

This unprecedented administrative action is unacceptable and constitutes a clear breach of contract on the part of the University. There exists no internal rule or policy giving the administration power to accept or reject a student's registration on an ad hoc basis. University of Ottawa students in good standing (as is Marc Kelly) do not need administrative permission to register to their courses. The SAC has never previously witnessed such a case and cannot stand for this abuse of process.

The University's actions equate to unjustified punishment that would have been wrongly permitted had the thankfully abandoned student code of non-academic conduct introduced by ex-president Gilles Patry been adopted. Students revolted against the idea of such a code and when you took office you personally declared that you would not be pursuing its implementation.

Further, the University did not provide any explanation as to what 'disruptive' and 'unacceptable' behaviour consists of or any evidence of how Marc Kelly might have acted in those ways. The SAC has witnessed many of Marc Kelly's actions on campus and in no terms would qualify these actions as disruptive but rather as expressions of Mr. Kelly's fundamental rights such as the right to free expression and the right to protest. Must students once again remind the university administration that our campus is supposed to be a space for critical thinking and freedom of thought and that the guarantee of student participation in the collegial governance process includes political agency in all its socially and legally accepted forms?!

The University has unilaterally and without consultation decided what is supposedly in "everyone's interest." This paternalistic behaviour cannot be tolerated on a university campus.

The SAC requests that the administration revoke this letter immediately. We await your response by Friday December 4th at 9am.

Sincerely,

Zachary Fouchard, Student Appeal Officer
Mireille Gervais, Student Appeal Officer
Karine Hébert, Student Appeal Officer

Student Appeal Centre
appeals@sfuo.ca
tel: 613-562-5800 X 2350
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On Wed, Nov 4, 2009 at 11:07 AM, Allan Rock <Allan.Rock@uottawa.ca> wrote:

Officers of the Student Appeal Centre:

I received your communication of October 21. I have asked Diane Davidson, our Vice President, Governance, to review the matter you have raised. I am out of the country and return on November 12. I will discuss the matter with Diane Davidson on my return and respond to your emails as soon as possible.

Allan Rock

On 2009-11-03, at 4:26 PM, "Mireille Gervais" <case.cresac@sfuo.ca> wrote:

President Rock,

As Officers of Student Appeal Centre we have been waiting for your response to our important email of October 21, 2009 (pasted bellow) for twelve days.

Did you receive our email? Can you confirm that you received our email? When can we expect a response?

V.-P. Governance Diane Davidson spoke with Legal Council Alain Roussy concerning our email. Were any decisions made to address our concerns and requests?

Please respond to our emails at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Zachary Fouchard, Student Appeal Officer
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2009/10/21 Mireille Gervais <case.cresac@sfuo.ca>

President Rock,

We, the Student Appeal Centre Officers, are writing concerning the most serious case of targeted political discrimination suffered by a student at the hands of your administration. We trust you are well aware of undergraduate student Marc Kelly's case but refer you to the Appeal Centre's recent public posting concerning the contrived criminal charges currently pending against him: www.cresac.info/news.html

Marc Kelly was arrested by the Ottawa Police at the request of your administration for attempting to film a public Senate meeting. Marc Kelly was barred from all University of Ottawa property because he upheld our institution's values with regards to transparency!

Today, whereas Senate meetings are now filmed with videos of the proceedings posted online and whereas our University governance is more transparent, Marc Kelly continues to face bogus criminal charges and banishment from campus. How can you genuinely speak of improving the student experience when you know very well that there is a student who cannot enjoy normal campus life as a result of getting involved in university governance? How can you speak of an inclusive and diverse campus when you know that an undergraduate student is held away from campus as if he were a dangerous criminal?

Whereas class attendance is mandatory for all other students, the University is frustrating Marc Kelly's efforts to receive a quality education and achieve academic excellence. Is the University saying that courses can be completed without having students attend lectures? Is the University saying that on-line power point presentations and readings are sufficient for learning and that professors' teachings and in-class interactions are irrelevant?

The Student Appeal Centre appeals directly to you to remedy this situation. The University can and has in the past petitioned the Crown to have Marc Kelly's undertaking modified so that he may have full access to campus.

The administration's attempt to keep Marc Kelly off campus is jeopardizing his graduation. Your predecessor, Gilles Patry, tried to impose a code of conduct. Students rebelled against the idea that the administration could dictate student behavior. What you and your administration have done to Marc Kelly is much worse than imposing code-like penalties for his behavior - you have removed him from his environment, thrown him into the criminal system and frustrated his efforts to graduate; all for something that the administration now willingly does: film the Senate meetings.

Mr Rock, in a recent University video you are portrayed as a defender of human rights. In that light, we expect you will act with urgency to repair the serious damage that has been done to Marc Kelly. The SAC asks that you instruct University Legal Counsel to petition the Crown to have the restrictions imposed on Marc Kelly immediately removed.

Sincerely,

Zachary Fouchard, Student Appeal Officer
Mireille Gervais, Student Appeal Officer
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