

August 1-3, 2009

## Petition in support of Denis Rancourt from professional Earth scientists and esteemed geoscience researchers and professors

The Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) is a major international professional association of Earth scientists. It maintains a voluntary email listserve for its members, the MSA-Talk list. Former physics professor Denis Rancourt is a member of MSA-Talk.

On August 1, 2009, Denis Rancourt sent this message to the list, with subject line "sometimes when mineralogists become administrators...":

Dear colleagues,

..

I was fired from my tenured professorship on March 31, 2009, in what is considered a major academic freedom case in Canada.

..

See background, letters of support, petitions, videos, media articles, etc., here:

<http://rancourt.academicfreedom.ca/>

..

Read my statement (it has been read more than 10,000 times):

<http://www.zmag.org/znet/viewArticle/21178>

..

Unfortunately, my dean, a mineralogist, played a less than admirable role - see my recent report based on an ATI (access to information) request:

<http://uofowatch.blogspot.com/2009/08/u-of-os-discovery-of-instant.html>

..

(The ironic tone is in response to the university's many glib statements about transparency, ethical management, and the like.)

..

I believe that professional scientists must speak out against all such institutional malfeasance, via our professional associations, and via all venues available to us. The closer it is, the more we must speak out. We cannot separate science from politics and to attempt to do so is an inherently political act.

..

Denis G. Rancourt

In response, in the next two days, several esteemed geoscientists sent these messages either to the full MSA-Talk list or to Dr. Rancourt's support committee, usually with the subject "Reinstatement of Denis Rancourt":

- 
- Please add my name to the petition to reinstate physics professor Denis Rancourt, who was recently dismissed from his tenured position at the University of Ottawa. Thank you.

**Dennis Eberl, PhD  
Boulder, CO  
USA**

---

- likewise add my name, Alex Navrotsky
- Dennis Eberl wrote:  
Please add my name to the petition to reinstate physics professor Denis Rancourt, who was recently dismissed from his tenured position at the University of Ottawa. Thank you.

**Alexandra Navrotsky  
Director, NEAT ORU  
Edward Roessler Chair in Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
Distinguished Professor of Ceramic, Earth, and Environmental Materials Chemistry  
Peter A Rock Thermochemistry Laboratory and NEAT ORU  
University of California at Davis**

---

- Mine too: Clive R. Neal
- On Aug 2, 2009, at 6:13 PM, Alex Navrotsky wrote:  
likewise add my name, Alex Navrotsky
- Dennis Eberl wrote:  
Please add my name to the petition to reinstate physics professor Denis Rancourt, who was recently dismissed from his tenured position at the University of Ottawa. Thank you.

**Clive R. Neal  
Department of Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences  
University of Notre Dame**

---

- Please add my name to support Dennis Eberl's petition to reinstate physics professor Denis Rancourt, who was recently dismissed from his tenured position at the University of Ottawa. There is nothing in the public record to justify his abrupt removal without even a hearing before a faculty committee. The dismissal seems to be clearly a violation of the principles of academic freedom unrelated to his performance as a faculty member.

**John Rosenfeld  
Professor Emeritus of Geology  
Department of Earth and Space Sciences  
University of California, Los Angeles**

---

---

Hello,

- I would like to have my name added to the petition to reinstate Denis Rancourt at the University of Ottawa.

Thank you,

**Jim Harsh**  
**Professor of Crop & Soil Sciences**  
**Washington State University**

---

- I wish to have my name added to the petition to reinstate Denis Rancourt.
- Jayanta

**(DR. JAYANTA KUMAR PATI)**  
**Reader**  
**Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences**  
**Nehru Science Centre**  
**University of Allahabad**  
**INDIA**

---

- Please add also my name to the petition to reinstate physics professor Denis Rancourt, who was recently dismissed from his tenured position at the University of Ottawa.

Thank you.

**Claudio Mazzoli**

**Prof. Claudio Mazzoli**  
**Dip. di Geoscienze,**  
**Univ. di Padova**  
**ITALY**

---

- Please add my signature to the online petition to reinstate Denis Rancourt.

Thank you for your help.

Warmest regards,  
**Joshua Feinberg**

**Assistant Professor**  
**Department of Geology and Geophysics**  
**Associate Director of the Institute for Rock Magnetism**  
**University of Minnesota**

---

- 
- Add my name to the petition please

**David Bertolacci,  
Professional Geologist  
Riverside, CA**

---

- Please add my name to the petition for the above purpose. (Reinstate Denis rancourt!)
- Thanks,  
DC

**D.C. Golden (PhD)  
Principal Scientist  
ESC / ARES/NASA  
Houston, Texas**

---