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OUR VIEWS

Coleman's departure a watershed

Friday's resignation of an embattled Carla Coleman, who was head of Florida Atlantic University's fundraising office, was a good step for Florida Atlantic University.

Her lawyer, Kenneth Lipman, says she's leaving "in the best interests of both the university and herself."

The office she leaves is under criminal investigation to determine whether FAU Foundation or other funds were funneled to the family of former FAU President Dr. Anthony Catanese for the purchase of that now-infamous red Corvette as a going-away present last summer.

But Coleman is no stranger to controversy.

Against the backdrop of a stalled economy and meager raises for faculty members, Coleman recommended – and got – a salary increase from \$141,000 to \$185,000 a year for herself amid other raises for several co-workers.

Coleman said her raise was justified by the \$200 million capital campaign she led, but it appears no one really knows what the foundation's financial standing is. An outside auditor is currently reviewing the situation.

Whether or not she is guilty of anything, Coleman's removing herself from the maelstrom will help bring to an end a chapter in her career that, according to her attorney, has caused her great distress. It will allow her, the foundation and the university to move forward.

FAU President Frank Brogan, in accepting her resignation without protest, reinforced that the school is serious about putting its financial house in order and regaining donor confidence.

Coleman's resignation will take effect in 60 days. The sooner this crisis is settled, the more quickly FAU can get back to the business of educating students, conducting research and realizing its potential as one of Florida's premier academic institutions.