

Montreal, June 5, 2017

Dear colleagues,

The Fédération québécoise des professeures et professeurs d'université (FQPPU) asks for your support as it denounces the fate of Mrs. Louise Briand. This professor at the Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO) was the subject of an anonymous complaint submitted to the Governance and Ethics Committee of the UQO Board of Governors. Mrs. Briand is one of three people who represent faculty members on the UQO Board of Governors. Deeming the situation urgent and sufficiently serious, the committee chose to temporarily relieve her of her duties in order to have “the necessary time to review the situation and take appropriate action,” a decision that could lead to the termination of her mandate.

In our opinion, this action constitutes a frontal attack on Mrs. Briand, who is also president of the Syndicat des professeures et professeurs de l'Université du Québec en Outaouais (SPUQO). It illuminates a fundamental problem that goes far beyond UQO's borders: directionless governance in universities. The *Act respecting the Université du Québec* grants the majority of voices to management and to external members co-opted by management, which has a negative impact on safeguarding the university's public status as well as maintaining its fundamental role in society.

Today, the Fédération des professionnelles at the CSN, affiliated with SPUQO, launched a support campaign aimed at keeping Louise Briand on the UQO Board of Governors. It also condemned acts of intimidation she has endured from external board members. Freedom of speech, collegiality and representation of the academic community in bodies are all at risk and must be defended.

We therefore attach a document summarizing [the facts](#), as well as a [letter of support](#) that you can use to express your disagreement regarding these attempts to muzzle any dissenting voice.

This show of solidarity for our colleague Louise Briand is also intended as an action to demonstrate support for all members of the academic community who sit on the board of governors of other institutions.

We thank you and are available to answer your questions or present the current situation in your bodies.

Jean-Marie Lafortune
President

Source :
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