

June 10, 2011

Professor Wayne Peters  
President, CAUT

Dear Professor Peters,

On 28 April, I wrote to Professor Penni Stewart, then President of CAUT, to “ask the CAUT executive to take a principled stand on equity and support Professor Monique Dubé’s request for assistance.”

On April 29, Professor Stewart indicated to me that she would raise my concerns with the CAUT Executive.

A month and a half later, I am still awaiting a response.

In the meantime, CAUT’s lack of support for women academics has led to an active email exchange on the CAUT Equity list. Women have expressed their impatience and disillusionment with CAUT.

Among others, Professor Gaile MacGregor has provided some very troubling statistics about CAUT’s lack of support for women. She observed that “there was not a single mention of either investigations OR interventions” on the CAUT web site under “Equity” and “Women.”

In contrast, under the CAUT page devoted to “Academic Freedom,” she found “links to the reports of 23 investigations undertaken by CAUT, either directly or by commissioning independent adjudicators.”

However, she noted “gender bias:” “Out of 23 investigations, fourteen concerned male complainants, five concerned female complainants, one concerned a male/female team, and three concerned institutional issues. Among the in-house investigations, the male/female ratio was thirteen to three.”

Professor Peters, I am calling on you, in my capacity as President of Academic Women for Justice, to recommend that CAUT assist Professor Monique Dubé by undertaking a full investigation into the terrible situation she has faced and continues to face, or any other measure that she feels will be of genuine assistance to her.

Can we know where you and the CAUT Executive stand on equity?

Sincerely,

Agnes Whitfield, Ph.D.  
President/Présidente, Academic Women for Justice/Femmes universitaires pour la justice  
Professor, Department of English, York University