



9 April 2009

Office of the President
Attn: Dr. Allan Rock
University of Ottawa
Tabaret Hall
550 Cumberland, Room 212
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5
Fax: (613)-562-5103

Re: Professor Denis Rancourt

Dear President,

According to the National Post (6 April, 2009, A3), Professor Denis Rancourt was fired because he allocated A+ grades to his advanced physics class. According to that report Professor Rancourt's rationale presumed enhanced performance if the students were given the opportunity to follow the natural ability to learn.

Professor Rancourt's assumptions are valid and have been shown to be maximally effective in advanced classes where the fundamentals of the area have been achieved. I have employed this method in advanced courses in Neuropharmacology and Quantitative Neuroscience with remarkable success. The students in those advanced classes in which a course grade of A was given a priori displayed exceptional creativity and technical capacity within the classroom. Their research, even as undergraduates, was of sufficient quality to be published in referred journals.

Although ceiling grades would not be applicable for all courses, it is important to encourage a wide spectrum of pedagogical strategies that benefit the maximum development of students. Consequently, on behalf of the professors and senior students of the Behavioural Neuroscience Program I support Professor Rancourt's reinstatement as professor.

Thank you

M. A. Persinger, Ph.D.
Full Professor

cc: Professor Denis Rancourt
Dr. James Turk, CAUT