

OCUFA

Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

April 4, 2016

Hon. Reza Moridi
Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Mowat Block, 3rd Floor
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Moridi,

I am writing to draw your attention to recent events at the Carleton University Board of Governors, in the context of broader concerns regarding governance practices at universities across the province.

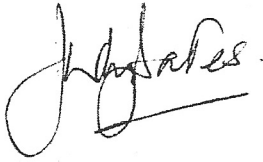
For some time now, OCUFA's members – the 28 faculty associations that represent 17,000 university professors and academic librarians across the province – have been raising concerns about the transparency and openness of governance processes and the accountability of governance bodies to their university communities. A robust model of collegial governance is central to the vitality of every university in Ontario.

Recent events at Carleton make clear that the model of collegial governance is not functioning as it should. Despite attention and numerous objections from throughout the campus community, the Board of Governors at Carleton University continues to have in place a Code of Conduct that prohibits any member of the Board from speaking publicly about non-confidential matters discussed by the Board – effectively placing a gag order on any member of the university community who chooses to serve on this important democratic governance body. This policy makes it difficult for the students, faculty, and staff to hold the Board of Governors to account for their decisions. The principles of transparency and openness are seriously compromised as a result.

OCUFA is committed to identifying and addressing the shortcomings with existing university governance processes – both at Carleton and across the province. By bringing this broad matter and the particular details of the experience at Carleton to your attention, I hope to open up a

dialogue on this issue between OCUFA and your office so that we can work together to identify appropriate solutions for addressing the governance challenges faced by universities across the province, while recognizing that universities in Ontario are autonomous, self-governing institutions.

Sincerely,



Judy Bates
President, OCUFA

- c. Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy and MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean
- Pum van Veldhoven, President, Carleton University Academic Staff Association