



Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship

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20 December 2017

Deborah MacLatchy, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5
president@wlu.ca

Dear President MacLatchy,

I am writing as president of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship (SAFS), a national organization of university faculty members and others dedicated to the defense of academic freedom, academic culture, and reasoned and respectful debate. (For further information, please see our website at www.safs.ca.)

I would like on behalf of SAFS to commend you for your President's statement re: independent fact-finder report, issued the 18th of December.

You acknowledge in your statement that Lindsay Shepherd did not act wrongly either in showing the TVO clip in her tutorial or in leading the discussion in the manner she did. As well, you state that nothing Ms Shepherd did warranted reference to Laurier's Gendered and Sexual

Violence Policy. Finally, you commit Wilfrid Laurier University to explaining university policies more clearly to the supervisors of teaching assistants.

Your acknowledgements and statement of commitment should help greatly to improve the climate for teaching and learning at Wilfrid Laurier.

SAFS will watch with interest the work of the task force on free expression. We hope that its recommendations promote academic freedom and freedom of expression for both professors and students.

SAFS looks forward to hearing from you. We will post this letter on our website. With your permission, we will be pleased to post your reply together with it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Mercer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Mercer, PhD
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Cc: Lindsay Shepherd, Faculty of Liberal Arts, shep3700@mylaurier.ca
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