



Ottawa, Friday, December 19 2014

Robert Giroux  
Chair of the Board of Governors of the University of Ottawa and  
Chair of the President and Vice-Chancellor Selection Committee

Kathryn Butler Malette  
Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors of the University of Ottawa and  
Vice-Chair of the President and Vice-Chancellor Selection Committee

## ***Re: Results of the APUO survey regarding the next President***

Dear members of the Presidential Selection Committee,

The APUO conducted a survey among its members from December 9 to 18 2014 to determine their preferences and views concerning the next President and the selection process. Two hundred and twenty-six (226) members completed the survey, i.e. a participation rate of 19.25%. Although this participation rate may seem relatively low, it can be explained first and foremost by (1) the period when the survey was conducted, i.e. the final week of the fall term, and (2) the saturation effect resulting from the number of APUO's communications and surveys during that term. That being said, the information resulting from this survey offers a significant, clear and unambiguous explanation to the selection committee.

The summary of the results clearly indicates that the next President of the University of Ottawa must have a Ph.D., be a tenured professor (here or elsewhere) in any field, have management experience in a university setting (preferably a former dean), preferably be a woman, a member of a visible minority or Aboriginal and, lastly, not be a well-known public figure. In other words, the APUO members who took part in the survey overwhelmingly support a candidate who would be different in every respect from the outgoing President.

The survey results also clearly express APUO members' expectations regarding process transparency. In fact, a large percentage of respondents wish for the names of all candidates to be made known, wish them to deliver a public presentation discussing, among other things, their vision and motives, and lastly wish APUO members to be able to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Not surprisingly, among the priority issues, many comments confirm the primacy of upholding education and research quality as best as possible. To this end, many comments express the need to avoid managerializing (or corporatizing) the University, i.e. imitating management practices of large private corporations (i.e. top-down management; propagation of planning and monitoring activities; lack of transparency in decision-making processes; occasional, restricted and hasty consultations; conflicting, even anti-union, working relationships; distancing and isolation of central administrative bodies etc.), ultimately returning to the transparency and collegiality that are specific to the university environment. In other words, the next President must understand that a university is a unique institution within society, with its own specific role, and cannot be reduced to a generic organization where the attempt is made to introduce allegedly universal private management practices.

In the hope that that the results of this survey will receive the consideration they deserve, I wish you, as selection committee members, harmonious and constructive deliberations.



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