

Allan Rock

From: Seamus Wolfe [President@sfuo.ca]
Sent: Wednesday March 17, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Allan Rock
Cc: 'Gaétan-Philippe Beaulière'; APUOPRES; 'Sean Kelly'; president@psuo-ssuo.ca; aptpuo@uottawa.ca; redaction@larotonde.ca; 'Emma Godmere, Fulcrum Editor-in-Chief'
Subject: RE: Ann Coulter on uOttawa Campus

Mr. Allan Rock
 President and Vice-Chancellor
 University of Ottawa
 Ottawa (Ontario), K1N 6N5

RE: Ann Coulter on uOttawa Campus

Dear Mr. Rock,

I write to you today with a serious concern regarding the right of our students to a safe, welcome, and respectful campus. It has come to my attention that, outside of the programming of the University, Ann Coulter will be speaking on our campus in Marion Auditorium on Tuesday of next week. This presents a worrying situation for many students on campus against whom and against whose communities Ms. Coulter has promoted hatred.

Ms. Coulter has, on numerous and frequent occasions, been responsible for comments attacking the Muslim faith as inherently violent and leading to terrorism; the Jewish faith by calling for its adherents to be converted and 'perfected'; numerous ethnicities by advocating their expulsion from America; women for being incapable of reason or political engagement; and much more. As a campus which promotes a right to respect, diversity, and multiculturalism, a figure of such offense, hatred, and oppression has no place in our community.

Universities are a place of free speech and open dialogue. We have been proud to advocate in favor of unfettered free speech in the past and will continue to do so. Yet the right to free speech is grounded in a foundation of the mutual respect of the rights of others to the same liberal freedoms – namely, freedom from discrimination based upon religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, national or ethnic origin, social condition, and more – freedoms which Ms. Coulter both refuses to recognize and actively seeks to undermine. We would not seek to restrict the right of Ms. Coulter to speak her mind – we would note that as a community we do not appreciate or support her disrespectful and discriminatory rhetoric, and that such hatred should not be welcome on our campus.

It is with these concerns in mind that I write to you today, asking you to assist in the preservation of the culture of our campus and the right of our students to enjoy that culture free of discrimination and oppression. I would request that you notify Ms. Coulter that she is not welcome on our campus, and that her event will not occur on uOttawa property.

Cc: GSAED, CUPE 2626, APUO, APTPUO, SSUO, La Rotonde, The Fulcrum

Sincerely,

Seamus Wolfe
 Président - President
 Fédération étudiante de l'Université d'Ottawa
 Student Federation of the University of Ottawa
 t. 613.562.5966 / www.feuo.ca / www.sfuoc.ca
 Section 41 de la Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants
 Local 41 of the Canadian Federation of Students