

Appendix 8: email exchange between the president of York University and a donor threatening significant withdrawal of funds from the university, May 13, 2009



Paul Marcus
<marcusp@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca>

05/13/2009 04:52 PM

To mamdouh.shoukri@yorku.ca
cc pmonahan@osgoode.yorku.ca,
marcusp@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca
bcc

Subject Re: Fw: York University + Anti-Semitism

[s. 21(i)] would welcome a meeting with you-I will forward their coordinates to Irene to kindly make arrangements. Best, Paul

Paul E. Marcus, LL.B., CFRE
President and CEO
York University Foundation
West Office Building, 4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3
T 416.650.8025 F 416.650.8032
www.yorku.ca/foundation

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Paul Marcus <marcusp@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca>

05/12/2009 04:28 PM

To Mamdouh Shoukri
cc pmonahan@osgoode.yorku.ca, marcusp@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca
Subject Re: Fw: York University + Anti-Semitism

Mamdouh, understood and thanks for your speedy response. Nice of you to be willing to meet. I'll follow up with them. Paul

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Mamdouh Shoukri

05/12/2009 04:22 PM

To Paul Marcus <marcusp@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca>
cc mamdouh.shoukri@yorku.ca, pmonahan@osgoode.yorku.ca
Subject Re: Fw: York University + Anti-Semitism

Paul:

Happy to meet with them. I hope you can arrange that

That said, you know I am sensitive to the donations issue. If I meet them, I will be very firm on the issue of donations. We will do everything possible to fight anti-semitism as a principle not because of donations. Reference to donations makes a just cause cheaper than necessary.

Mamdouh

Mamdouh Shoukri
President and Vice-Chancellor
York University
Tel. 416-736-5200 Fax 416-736-5641
mshoukri@yorku.ca
www.yorku.ca/president

Paul Marcus <marcusp@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca>

05/12/2009 04:10 PM

To pmonahan@osgoode.yorku.ca, mamdouh.shoukri@yorku.ca
cc
Subject Fw: York University + Anti-Semitism

If I can help in any way please let me know, as I know [redacted]

S. 21(1)

] is friendly with them Paul

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Forwarded by Paul Marcus/fs/YorkU on 05/12/2009 04:08 PM

[redacted S. 21(1)]

05/12/2009 02:53 PM

To mshoukri@yorku.ca
cc pmonahan@osgoode.yorku.ca [redacted]
<marcus@yorkfoundation.yorku.ca>
Subjec York University + Anti-Semitism

S. 21(1)

] Paul Marcus

Dear President Shoukri:

I have not had the pleasure of meeting you in person but by way of introduction, my husband

[redacted S. 21(1)]

] has been proud to be one of York University's major donors. [redacted S. 21(1)] and I have been following with great dismay the situation at York as it pertains to Jewish students. Frankly we are frightened and appalled by what we have heard. I recently had lunch with a professor of Jewish Studies at York who told me that she considers her top priority as an educator to be: "protecting her students from violence." This is totally unacceptable as I'm sure you would agree. I have now learned that the university is planning yet another Israel-bashing conference in June

entitled: Israel/Palestine: Mapping Models of Statehood and Paths to Peace. It seems obvious that such pseudo-academic conferences whose true and sole purpose is to denigrate and demonize the state of Israel will only add to the atmosphere of fear and academic intimidation that has already been established at York. It saddens me that my husband has donated [S. 21(1)] to an institution which has so boldly positioned itself as an enemy of tolerance and mutual understanding. As recently as last month [S. 21(1)]

] But such donations will now end until we are convinced that we are indeed supporting a liberal and academically free institution where all students, regardless of faith or heritage, may feel free to express themselves intellectually without fear for their physical safety. I urge you to reconsider the sanctioning of anti-semitic conferences on campus.

Yours truly,

[S. 21(1)]