

November 19, 2015

Rosann O'Reilly Runte  
President, Carleton University

Dear Dr. O'Reilly Runte,

On behalf of the Carleton University Academic Staff Association, I would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the replacement for the Vice President (Finance). I would, however, like to briefly reiterate the Association's position on this extremely important appointment.

Of paramount importance to this position is an understanding of the academic environment. We have jointly recognized, through our collective agreement, that the "goal of the University is the attainment of the highest possible standards of academic excellence in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge" (Article 1.1). This underlying goal – and its fundamental connection to academic freedom – by its very nature makes the academic environment different from any other.

The Vice President (Finance) has an important gatekeeping role to play in ensuring that our members, and the whole university community, have the resources that they need to fulfill this goal. We feel that it is vital that the incumbent in this position has significant experience in the academic sector.

As discussed in our meeting, the Association feels that it is also important that the Vice President (Finance):

- Has an approach that is open, transparent and responsive to the entire university community including faculty, staff and students.
- Demonstrates a commitment to ensuring that the core academic mission is the university's main financial priority.

The above includes prioritizing full-time faculty hiring over continued use of precarious contract academic labour and a commitment to investing in revitalizing physical teaching resources. We would encourage Carleton's administration to commit to improving physical classroom resources, hiring additional teaching and administrative support, reducing class sizes, and increasing availability of research funds. In addition, an emphasis should be placed on increasing the resources allocated to the Library, which is a vital resource to the community.

Sincerely,



Friskjen van Veldhoven, PhD  
President

CC: CUASA Membership