



University of Calgary faculty and students support independent investigation

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Calgary, AB – Faculty and students at the University of Calgary support the independent investigation into the University of Calgary and President Cannon’s relationship with Enbridge announced on Friday by the University of Calgary Board of Governors. The reputation of our institution is being challenged. The public and all university stakeholders deserve to understand the full scope of what happened, what actions have been taken, and what if any additional actions are required to protect the integrity of the University of Calgary.

“Academic freedom is the cornerstone on which research and teaching rest. Academics examine issues or problems from multiple perspectives – and the results may not present certain donors in a favourable light. It is of concern that the President may have allowed a corporation to influence what research is done or how it is conducted. A fully independent investigation is necessary.”

- Dr. Sandra Hoenle, The Faculty Association of the University of Calgary President

“Students deserve answers to these questions. This situation is troubling and all students are hoping that we can quickly get to the bottom of this issue. At this point, we believe an independent investigation is the best way to address this.”

- Levi Nilson, Students’ Union (SU) President

Faculty and students agree a fully independent investigation is necessary to protect the integrity of the institution, clear the air, and maintain the public’s confidence in the University of Calgary. The Students’ Union and the Faculty Association are in agreement and will jointly advocate on the details and scope of the investigation as these decisions are made.

The Faculty Association and the SU emphasize that the fully independent investigation must:

- 1) Examine whether President Elizabeth Cannon properly recused herself from any decisions involving Enbridge and the Centre for Corporate Sustainability

- 2) Ensure that the specific decisions related to Enbridge made by the Board of Governors were in accordance with all relevant policies and any declared conflicts of interest
- 3) Examine board oversight of corporate gifts
- 4) Determine whether academic freedom has been infringed upon by any university decisions related to corporate naming and sponsorships
- 5) Review processes and decisions to ensure that all other corporate naming and sponsorships have properly addressed issues of conflict and perceived conflict
- 6) Provide the independent investigator with full access to all closed and in camera board documents, correspondence and any other relevant information
- 7) Ensure the results of all matters under investigation are made public, while complying with Alberta's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*
- 8) Ensure that the results are submitted to the Office of the Ethics Commissioner for further review

Both faculty and students also hope that this investigation can help inform any legislative changes necessary to reform conflict of interest rules for all public boards, agencies and commissions in line with Premier Notley's call to give Albertans confidence that conflicts of interests are being handled appropriately.

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