

Appendix 14: email from anonymized party re not caring a fig about academic freedom,
June 10, 2009



Mamdouh Shoukri

06/10/2009 11:14 AM

To "Prof. Patrick J. Monahan" <lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca>,
.pjmonahan@YorkU.CA

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: ANOTHER SH-T STORM COMING

From: [s.21(i)]
Sent: 06/10/2009 08:01 AM MST
To: Mamdouh Shoukri
Subject: Re: ANOTHER SH-T STORM COMING

MS

PLEASE PASS MY E-MAIL ON TO PATRICK M.
I DONT CARE A FIG ABOUT ACADEMIC FREEDOM.
I DO CARE ABOUT YORK--AND WITH OUR PROBLEMS THIS YEAR
THIS IS TROUBLE WITH A CAPITAL T.

Sincerely,

[s.21(i)]

-- On Wed, 6/10/09, Mamdouh Shoukri

wrote:

From: Mamdouh Shoukri
Subject: Re: ANOTHER SH-T STORM COMING
To: [s.21(i)]
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2009, 7:46 AM

Dear [s.21(i)]

I am in Cairo and will be back by Monday.

Again, this is a most unfortunate situation which is being exploited politically.

The conference is organized by faculty members at Osgoode and Queen's Law schools. Everyone (on all sides) agree that the organizers had no political objectives or agenda. Their interests are academic. They have been working on the conference organization for over a year during which they secured financial support from the federal government through SSHRC. As you may expect, I did not even know about it at that time. In fact, I believe the plan started before my arrival to York.

Typical of academic conferences, the organizers issued an open call for papers. It is now obvious that many (but certainly not all) the papers submitted tended to discuss the so called "one-state two-nations" solution. I became aware of it as we started to receive messages from the community who appeared to believe that conference is promoting this particular solution. This is not true. This is an academic conference where participants debate ideas and issues freely and the conference does not issue statements in support of any resolution.

When we became aware of the concerns, Patrick Monahan and Stan Shapson encouraged the organizers to encourage more participation by people who hold other points of view. We know that the organizers tried their best

and may have had some success but the campaign continued.

Although I wish there is a way to please those who are concerned. I fact I wish the whole thing did not happen because, as you know, I agree with you. This problem should be solved there not here and I hope to focus on York's strategic objectives and not to be distracted by international politics.

Unfortunately, there is absolutely nothing we can do at this moment. We cannot cancel the conference and cannot appear to interfere any further without triggering another serious problem by the academics all over the country regarding academic freedom. I assure you, this is a real threat.

For the time being, I am happy to ask Patrick Monahan to get in touch with you And perhaps have a quick meeting. He is even more familiar with all what is happening and can share his prospective with you.

I will call upon my return. Best regards.

Mamdouh

From: S. 21(1)
Sent: 06/09/2009 04:20 PM MST
To: Mamdouh Shoukri
Subject: ANOTHER SH-T STORM COMING

DEAR MS:

I read today in the FP pp A17 about the approaching Israel/Palestine Conf. scheduled for June 22-24th. This is like watching a train bearing down on my child. Do we have a death wish?? Why in hell do we have to have this

stuff on our campus after all our public relations problems this year.
THIS THING WILL NOT END WELL AND SHOULD BE STOPPED.
How about we let the Israeli's and Palestineans solve their own problems and debate Canadian water export policies.

Sincerely,

[S. 21(1)]