



Université d'Ottawa • University of Ottawa

Faculté des sciences
Chimie

Faculty of Science
Chemistry

February 22, 2006

Re: PHY1703

Since September, 2005, much has been written and said regarding the transformation of PHY1703 into the so-called *Activism Course*. This issue has become increasingly prominent given Professor Denis Rancourt's recent "open letters" to various members of the University of Ottawa administration.

We, the Chairs of all five departments of the Faculty of Science, firmly believe that the actions taken by Dean Christian Detellier have been done in the best interests of the Faculty and the University. Furthermore, Professor Rancourt's unsubstantiated allegations regarding the Dean of Science are entirely inconsistent with our own numerous experiences dealing with Dean Detellier. Though we reserve judgment on the *Activism Course*, we are in complete agreement that Professor Rancourt's self-proclaimed "academic squatting" is an entirely inappropriate approach to curriculum change. A well-established protocol is in place for the creation of new courses, and this approach must be followed if our Faculty and University are to retain their academic credibility.

We find it unfortunate that this incident has garnered so much attention when so many of our researchers, teachers, students, and support staff are doing wonderful things that are truly so much more deserving of this attention.

Professor Steve Perry, Chair, Department of Biology

Professor Alain St-Amant, Chair, Department of Chemistry

Professor Keiko Hattori, Chair, Department of Earth Sciences

Professor Michel Racine, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Professor Richard Hodgson, Chair, Department of Physics