

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Letter in opposition to University of Ottawa's intent to dismiss Prof. Rancourt
From: John Hollingsworth
Date: Mon, 30 March, 2009 11:05 am
To: Allan Rock
Cc: "Ottawa-Outaouais IWW" <>

March 29, 2009

Dear Hon. Allan Rock,

The Ottawa-Outaouais General Membership Branch of the Industrial Workers of the World write in protest of the University of Ottawa's intention to dismiss Professor Denis Rancourt.

The university's stated grounds for dismissal—saying he was awarding high grades to all at the beginning of one course—do not justify his removal. Instead, we see this move to fire Dr. Rancourt, an outstanding teacher, academic and researcher by all standards, as a pretext for removing a passionate academic reformer and advocate for pedagogy that does not rely on the carrot-and-stick approach of the current system.

Dr. Rancourt's dismissal is not only an attack on academic freedom, but it is an attack on academic workers' rights. The university's argument that Dr. Rancourt put the reputation and credibility of the university at risk is not credible. Indeed, the university's brutal treatment of Dr. Rancourt and its insistence on his dismissal is the gravest threat to the university's reputation as a place for critical thinking and respect for academic staff.

We demand the University of Ottawa Board of Governors and President reinstate Dr. Rancourt without penalty and ensure he has the academic freedom and respect for his rights as a worker to provide education worth having to this and subsequent generations.

In solidarity with Dr. Rancourt,

John Hollingsworth
Secretary-Treasurer,
IWW Ottawa-Outaouais General Membership Branch
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Date: Tue, Mar 31, 2009 at 12:26 AM
Subject: Reinstate Dr. Rancourt
To: allan.rock
Cc: claude.cde

To: University of Ottawa President Allan Rock

March 31, 2009

Dear President Rock,

I am writing to protest the University of Ottawa's planned dismissal of Professor Denis Rancourt on behalf of the General Defense Committee Local 6 of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).

The university's claim that Dr. Rancourt's assignment of high grades on the first day of one of his classes damages the university's credibility is an exaggerated pretext for removing a passionate professor dedicated to high quality teaching and research as well as academic reform.

To fire Dr. Rancourt on these weak grounds is a signal that education workers' rights and academic freedom at the University of Ottawa are under threat. We are gravely concerned that removing Dr. Rancourt will amplify the climate of fear and intimidation that has built up on campus and among faculty members due to the university's heavy-handed tactics in this dispute.

The General Defense Committee urges the university to accept Dr. Rancourt's offer to resolve this conflict through mediation. It also demands that the University of Ottawa end its suspension of Dr. Rancourt and restore him to his position immediately with no penalty.

For the reinstatement of Dr. Rancourt,

Peter Moore
Secretary-Treasurer
General Defense Committee Local 6
Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)
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