

Appendix 3: email from chair of York University's Board of Governors indicating that he had been cornered at a Passover seder re Adelman memo, April 12, 2009



Mamdouh Shoukri
04/12/2009 11:23 PM

To "Prof. Patrick J. Monahan" <lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Status Report on Israel-Palestine Conference

Agreed. Thanks.

Mamdouh

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

From: lawdean
Sent: 04/12/2009 10:12 PM AST
To: Mamdouh Shoukri
Subject: Re: Status Report on Israel-Palestine Conference

Mamdouh I have already seen the memo from Howard Adelman. In fact, it was in light of his memo that I asked for this update from the organizing committee. At this point I think we continue to monitor to the situation. I am in touch with the organizers on a regular basis (two of my faculty members are taking the lead on this) and I will let you know if there is anything that arises that needs attention. I think the problem we are having is that with the other events that have taken place recently, we are not given the benefit of the doubt on these questions. But I don't think we should initiate any discussions with the broader community at this point.

Best,
Patrick

From: Mamdouh Shoukri
Sent: 04/12/2009 08:44 PM AST
To: Law Dean
Subject: Fw: Status Report on Israel-Palestine Conference

Patrick:

I shared your memo with Mickey for his advise. His reaction is attached. Frankly, I am of two minds. On one hand, it is wise to anticipate these reactions and deal with them before they become problems. On the other hand, this is becoming a full time job. The community need to trust us. I like your response to [5.21(1)] We should stay with the message.

Mamdouh

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----- Forwarded by Mamdouh Shoukri/fs/YorkU on 12/04/2009 08:40 PM -----

"Cohen, Marshall" <mcohen@casselsbrock.com>

12/04/2009 09:37 AM

To "Mamdouh Shoukri"

cc

Subject RE: Status Report on Israel-Palestine Conference

And the beat goes on

I got cornered on this issue thurs nite at a seder when someone gave me a copy of a memo prepared by Adelman explaining why he withdrew from the conference. When I read the memo the next day, it didn't seem to me be much different than the usual academic infighting that goes on all the time at York and at all universities. That said, I don't know Prof Adelman and I don't know the audience he was aiming the memo at. Nor do I know whether there is any basis to his claims. If this memo is the jumping off point for the community reaction, it might be worth Patrick getting hold of it [if he hasn't already seen it]—it's always important to know what the "other side" thinks. I didn't bring the memo with me to Fla but I'm sure we can find a way for Patrick to get a copy [S. 2.1(1)] probly has it].

[S. 2.1(1)] briefly mentioned this conference to me some weeks ago and he seemed to feel it had an Israeli bashing bias, but didn't seem to feel it warranted a dramatic response by the administration. He might be worth Patrick talking to.

Apart from that, Patrick seems to have done all the right things.

That said, if this is the next big community push [now that IAW week is over], we shld not wait for the deluge before reacting. Consider whether we need a pro-active approach—i.e. a mtg w the community leaders to convey the message that Patrick laid out in his reply to [S. 2.1(1)] and in his e-mail to you. We need to look like we have thought about the situation even if our conclusion is not what the community wants to hear. We also need to get the facts on the table before these campaigns gain momentum. Too often, in the past, we have reacted after the damage has been done. As is often the case, best defense is an offense

Feel free to share this e-mail w Patrick

From: Mamdouh Shoukri
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 8:04 AM
To: Cohen, Marshall
Subject: Fw: Status Report on Israel-Palestine Conference

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

From: Law Dean/osgoode [lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca]
Sent: 04/11/2009 06:58 AM AST
To: Mamdouh Shoukri

Cc: Law Dean/osgoode <lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca>
Subject: Status Report on Israel-Palestine Conference

Mamdouh as you will see from my email exchange with [s. 21(1)] the conference in June on Israel-Palestine continues to attract some controversy. You should be aware that Professor Howard Adelman (a leading Professor Emeritus at York) recently withdrew from the conference on grounds that it was not taking a sufficiently balanced approach to the issues. This has attracted some attention within the community and, because of the other events involving students, may create a knee-jerk reaction in the community. About a week ago I asked the organizing committee to prepare a report for me on the status of the conference. I am attaching their report from your information.

In general, I am satisfied that this conference will involve a balanced exploration of some very difficult and challenging issues, and that we have nothing to apologize for in regards to this conference.

Let me know if you would like further information.

Thanks,
Patrick

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