on 4 August 2020 you started a fresh round of editing of the article, including making the following directions:
- a. I think it's only fair to point out some of the ways the nation has excelled under her [van den Heuvel]
 - b. Removing a quotation from her former deputy George Black about her privileged and wealthy background.
 - c. Removing a similar quotation from her predecessor Victor Navasky,
 - d. Removing a fact-checked statement in 2009 she and Stephen Cohen travelled to Moscow to attend a ceremony in which he received the "Russian Order of Friendship" award from Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov, Russia's service Foreign Minister under President Putin.
 - e. Removing statements that after the fall of Communism, Cohen's classes at Princeton had fallen dramatically and that he had started writing about golfing.
 - f. Removing sections of the report that stated that Van den Heuvel had been warned that a story by Patrick Lawrence was wrong and explaining how and why Lawrence's story for The Nation was founded on fabrication.
 - g. Removing further sections of the report that stated that a review she had commissioned after publication had determined that the report by Patrick Lawrence had "no evidence" to support it.
 - h. Removed a section which stated that The Nation had never covered the Mueller report save to claim that it had "no evidence"
 - i. Commented that the article was "too long and is too detailed given that that the story is 2 years old ... need to cut way back".

Are these points also your understanding of what you said and did? If not, what are the correct facts in your recall and understanding?

16. Do you recall that on 5 August 2020 you had a conversation with your deputy Ms Morais during which:
- a. You shared with her private information you had been given that Stephen Cohen was sick.
 - b. Directed her that the story concerning The Nation needed "dramatically cutting and reframing" and that if the author did not agree to offer a kill fee to drop the story.
17. To what extent would you say your working relationship with the subject of the story in 2019 and 2020 affected your editorial approach to the report on "The Nation's Russia Problem"?
18. Would you wish to add any further comments for publication?

5 February 2023