

October 11, 2005

G-1

Louise Pagé-Valin
Associate Vice-President
Human Resources Services
University of Ottawa
Tabaret Hall
INTRA

copy for DGR

Dear Mrs. Pagé-Valin:

Notice of grievance

I hereby file a notice of grievance with respect to Dean Detellier's actions of September 21, 2005 (suspension of PHY 1703) and the subsequent handling of the situation.

In-class intervention of September 21

(1) The Dean acted in a rash and irresponsible manner in cancelling the class of September 21, 2005. The Dean informed me of his decision to address the class and cancel the course only minutes before I had to leave for the start of the class, without giving me the occasion to explain myself or respond to the allegations. I ask that the Dean apologise to the class for all the disruptions that this caused. I also ask that the Dean explain what the perceived urgency was: What immediate danger did the students face? Finally, I ask for a written apology.

Improper teaching/course evaluation method

(2) The Dean's decision was based only on undisclosed student complaints and comparing the calendar description of the course with an unofficial promotional web site, after only one class, not on an objective assessment of what the class was actually about, irrespective of its unofficial promotional packaging to the community. I ask that the Dean acknowledge in writing that this is not a sound mechanism of teaching evaluation and that he refrains from such practice in the future.

Improper handling of student complaint(s)

(3) The Dean claimed he acted on student complaints (more than one) yet I have not been informed by the Dean of the nature and content of these complaints, not even their exact number. I ask to be shown all written complaints. I also ask that the Dean adopt a future procedure whereby he would always promptly show professors any complaints regarding their classes, out of respect for his colleagues.

Infringement on academic freedom PHY 1703

(4) The Dean's intervention and subsequent actions leading up to the signed letter of agreement that allowed the class to proceed without further interruptions, constitute infringement on academic freedom. I ask that the Dean recognise this in writing and resolve to be more respectful of academic freedom in the future.

Infringement on academic freedom PHY 8391-D

(5) The Dean's claims and interventions regarding the graduate course PHY 8391-D "Science and Society / Science et société" were made in the absence of any student or other complaints and without consulting the Department Council's approved description of this course. In addition to falling squarely out of the Dean of Science's academic jurisdiction, this constituted a violation of academic freedom. It was also highly unwarranted. I request a written apology and written assurances that the Dean will refrain from such behaviour in the future.

Accompanying documents: My letter of response to the Dean, student letters.

Sincerely,

8p.

29p.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denis Rancourt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Denis Rancourt
Department of Physics

cc: APUO
Dean C. Detellier