



Thursday, August 27, 2015

Honourable Andrew Wilkinson  
Minister, Advanced Education  
Government of British Columbia  
PO Box 9080, Stn Prov Govt,  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

Minister Wilkinson,

We are writing to you today on behalf of the Association of Administrative and Professional Staff of the University of British Columbia (AAPS). AAPS is not a union, but is the professional association that represents management and professional staff at UBC. We are the largest employee group at UBC and our members are responsible for a wide variety of tasks that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing counselling services to students in need
- Administering the grants that fund the University's world class research
- Coaching the University's nationally ranked athletic teams
- Keeping the University's complicated technological infrastructure functioning
- Raising the funds that minimize tuition fee increases
- Maintaining adequate health and safety standards in the more than 250 buildings on UBC's campuses

In the last two years, your government has cut \$25 million in funding from UBC's budget. These cuts have resulted in many departmental budgets being slashed and the quality of education and research delivered by UBC has suffered.

On top of your government's cuts, UBC will now be absorbing significant additional costs related to former President Arvind Gupta's resignation. We are very concerned that the direct and indirect costs of his resignation, when coupled with your cut to UBC's budget, will jeopardize the quality of education UBC provides, the research it conducts and even the safety of the students, faculty and staff who study and work here.

We are calling on you to reverse your cuts UBC's budget. But we understand that this restoration in funding must come with greater accountability. Therefore, we are also calling on you to establish open

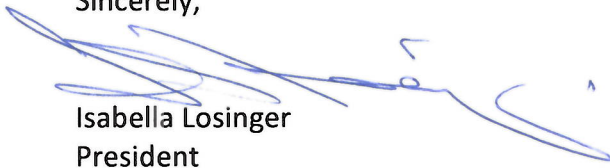


meeting rules for universities that model the open meeting rules by which local governments are bound.

We recognize that it is not acceptable for university governance to be conducted by closed-door meetings that are not announced to either the campus community or the broader public. By requiring university Boards of Governors to publicly announce when they will be holding meetings and requiring them to make the majority of the meeting open to the public, the university community and the broader public will be able to hold the Board of Governors accountable for the decisions it makes with regard to allocating the university's limited resources.

We strongly urge you to restore UBC's funding and demand greater accountability from it. We would like to meet with you to discuss our proposals further. You may contact AAPS Executive Director Joey Hansen to set up a time for a meeting. We are happy to meet with you in either Vancouver or Victoria; whichever more easily accommodates your schedule.

Sincerely,



Isabella Losinger  
President



Joey Hansen  
Executive Director