



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

October 19, 2015

Dr. Roseann O'Reilly Runte
President and Vice-Chancellor
Carleton University
503 Tory Building
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5B6

Dear President Runte:

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers to express our deep concern about the lack of openness and transparency in governance at Carleton University.

All publicly funded institutions have an obligation to be responsive to the communities they serve by being transparent in their policies, administration, and decision-making processes. The principle of collegial governance in universities and colleges further requires nothing less than full openness and transparency on the part of our governing boards, senates, and constituent bodies. That is why the long-standing tradition in our institutions has been that meetings of such bodies may be closed only temporarily to deal with confidential personnel matters, individual student issues, or the negotiation of contracts.

I therefore find it very troubling to learn that the next meeting of Carleton's Board of Governors in early November will be held entirely in camera and under a veil of strict secrecy. With the exception of dealing with a very narrowly defined set of confidential matters, there is absolutely no justification for holding Board meetings in camera. Secrecy undermines fundamental principles of democratic accountability and collegial governance, and runs contrary to the values of open debate, academic freedom, and freedom of expression that should lie at the very heart of our universities and colleges.

I urge you and the Board to reconsider this ill-advised decision, and to commit to greater openness and transparency. I will be reporting on this matter for consideration at the next CAUT Council meeting to be held November 27-29. I would therefore appreciate your reply before then.

Sincerely,

David Robinson
Executive Director

cc: Pum van Veldhoven, CUASA
Daniel Draper, CUASA