



Law Dean/osgoode
05/02/2009 07:47 AM

To David Dewitt
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Israel / Palestine Conference Update

See below from Bruce. As you will see, he is asking to keep this strictly confidential at this point. It is therefore absolutely essential that if you share this information (and not his actual email) with anyone you must have 100% guarantees from them of confidentiality. Don't let me down on this. We have a chance to shape this in the right direction, but just one chance.

Patrick

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— Forwarded by Law Dean/osgoode on 05/02/2009 07:45 AM —



Bruce Ryder/osgoode
05/01/2009 02:04 PM

To Lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca
cc Susan Drummond/osgoode@Osgoode/CA
Subject Israel / Palestine Conference Update

Hi Patrick,

As I mentioned on the phone the other day, we were hoping, at our organizing committee meeting yesterday, that we'd be able to make progress on re-arranging the draft program with more plenaries to highlight our best speakers. While we're committed to getting this done as soon as we can, and fully understand its importance (underlined again in a conversation that Susan and I had with Irving Abella over coffee yesterday), we weren't able to get to it yesterday. We'll be taking it on in earnest at a 4 hour meeting we've scheduled for next Fri May 8th.

I'm wary of jumping the gun on that conversation with my colleagues on the organizing committee, but I expect we'll quickly agree that the 6 members of our advisory committee who are presenting should each be accorded a prominent role (Abunimah, Benvenisti, Farsakh, Kretzmer, Lustick, Smooha) along with a handful of other senior scholars (possibilities include Adam, Bisharat, Gans, Rabinowitz, Rouhana, Todd and the newly signed-on Marc Ellis, Director, Center of Jewish Studies, Baylor U). There are probably a few others I've neglected to mention or who we are actively recruiting. Anyway, it will be an impressive dozen or so that are candidates for participation on 3 or 4 plenary sessions. We expect that their papers will provide a solid foundation for the edited collection that will emerge from the event.

We'll keep you posted of course as our deliberations about the draft program unfold. In the meantime, can we agree to keep our conversations about prospective speakers and the conference program strictly confidential? We are grateful for your input and feedback, but fearful of ways in which others might continue to misconstrue - and even actively seek to undermine - our efforts.

All the best,
Bruce