



August 20, 2015

John Montalbano
Chair, UBC Board of Governors
6328 Memorial Road, Room 121
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

Dear Mr. Montalbano,

We are the presidents of the three Canadian Union of Public Employee (CUPE) locals on campus. Local 2278 represents the Teaching Assistants, Markers and English Language Instructors, Local 2950 represents Library, Clerical and Theatre Workers and Local 116 represents Food Services, Building Operations, Research, Engineering and Animal Care Technicians, Dental Assistants, Campus Security, Housing, Custodians, Bookstore, Aquatic Centre and Graduate Student Society employees. Collectively, we serve over 7,000 UBC support staff.

We are writing to express our deep concern over the recent and abrupt resignation of Arvind Gupta as President of UBC and the subsequent media fallout surrounding this issue and others. The lack of transparency in this process raises serious questions about University governance and a shocking lack of concern for the reputation of this institution and its budget. The substantial expense of conducting a presidential search twice in the period of two years coupled with the total compensation packages for Dr. Gupta and Dr. Piper in a period of supposed austerity suggests a total disregard for interests of the UBC community.

The campus community took part in an extensive consultation process and we elected representatives to assist in choosing UBC's new president. For Dr. Gupta to have emerged as the successful candidate only to be removed by the largely unelected Board of Governors thirteen months later without any explanation devalues the processes through which UBC chooses its leaders.

As the Chair of the Board of Governors of a publicly funded institution you have a responsibility to the broader community to ensure that UBC's reputation is beyond reproach. The mysterious departure of our head has opened the door for rampant speculation that is taking a great toll on campus morale.

We are calling on you to resolve this situation as quickly as possible by clarifying the real reason for Dr. Gupta's unexpected resignation thereby putting the rumour mill to rest and restoring UBC's good name. Openness, transparency and effective communication are necessary pillars of a respected public educational institution and are values that UBC itself espouses. It is incumbent on the Board of Governors to obey these principles.

Sincerely,

Colleen Garbe
President, CUPE 116

Trish Everett-Kabut
President, CUPE 2278

Karen Ranalletta
President, CUPE 2950