

AFFIDAVIT

In the matter of the University of Ottawa's treatment of Professor Denis G. Rancourt

AFFIDAVIT OF ABLA ABDELHADI

I, Abla Abdelhadi of the City of Ottawa, Ontario, MAKE AFFIRM AND SAY:

1. I hold a B.A. Honours Philosophy, Summa Cum Laude, from the University of Ottawa where I graduated in 2001. I also hold a M.A. Philosophy from Queen's University (2002). I am presently registered as a Special Student in the Department of Sociology at Carleton University.
2. Jennifer Maclatchy is a student in Human Rights and Women's Studies at Carleton University. I have know her since 2007. We first met in October of 2007 in the context of training at the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa and we have continued to keep in regular contact on a cooperative and friendly basis.
3. Jennifer Maclatchy shared an apartment (i.e. was a roommate) with Maureen Robinson in academic years 2007-2008 at an apartment in Centretown Ottawa on Cooper Street. They no longer are roommates but continue to be friends. Maureen Robinson was a student in the Faculty of Science, University of Ottawa.
4. Over the years, I have participated in several student and community events offered by the University of Ottawa and hosted on its campus; including several lectures of the so-called Activism Course (SCI 1101, Science in Society, taught by Professor Denis Rancourt in the fall 2006 semester) and the Ottawa Cinema Politica (OCP) documentary film and discussion series hosted by Professor Denis Rancourt since the fall 2005.
5. Professor Rancourt is involved in many such academic and community outreach activities that relate to social justice issues and institutional criticism and it is generally known, via several media articles reporting grievances, discipline, and administrative decisions, that the administration is frustrated by these efforts and has opposed the initiatives of Professor Rancourt.
6. In a conversation about Ottawa Cinema Politica, that occurred after a collective meeting for the Sexual Assault Centre of Ottawa (held monthly) on January 15, 2008, Jennifer Maclatchy stated the following points:
 - (a) Ms. Maclatchy said that her roommate, Maureen Robinson, was hired to gather information about the Activism course, Professor Rancourt, and community members who were supporting Dr. Rancourt's efforts to reinstate the course.
 - (b) Ms. Maclatchy said that Maureen Robinson had a previous working relationship with the Dean of the Faculty of Science [Mr. André E. Lalonde], who had approached her to do a job for the administration.
 - (c) Ms. Maclatchy stated that Maureen Robinson at one point boasted to her about how privileged she felt to get the chance to read Dr. Rancourt's email exchanges with the Dean.
 - (d) Ms. Maclatchy stated that Maureen Robinson not only had her own office in the Faculty of Science, but that the Faculty of Science also provided Maureen Robinson with "very fancy office supplies and furniture". Jennifer Maclatchy said that the Faculty of Science even got her "up to \$500 worth of printer cartridges".
 - (e) Ms. Maclatchy also said that among the tasks that Maureen Robinson was asked to perform was to find out when various students or community members were planning to attend hearings [or committee or council meetings] about the Activism Course. Ms. Maclatchy stated that on at least two occasions Maureen Robinson found this out and informed the Dean, who consequently cancelled the hearings so Dr. Rancourt would not have people there to support his case.
 - (f) Ms. Maclatchy stated that Maureen Robinson created a false Facebook account for herself to spy on community members such as Jane Scharf and others. Ms. Maclatchy said that she does not know "if the university specifically asked her [Maureen Robinson] to spy through facebook, but I know they did hire her for the purpose of helping them find information". Ms. Maclatchy stated that Maureen Robinson's false Facebook name was "Nathalie Page" and Jennifer Maclatchy told me the picture there was also fake.
 - (g) I expressed my disbelief to Ms. Maclatchy that anyone would accept a job that basically aimed to discredit a Professor who was providing the space for students and community members to discuss critical social justice issues at a University Campus.
 - (h) In response, Ms. Maclatchy stated that "Maureen somehow doesn't feel like she's being used by the science department because being paid well and been given her own office on campus".
7. On February 19, 2008, I had another conversation with Jennifer Maclatchy during which she repeated most or all of the above points (from the January 15, 2008, conversation) to a third individual, Ms. Zlata Kovaltchouk. The February 19, 2008, conversation took place after another collective meeting of the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa, while the three of us were on the #2 OC Transpo Bus going towards Centretown.
8. Ms. Kovaltchouk was a 4th year Psychology student at Carleton University at the time, she is now enrolled in the M.A. Psychology program at Carleton University.
9. In the February 19, 2008, conversation Ms. Maclatchy repeated the above story about how her room mate Maureen Robinson was hired by the Science Department to spy on Professor Rancourt and community members who were supporting his efforts to reinstate the Activism course, including reading Professor Rancourt's emails and searching for information on facebook on planned activities of student and community members involved in supporting Professor Rancourt. Ms. Maclatchy repeated how Maureen Robinson was paid generously for her efforts to spy on Professor Rancourt with office space and expensive office supplies.

Sworn and affirmed before me at the City of
Ottawa, Ontario, on

Oct 01, 2008



Abla Abdelhadi

(Signature of deponent)