



David B Dewitt
<ddewitt@yorku.ca>
05/12/2009 07:11 AM

To lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca
cc
bcc
Subject Re: PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL Fw: oped draft on
conference at York

Thanks; good luck with the conversation and I appreciate your offer to keep me informed. d.

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lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca

05/12/09 06:18 AM

To "David Dewitt" <ddewitt@yorku.ca>
cc
Subject Re: PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL Fw: oped draft on conference at York

Ok I will not share it, but will use the substantive points as the basis of my discussion. Will see where they are at. They may be feeling the pressure. I sent them a strong email over the weekend and Susan's email reply to me was a bit cryptic. But the armour may be cracking. On the other hand that may be wishful thinking and they may be coming to lodge a complaint.

The info on the UMass conference is interesting.

Will let you know how this turns out.

To be continued...
Patrick

From: David B Dewitt [ddewitt@yorku.ca]
Sent: 05/11/2009 10:50 PM AST
To: Law Dean
Subject: Re: PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL , Fw: oped draft on conference at York

Patrick,

PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS.

I think not. Even without telling them from whom it came, they will suppose it is either from me or from someone else with whom you are connected within a group of individuals interested in undermining them. Let them see it in the newspapers if/when it appears. I also think that given what I understand to be their views and how they have not kept one or more aspects of the agreement you thought you had with them, it puts you in an unfavourable position.

I don't think that they should need to see this op ed piece in draft form to understand the issues, including what they may well put you, Osgoode and YorkU through. The issue is not the topic but the quality of the invited and paid for speakers.

If the op ed piece comes out, there will be lots of time for all of us to have to respond, should that be necessary.

On the otherhand, you may wish to share with them the info I previously passed on to you about the UMass conference. Since that note, I also confirmed that it is not on the UMass website because it was not

officially sponsored by or supported by UMass.

N/R:

Snowbird
Ken

However, it convinced me even more that this conference planned for June is a very bad idea, and is so clearly stacked in one direction that even if I were in town I'd not bother attending. I'd be too embarrassed and annoyed, and don't need either, and certainly would be unlikely to defend York for convening it (again, not around the issue of being critical of Israel or Israeli state policy, but the use of the vehicle of an academic meeting as a pretense for something else).

Finally, I am attaching for your information and in confidence a number of comments I've now received from colleagues -- still one not yet heard from -- about the names you were interested in. The reviews are mixed but decidedly not what you'd want for a truly top quality meeting.

I hope your meeting tomorrow goes well.

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lawdean@osgoode.yorku.ca

05/11/09 10:02 PM

To "David Dewitt" <ddewitt@yorku.ca>
cc
Subject Re: PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL Fw: oped draft on conference at York

I'm meeting tomorrow morning with Susan and Bruce. Can I show them this piece, without indicating how it came to me?

PJM

From: David B Dewitt [ddewitt@yorku.ca]
Sent: 05/11/2009 12:39 PM AST
To: Law Dean
Subject: PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL Fw: oped draft on conference at York

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Patrick,

I've just received the attached. It is a draft of an op ed that [redacted] a very well known senior Israeli academic who often writes in various Canadian and US newspapers, plans on submitting, probably to one of G&M, Star, Citizen, or Post. He has sent it to me out of "courtesy", I presume, indicating that under separate cover he also will be sending it to Jason Kenney and Irwin Cotler in the context of SSHRC funding issues.

I do not know when he intends to submit; probably fairly soon.

Patrick, I've also asked around about the UMass conference to which you alluded yesterday. I've not found anyone yet who knows of it nevermind being involved, and nothing seems to come up on the UMass website. It may well have happened but doesn't seem to be well known or to have led to a recognized publication, at least not yet.

I'm still waiting to hear from two more senior academics I've contacted regarding their assessment of the conference lineup, and in particular the dozen or so who might make up the so-called "plenary day". To date, the two have had mixed comments: one is fundamentally critical, and while recognizing that there are "a few" credible scholars, even they are well known – including or especially the Israelis – as being extreme critics, and among their colleagues often are seen this way as a means of reputation building and desiring notariety. The other colleague was somewhat more positive; about half of the plenary candidates he would join on the podium even though he likely would not agree with their views; a quarter he would not be seen with; and the remainder he doesn't really know either them or their work sufficiently well to comment one way or the other.

And so it goes....

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