

June 16, 2025

Jennifer Adams, Chair of the Board of Governors

Deep Concerns Regarding Public Access to the May 27 Board of Governors Meeting

Ms. Adams,

On behalf of the Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa (APUO), I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the University's decision to deny public access to the May 27, 2025, meeting of the Board of Governors, the meeting at which the University's 2025–2026 budget was presented and discussed prior to being adopted.

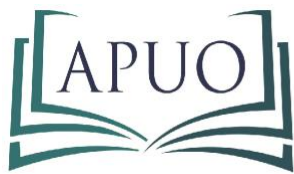
Several APUO members attempted to observe this important meeting in person. However, upon visiting the meeting location, we were troubled to find that physical access to the floor was barred, elevators were disabled and stairwells locked. Protection Services staff confirmed they had been instructed not to permit any member of the public to the meeting floor but were unable to identify who had issued the directive.

This incident is very troubling for several reasons.

First and foremost, under [Bylaw No. 1](#) of the University, meetings of the Board are to be open to the public unless the Board explicitly votes to move in camera, as stipulated in [section 4.7](#). Additionally, the Ontario Ombudsman has previously found that livestreaming a meeting does not in itself satisfy the legal requirement for public access. This precedent opens the University to serious reputational and legal risk.

Second, in the current context of provincial overreach into university governance — such as [Bill 33](#), tabled by the Ontario government in May — maintaining transparent, collegial, and accountable decision-making is more important than ever. Shielding such an important meeting from public scrutiny undermines confidence in the University of Ottawa's governance and sends a concerning message about our institution's commitment to openness, collegiality, democratic engagement, and the public good.

Finally, it must be stressed that our concern is not simply procedural. It is deeply rooted in the collective interest to preserving the character, legitimacy, credibility, and reputation of the University of Ottawa. Opaque governance practices risk further eroding trust between the Central Administration and the University of Ottawa community.



ASSOCIATION DES PROFESSEUR.E.S DE L'UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

We urge the Board to provide clarification on how this situation was permitted to occur, and what concrete measures will be taken to ensure that future Board meetings are genuinely open to the public.

We remain committed to working constructively with governance bodies to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and collegial governance. We trust the Board of Governors shares this commitment and will ensure that the meeting of the Board of Governors on June 18, as well as all future meetings, are accessible to the public.

Sincerely,

Dimitri Karmis, President
Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa

cc:

Jacques Frémont, outgoing uOttawa President

Marie-Ève Sylvestre, incoming uOttawa President