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Ottawa, Monday, 4 March 2013

Dear President Rock,

I am writing to you in regards to the projected School of Government. Listed as one of the initiatives on the horizon in the plan *Destination 20/20*, where it is introduced as «a premier centre for governance and public-policy research» (<http://destination2020.uottawa.ca/strategic-initiatives.html>, accessed on March 4, 2013), this project remains a mystery to most members of our university community.

About a year ago, at the *Ottawa Mayor's Breakfast: Ottawa Business Journal and Ottawa Chamber of Commerce*, you explained to the members of the business community present that:

The second major University project involves public policy more generally. The University has already developed a national reputation for its capacity to generate and encourage stimulating thought about issues of governance, public administration, international affairs, security and human rights. We are preparing to announce the creation of the University of Ottawa School of Government. It will consolidate and build on the exceptional cluster of expertise that is already at the University. (Speech by Allan Rock, President of the University of Ottawa Mayor's Breakfast: *Ottawa Business Journal* and *Ottawa Chamber of Commerce*, Ottawa City Hall, February 23, 2012, [http://www.recteur.uottawa.ca/speeches-details\\_171.html](http://www.recteur.uottawa.ca/speeches-details_171.html), accessed on March 4, 2013).

Yet, one year later, as attested by the feedback we received from many members who are themselves part of «the exceptional cluster of expertise that is already at the University», i.e. faculty conducting research in the areas of governance, public administration, international affairs, security and human rights, everyone on campus it seems, has been kept in the dark. No relevant information on the projected school has been formally shared by the administration. Not a word on it is to be found in the minutes of the Senate meetings held in the 2012-2013 academic year (September 10 2012, November 5 2012, January 7 2013, February 4 2013). Similarly, not a word on it is to be found in the minutes of the Board of governors meetings held in the 2012-2013 academic year (September 24 2012, October 29 2012, December 10 2012).

As is usually the case in situations like this, rumours, hearsay, and misinformations have unfortunately been filling the void. In order to move beyond this problematic state of affairs, it seems highly constructive to ask you the following questions:

- When is the School of Government projected to open? What are its mission and mandate?
- What and how will it enable relevant faculty, i.e the aforementioned «cluster of expertise», to accomplish something that they can't already do in terms of teaching and research?
- Will the projected school have its own distinct faculty (to be hired?), or will it need to rely on the faculty of already existing schools, like the School of Globalization and International Development, the School of International and Public Affairs, and the School of Political Studies (where are located the programs of public administration, and the Centre on Governance), to name but three?
- How will the projected School of Government affect the three schools previously mentioned, notably in terms of (but not limited to) student recruitment, faculty hiring, and program development?
- And finally, as all members who contacted us have been asking, why has this project been (and still is) so opaque, and how will you prevent such opacity from happening again in the future?

I am confident that the relevance of the issue, and the need to clarify the ambiguity that surrounds it, will respectively appear as high and urgent to you as they are to our members.

Yours sincerely,



Christian Rouillard  
APUO President