

Appendix 21: email from dean to Drummond and Ryder re communications from inside and outside university re balance, April 15, 2009

From: Law Dean/osgoode
To: Bruce Ryder/osgoode@Osgoode/CA, Susan Drummond/osgoode@Osgoode/CA

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 09:44PM
Subject: Re: Conference

History: ➔

I do appreciate the fact that you have issued invitations to a wide variety of people from different perspectives. But it is not enough to say that you have invited people. You will be judged on who is actually speaking. If you look at your website and review the abstracts I have to tell you that this comes across as not particularly balanced. We can discuss this more on Friday.

This is provoking a major reaction in the community, that will then provoke a counter-reaction from other groups. The conference will be lost in the cross fire. When we speak I want to impress on you the seriousness of the situation that we (both you and the university) is facing. This is shaping up as a major event that could spin very badly out of control. You need to understand that.

See you Friday.
Patrick

▼ Bruce Ryder

----- Original Message -----

From: Bruce Ryder
Sent: 04/15/2009 12:59 PM EDT
To: Susan Drummond
Cc: Law Dean
Subject: Re: Conference

I'm happy to put our heads together during the conference to discuss any constructive responses we can take to a perceived lack of balance in the papers to be presented at the conference. We've heard these concerns persistently from the outset of conference planning, and have responded by meeting with everyone who has openly expressed their concerns to us, by listening seriously to their concerns, and by sending an invitation to every academic speaker who has been suggested to us. We remain open to any and all suggestions.

Any time at the conference on Friday after 10 am, and before my 3:15 panel, works well for me.


▼ Susan Drummond/osgoode

Susan
Drummond/osgoode

To Law Dean/osgoode@Osgoode/CA

cc Bruce Ryder/osgoode@Osgoode/CA

04/15/2009
11:15 AM

Subject Re: Conference 

Please let me know a time and place to meet you both at the conference and I will be there.

Susan Drummond
Associate Professor
Osgoode Hall Law School,
York University,
4700 Keele Street,
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
Canada
email: sdrummond@osgoode.yorku.ca

-----Cathy Malisani/osgoode wrote: -----

To: Bruce Ryder/osgoode@Osgoode/CA, Susan Drummond/osgoode@Osgoode/CA
From: Law Dean/osgoode
Sent by: Cathy Malisani/osgoode
Date: 04/15/2009 10:55AM
Subject: Conference

Dear Bruce and Susan,
There are increasing concerns emerging regarding the June conference. Over the last ten days or so I have received a variety of calls or emails from individuals both in and outside of the University expressing concerns over what is described as a lack of balance in the speakers and papers that are being prepared for the conference. In reliance on the memorandum you prepared for me I have consistently indicated that my understanding is that these fears are unfounded and that in fact the conference will be a balanced look at some difficult issues in the region. However in light of the fact that these concerns are persistent and in fact increasing I have now taken some additional time to review the website and in particular the papers that are described as having been confirmed for the conference. I must say that I have some serious concerns over a variety of aspects of the papers that I see both in terms of the content of specific papers as well as the overall volume and direction that many of the contributors appear to be taking to these issues. I prefer to speak about this in person because I think that attempting to communicate via email on difficult matters such as this is inappropriate and unwise. I am hoping that we can speak about this sometime in the next couple of days. Bruce and I are both going to be at the Constitutional Cases conference on Friday and perhaps sometime during the course of the day we could make some time to sit and review planning for the conference. I must say though that this becoming a significant issue and I am concerned about the impact it will have on a variety of fronts. I look forward to speaking with you about this in the near future.

Yours very truly,
Patrick

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