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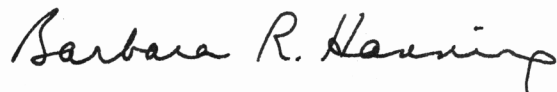
To Whom It May Concern:

In response to your inquiry, I am writing to say that it is common practice in my department for long-time colleagues to greet one another with a hug or an embrace on certain occasions--for example, at the beginning of the school year, after not having seen one another all summer. This happens irrespective of rank, gender, or age.

In addition, in my capacity as department chairperson, I have also in this same manner congratulated a colleague on becoming a parent, on signing a record contract, or on receiving a promotion; and I have been similarly treated by my Dean and by other high-level administrators, both in public and in the privacy of an office.

I resent such behavior from a complete stranger; but as an expression of support and friendship within a close-knit academic community, such as a department, I welcome it.

Sincerely yours,



(Professor) Barbara R. Hanning
Chair, Department of Music