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Msr. Marc Jolicoeur
Chairman of the Board of Governors
University of Ottawa
550 Cumberland St.
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5, Canada

Dear Msr. Jolicoeur,

I am writing to voice my disbelief and outrage at the University of Ottawa's recent action against Professor Denis Rancourt. The firing of Professor Rancourt, a full, tenured professor, is a blatant attack on his academic freedom, the academic freedom of the students that he has taught over the years, as well as it threatens the freedom of all academics who believe that the classroom is a space for open engagement with controversial and critical topics.

I have followed Professor Rancourt's teaching methods, as well as his case, and recognize many of his techniques in my own teaching. I admire Professor Rancourt's pedagogical approach to science education, especially his recognition and inclusion of the political and the social in physics education—he acknowledges and emphasizes that science is not 'neutral' or 'value-free' in the very methods that he uses. The work of a scientist is always political and always embedded in the society within which he lives. I find it truly shocking that the University of Ottawa, by firing Professor Rancourt, has violated, with impunity, the very principles of academic freedom said to be upheld by your institution.

I give my full and unqualified support to Professor Rancourt and his reinstatement at the University of Ottawa.

Mary Ebeling, PhD
Drexel University