



By Hand

August 20, 2007

Mr. Denis G. Rancourt
Department of Physics
MacDonald Hall
150 Louis-Pasteur, Room 221
Ottawa ON K1N 6N5

Dear Mr. Rancourt

Victor Simon

Our File: 338764-000002

We have been retained by Victor Simon, Vice-President Resources at the University of Ottawa in relation to two blogs appearing on the U of O Watch blog at <http://uofwatch.blogspot.com> entitled "*Lying and falsifying documents - All in a day's work for U of O's VP-Resources*", posted by you on Saturday, July 21, 2007 at 7:48 a.m. and still appearing as of today's date and the blog entitled, "*U of O President confirms that VP-Resources lied and falsified, and agrees*", posted by you on Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 7:37 p.m. and still appearing as of today's date. Attached are copies of the two said blogs. The U of O Watch blog website indicates that unless it's otherwise stated, "the views and positions of UofOWatch and of blog-manager drg-at-uottawa.ca" are yours.

The statements contained in the two blogs in their natural and ordinary meaning and in respect of the innuendo contained therein, are false and defamatory of Victor Simon personally and in respect of his occupation as Vice-President Resources at the University of Ottawa. Specifically, Mr. Simon complains of the following:

1. In the July 21, 2007 posted blog:
 - a. "*Lying and falsifying documents - All in a day's work for U of O's VP-Resources*"
 - b. "*VP Simon had lied to both students*"; and
 - c. "*he had falsified one of the interim documents*".
2. In the August 9, 2007 posted blog:
 - a. "*U of O President confirms that VP-Resources lied and falsified, and agrees*";

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- b. *“U of O President VP-Resources Victor Simon lied and falsified a document in attempting to justify his illegitimate reprimands and threats of two students”*
- c. *“President confirms that Simon lied”*;
- d. *“[Simon’s unfounded letters of reprimand and threat]”*; and
- e. *“the President thereby goes on the record to condone and reinforce Simon’s original intimidation and harassment”*.

Those words which are false and defamatory of Mr. Simon were intended, meant and were understood to mean that Mr. Simon is a liar and that he is dishonest, untrustworthy, unethical and has committed illegal and even criminal acts. The words complained of were intended by you to damage the reputation of our client in his position of Vice-President Resources at the University of Ottawa. It is also clear by the tone and context of those words, they were actuated by malice. The words have caused and continue to cause Mr. Simon significant damage.

We are instructed to advise you that our client takes very seriously your malicious and defamatory assault on his reputation and does not intend to allow it to continue.

Mr. Simon hereby demands that you immediately remove the two blogs; *“Lying and Falsifying Documents - All in a day’s work for U of O’s VP-Resources”*, posted on Saturday, July 21, 2007 at 7:48 a.m. and *“U of O President confirms that VP-Resources lied and falsified, and agrees”*, posted on Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 7:37 p.m. from your U of O Watch blog, failing which we expect to receive instructions to commence the requisite legal proceedings to do so.

In addition, we require a full, absolute, and unequivocal and fair apology and retraction of all defamatory statements and be advised that should there be any further defamatory remarks by you of and concerning our client, Mr. Simon, we expect to receive instructions to commence the requisite legal proceedings for damages forthwith and without further notice to you.

You should consider this as Notice under the *Libel and Slander Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. L.12.

Please note that any communication regarding this matter should be directly with us and not our client.

Yours very truly



J. Bruce Carr-Harris
BCH/IRM/gcs

Encls.

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U OF O WATCH

THIS SITE IS DEVOTED TO TRANSPARENCY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA, OTTAWA, CANADA. WE INVITE ALL SUBMISSIONS OF YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITY THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO MAKE PUBLIC (ANONYMOUSLY OR NOT) AND THAT APPEAR TO ILLUSTRATE INSTITUTIONAL BEHAVIOUR THAT IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC GOOD.

U OF O WATCH MISSION, IN THE WORDS OF
FOUCAULT...

"One knows ... that the university and in a general way, all teaching systems, which appear simply to disseminate knowledge, are made to maintain a certain social class in power; and to exclude the instruments of power of another social class. ... It seems to me that the real political task in a society such as ours is to criticise the workings of institutions, which appear to be both neutral and independent; to criticise and attack them in such a manner that the political violence which has always exercised itself obscurely through them will be unmasked, so that one can fight against them." -- Foucault, debating/agreeing Chomsky, 1971.

U OF O WATCH MISSION, IN THE WORDS OF KAFKA...

"Education is but two things: First the parrying of the innocent child's impetuous assault on the Truth and second the step by step imperceptible initiation of the humiliated child into the Lie." --Kafka

Showing posts with label **1 - President agrees with lies**. Show all posts

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2007

U of O President confirms that VP-Resources lied and falsified, and agrees

The UofOWatch entry of July 21st described a mean-spirited affair in which U of O's VP-Resources Victor Simon lied and falsified a document in attempting to justify his illegitimate reprimands and threats to two students who had dared to express their views on an academic matter, using campus email lists.

The students next individually wrote to President Gilles Patry to complain and to ask for reparations (rescinding the threats,

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The central admin building in the fall

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apologies, etc.).

In his answers, the President confirms that Simon lied since he confirms that Simon provided "all documents" (only one, which is not a complaint to Simon's office) whereas Simon had claimed several (in the plural) complaints addressed to his office.

In his answers, the President states that Simon indeed removed a paragraph from a document (that the student was entitled to see in its entirety under the Freedom of Information Act of Ontario). The President confirms that Simon did this without informing the student. The President goes on to "explain" that this was justified because the paragraph in question was not something the university wanted to act upon...

Hello?

The President put it this way: "The University did not consider taking any action regarding the final paragraph of the complainant's email and it was on this basis that Mr. Simon did not include that information".

The paragraph in question is highly incriminating for its author, Professor Vladimir Pestov, who suggests fabricating a case to remove student Jean-Paul Prévost from his PhD program of study, following the student's first and only communication on an academic matter to a relevant academic unit email list. The paragraph in question de-legitimizes Pestov's message and damages the credibility of his motives. Contrary to the President's statement, it is *entirely* "relevant to the allegations concerning [your] misuse of University resources."

The President concludes "I am satisfied that this matter was dealt with appropriately."

The President also states to both students that he "has decided that the letter [Simon's unfounded letters of reprimand and threat] is entirely appropriate and I will not take steps to retract it." The President thereby goes on the record to condone and reinforce Simon's original intimidation and harassment, and copies Simon to the entire exchange.

professor of physics at the University of Ottawa.

ARTICLE TITLES (1-) AND LABELS

- 1 - All in a day's work (2)
- 1 - Allergic reaction to sci2101 (1)
- 1 - Did the dean lie? (1)
- 1 - Foster twins human rights (1)
- 1 - Its called transparency (1)
- 1 - Patry defends academic freedom (1)
- 1 - President agrees with lies (1)
- 1 - Rancourt removed from activism course (1)
- 1 - Responsible Intervention by 52 (1)
- 1 - Students sue over TAs (1)
- activism course (8)
- human rights (3)
- legal action (5)
- SCI 1101 (7)
- SCI 2101 (2)
- small claims court (1)

LINKS

- Activist Teacher
- Corporate UofO mission statement
- Corporate UOttawa site

CEO TELFER AND
PRESIDENT PATRY

That's how University Inc. (universities are legal corporations not answerable to the Ministry of Education) is run: By an unelected corporate executive that in practice answers to no one and that makes day to day self-preserving decisions about students' lives without an oversight committee or an appeal process. There is no independent ombudsperson on campus and there is no policy that admits that the executives can mistreat students.

But it's not over until the fat lady sings.

Epilogue: This means that, as it stands, both students are effectively barred from using the academic email lists for their legitimate committee work and collegial participation in university affairs, to the extent that their views will not be acceptable to the first enlightened academic who will scream "spam attack".

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POSTED BY DGR -AT- UOTTAWA.CA, BLOG-MANAGER AT 7:37 PM 0
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LABELS: 1 - ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, 1 - PRESIDENT AGREES WITH
LIES

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SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2007

Lying and falsifying documents – All in a day's work for U of O's VP-Resources

You do what you have to do when it comes to suppressing the political freedoms of students.

Two physics graduate students at the University of Ottawa recently made the mistake of expressing their views regarding the pedagogical value of an activism course in the Faculty of Science.

Severin Stojanovic argued as a Faculty Council member that the possible creation of a second-year level activism course (SCI 2101) should be discussed at Council whereas Jean-Paul Prévost, having attended the first-year course (SCI 1101), explained the value of

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these courses to staff and student colleagues.

That was too much for several science professors who blasted the students. A certain professor Vladimir Pestov went so far as to ask the physics graduate chairman (now department chair Bela Joos) to bar the students from using faculty email lists and to consider ways that a case could be mounted to expel Prévost from the PhD program.

Joos faithfully forwarded these over-the-top complaints from Pestov to the dean of the Faculty of Science (André Lalonde) “for his information” without notifying the students. The dean’s office then forwarded these emails to VP-Resources Victor Simon, without written explanation and, again, without consulting or informing the students.

Simon, in turn, came down hard. He informed each student that he had received several complaints (in the plural) about their uses of university computer resources. He stated that their actions were in violation of the User Code of Conduct for Computer Resources, implying that they had been spamming the academy. He informed them both (individually) that if he received a single other complaint he would automatically cut them off from all computer resources.

The students individually responded by asking to see the complaints that justified such a severe reaction from a VP, no less. One of the students also independently filed a Freedom of Information request to obtain the complaints.

Simon proceeded to play a game of cat and mouse, showing only one partial complaint to each student and, eventually, after the Freedom of Information documents were obtained, reluctantly forked over everything he had.

In the final analysis, VP Simon had lied to both students about the number of complaints: There was only one document per student and none was a complaint made to his office. And he had falsified one of the interim documents, removing the Pestov attempt at collusion with Joos (to expel Prévost), presumably because Pestov’s words both incriminated two professors and made the student “violations” look insignificant in comparison...

professor of physics at the University of Ottawa.

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CEO TELFER AND
PRESIDENT PATRY

All in a days work. Can't have the societal implications of science discussed in the Faculty of Science: That would be subversive and counter productive.

The dedication of self-appointed university executives, willing to take the risks necessary to preserve “academic integrity”, is sometimes the strongest testament to the vitality of our public institutions of higher learning.

Epilogue: There is no policy at the University of Ottawa that protects students from intimidation by deans or executive officers – It is assumed not to occur. Meanwhile, the official complaints against the many professors who took it onto themselves to harass and intimidate the students for their communications are being deflected and resisted by both the dean of science and the dean of graduate studies (Gary Slater), while President Gilles Patry watches on.

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LABELS: 1 - ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, ACTIVISM COURSE, SCI 1101, SCI 2101

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