

De :	"Secrétaire de l'Université - Secretary of the University" <secruniv@uottawa.ca>
À :	gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca
Objet:	RE: Response regarding funding request - ASL interpretation
Date :	Wed, 5 Dec 2007 08:58:04 -0500

Dear Ms. Deguire,

Thank you for your email of November 30, 2007. In making its original decision, the University carefully considered the issues and interests at stake, including the fact that the cinema series you describe is not an event that is sponsored or put on by the University of Ottawa. Your request should be forwarded to the person or group who is acting as the event organizer. We do not intend to reconsider this matter and maintain our decision not to fund the cinema series.

Regards,

Pamela A. Harrod, Secretary of the University
Cabinet du Secrétaire / Office of the Secretary
Université d'Ottawa / University of Ottawa
Pavillon Tabaret / Tabaret Hall
208-550 rue Cumberland / 208-550 Cumberland Street
Ottawa Ontario K1N 6N5

Tél. / Tel. : (613) 562-5950
Télec. / Fax: (613) 562-5178

Courriel / Email: secruniv@uOttawa.ca

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From: Genevieve Deguire [mailto:gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca]
Sent: November 30, 2007 11:52 AM
To: Gilles Patry

Cc: dgr@uottawa.ca

Subject: Response regarding funding request - ASL interpretation

Genevieve Deguire

Address XXXX

GendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca

Friday November 30th 2007

Gilles Patry,

University of Ottawa, President

This is a letter in response to your email dated November 1st asking for the re-consideration of your position regarding funding the services for sign language interpretation services for the Cinema Politica Event. The basic reason is that the university has a responsibility to provide access for campus events and campus events are frequently open to the public, although the main participants are students. Many community members attend campus events, regardless if they are students, and it would be discriminatory if only able-bodied community members were permitted to attend, while excluding people with different abilities. I have to disagree that the university would ask campus event organizers to pay for the service from their own pocket, and feel this is an infringement of the Ontario Human Rights Code. The sign language service that you provided and that I received for the event on Friday October 26th was a wonderful experience that permitted me to be an equal participant to the event, while learning about current issues. I would like to continue benefiting for this service.

I find that human rights complaints are cumbersome and would like to avoid going through this process again by resolving this matter. I would like to tell the deaf community and the broader community that the University of Ottawa does provide access to its public events and services.

I thank you in advance for your time in considering this issue. Please reply within 1 week and confirm that you will offer sign language interpretation for the start of the winter 2008 season of Ottawa Cinema Politica.

Sincerely yours,

Genevieve Deguire

CC: Denis Rancourt, Coordinator of the OCP

CC: Philippe Ramsay, Regional Director of The Canadian Hearing Society

CC: Jim Roots, Executive Director of The Canadian Association of the Deaf

CC: Denise DeShaw, Executive Director of The Ottawa Deaf Center

CC: Darryl Hackett, President of the Ottawa Deaf Center

CC: Evelyn Gounetenzi, Ontario Association of the Deaf

CC: Gary Malkowski, Special Advisor to President and CEO of The Canadian Hearing Society

CC: Scott Simser, Deaf Rights Lawyer

CC: Chelsea Flook, Centre for Students with Disabilities

CC: Academic Interpreting Services

CC: Supporters

CC: Various campus students groups/associations

À : "Genevieve Deguire" <gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca>

Dear Ms. Deguire

Thank you for your email of October 28, 2007. In regards to your request that the University of Ottawa pay for interpretive services associated with the Cinema Politica series, I attach a letter from Serge Blais to Denis Rancourt, the organizer of Cinema Politica, in which Mr. Blais clearly sets out the University's position regarding this request. I trust that this clarifies the university's position in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gilles G. Patry
President and Vice-Chancellor

Encl: Letter from Mr. Serge Blais to Professor Denis Rancourt

Encl: Letter from Mr. Serge Blais to Professor Denis Rancourt

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October 17, 2007

Professor Denis Rancourt

University of Ottawa

Dear Professor Rancourt,

I am writing in follow up to your exchange with Yolaine Ruel of my office and with Dean André Lalonde of the Faculty of Science concerning a request for accommodation regarding the *Cinema Politico* series you are organizing.

Let me first say that we commend you for your attention to the needs of individuals with disabilities required adaptations. I imagine you have already made arrangements to use films that have the sub-titles option in order to accommodate the hearing-impaired participant to your event.

In regards to your request that the University of Ottawa fund ALS interpretive services for the discussion period that follows the projection of your films, the information provided to you by Ms Ruel was based on your advising that the *Cinema Politica* series was an official University activity. After consultation with Dean Lalonde, we now understand that this activity is in no way related to a specific course or to your workload, nor does it figure within the academic or other activities of the Faculty of Sciences. It is our understanding that this activity is open to the general public and not necessarily to students and that the hearing-impaired person is not a University of Ottawa student. In such a case, the organizer and presenters of the event are responsible for ensuring that materials used in presentations are accessible to their invitees.

Therefore, our position is that the University bears no responsibility to cover the costs of the interpretive services in this case, as you request.

Regards,

Serge Blais

cc Dean André Lalonde

Date :	Tue, 30 Oct 2007 15:25:33 -0400
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De :	"Denis Rancourt" <dgr@physics.uottawa.ca>
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À :	patry@uottawa.ca, "Gilles Patry" <president@uOttawa.ca>
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Dear President Patry,

Please allow me to echo Ms. Deguire's request (attached below). As you know, I host and facilitate the Ottawa Cinema Politica which is a much appreciated service of the University of Ottawa to the broad community and to students.

At the last film of October 26th, SASS kindly booked professional sign-language interpretation services. These services were of very high quality and allowed two enthusiastic participants from the community to follow and participate in the lively post-film discussion that lasted more than one hour. As a result, all participants were able to benefit from insights that otherwise would not have been included.

Therefore, I also hope that your office will be able to quickly resolve this small misunderstanding, in which the director of SASS has stated that neither his service or the Faculty of Science will pay for this service, before this Friday's film.

Sincerely,
Denis Rancourt

De :	"Genevieve Deguire" <gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca>
À :	patry@uottawa.ca
Cc:	dgr@uottawa.ca, sblais@uottawa.ca, deansci@uottawa.ca, aio@rogers.com

Joint is a letter asking for clarifications regarding the University of Ottawa's responsibility regarding covering the sign language interpretation services for the Cinema Politica event. Please see attached.

Your time is much appreciated,

Genevieve Deguire.

Genevieve Deguire

Address XXXX

GendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca

Sunday October 28th 2007

Gilles Patry,

University of Ottawa, President

I am writing this letter regarding my request for ASL/English interpretation for the Cinema Politica events held at the MacDonald auditorium of the University of Ottawa on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

It is my understanding that there has been disagreement regarding which department of the University of Ottawa would cover for the cost of the sign language interpretation for this event and there is also confusion regarding the responsibility of the University to cover the costs of the service.

Several deaf and hard of hearing members of the community at large would like to attend the event. Would it be possible to clear the confusion regarding the responsibility and funding arrangement to

provide the sign language interpretation service at Cinema Politica? In particular, we wish to attend this Friday's November 2nd film (Free to Learn, a documentary about the albany NY free school) and post-film discussion. Therefore, a quick response is much appreciated.

I thank you in advance for your time in considering this issue,

Sincerely yours,

Genevieve Deguire

CC: ANDRE LALONDE, DEAN OF SCIENCE

CC: SERGES BLAIS, DIRECTOR OF SASS

CC: DENIS RANCOURT, COORDINATOR OF OCP

CC: ACADEMIC INTERPRETING ORGANIZATION

De : "Denis Rancourt" <dgr@physics.uottawa.ca>

Cc: "Dean of Science" <deansci@uottawa.ca>, "Gilles Patry" <president@uOttawa.ca>, "Yolaine Ruel" <Yolaine.Ruel@uottawa.ca>, "Genevieve Deguire" <gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca>, "Robert Major" <rmajor@uottawa.ca>

October 24, 2007

Serge Blais
Director
Student Academic Success Service (SASS)
University of Ottawa

Re: ALS interpretive services for Ottawa Cinema Politica (OCP)

Dear Mr. Blais,

I have received your letter of October 17, 2007 (attached).

Having asked my dean (Dean of Science André Lalonde, see emails below) to fund ALS interpretive services for one community participant who wishes to attend OCP, I was surprised to receive this letter from your office answering for the dean and in the name of the whole University of Ottawa. It appears my

dean has asked you to do this instead of answering me directly?

You seem to have received inaccurate information from Dean of Science André Lalonde. OCP is a recognized service to the community offered by the University of Ottawa, as it has always been. That is why the University has always supplied the needed room and projection equipment free of charge and assumes the legal liability insurance for the event.

The OCP is part of my official yearly report, accepted by my dean. I also have it in writing from previous dean Christian Detellier explicitly that OCP is part of my officially recognized service to the community in my work load. My department (chair and DTPC) has also recognized it as part of my workload.

The present dean therefore is either misinformed or misguided. OCP is eminently in line with the University's Vision 2010 goals, since it seeks to both offer a valuable service to the community and help students become responsible citizens who are conscious of social justice issues and local and world problems.

Your decision, if not changed, would allow a petty misunderstanding with the present dean to continue to interfere with a very reasonable request from an interested community member, thereby depriving her of a human right under the Human Rights Code of Ontario. The University can hardly claim undue hardship over such a modest request.

Your suggestion that I merely limit myself to sub-titled films might work in other circumstances but the stated goal of OCP is to feature cutting-edge independent documentaries. Most of these are daring low-budget miracles from around the World that do not have captions for the hearing-impaired. Otherwise, I would not have brought this up, obviously. Nor would I insist as I am presently doing if a member of the community were not suffering the consequences of these delays and pass-the-buck tactics.

Please reconsider your decision for the dean by October 30, 2007, as I wish to inform the over 1300 attendees of OCP that hearing-impaired services will be provided for the remainder of the semester.

Very truly yours,
Denis Rancourt

Objet: RE: RE : FW: Request for ASL services

Date : Wed, 26 Sep 2007 13:00:21 -0400

À : "Genevieve Deguire" <gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca>

Bonjour Genevieve,

Prof. Rancourt didn't call me back – I need to talk to him about the accommodation you need for his activity. It's probably his first time dealing with an interpretation request! I just want to direct him to what has to be done when organizing any event on campus.

In the meantime, if you can find your own interpreter through CHS, go ahead. Would you please c.c. Prof. Rancourt on this request since the interpreters will want to contact him prior to the event to know what the activity is about – interpreters usually request any documentation available for a better preparation.

Part of my responsibility is to raise awareness among all faculty members and services about their responsibility regarding accessibility. In most case, money is not an issue. Most of the time, it's a lack of awareness that makes accommodation difficult to organize. I invited Prof. Rancourt to communicate with me in order to know what to do with your request. I also invited him to communicate with the Teaching and Learning Support Service about the closed captioning issue. I hope things will be better this week! Again, I'm sorry for all the confusion from our side. Hopefully, we'll learn something from it and you'll have full access to an interesting event on the uO campus.

Sincerely,
Yolaine

De : "Yolaine Ruel" <Yolaine.Ruel@uottawa.ca>

À : gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca

Hi Genevieve,
I left a message to Prof. Rancourt regarding interpretation.
Since I didn't talk to him, chances are that you won't have any
interpreters again tonight. Hopefully they could solve the cc problem.
I really wish to have interpreters next week... if Prof Rancourt gets
back to me soon enough!
Sincerely,
Yolaine

-----Original Message-----

From: dgr@uottawa.ca [mailto:dgr@uottawa.ca]
Sent: 20 septembre 2007 23:03
To: Yolaine Ruel
Cc: dgr@uottawa.ca; Genevieve Deguire
Subject: Re: Request for ASL services
Importance: High

Yolaine Ruel:

The Ottawa Cinema Politica series that I run (every Friday of the academic year, every week that there are classes, MCD 146 auditorium, 7:30 film followed by discussion) is an officially provided University of Ottawa service to the community that is in my workload and is part of my duties as professor at the University of Ottawa. The room is provided free of charge for this university-sponsored event. Therefore, it is my opinion that the university could and should provide ASL services to community members keen on benefiting from this unique film and discussion series, if financial resources permit. I would further ask that special funds be made available if your budget does not presently allow this expense.

Sincerely,
Denis Rancourt
(Professor)
x6774

> Professor Rancourt,
> Could you tell me if you have received a request for an interpreter
> (American Sign Language) and closed captioning for an activity (film and
> discussions) happening every Friday evening at MCD 146?
>>From what I understand, this is not an activity related to a course
or a
>> lecture. If it's the case, I'll be please to refer you to an agency
that
>> can provide you with interpreters you need for the activity.
> If you have any question regarding accessibility issues at uO, please
> e-mail me - yruel@uottawa.ca or call me at ext. 4532.
> Sincerely,
>
> Yolaine Ruel
> Chef - Manager
> Service d'accès - Access Service
> Centre universitaire, pièce 339
> University Centre, Room 339
> Université d'Ottawa - University of Ottawa
> Tél. - Tel (613) 562-5976
> Téléc. - Fax (613) 562-5159
> ATS - TTY (613) 562-5214

Date : Tue, 18 Sep 2007 16:10:22 -0400 (EDT)

Objet: RE : FW: Request for ASL services

Hi Yolaine,

I am cc-ing Prof. Rancourt. I was doing a follow-up on the interpreter request and how things are going? As well, I believe the equipment for the film needs to be checked as a DVD was captioned but the team could not display the captioning. As well I would like to find out if the team can summarize presentations to me if there are no interpreters present. I am not sure who I can work with to ensure that my accessibility needs are met... I understand that last Friday was a first and that it was a new situation, but eventually I am sure things will fall in place and we'll find the best way to make sure the event is inclusive.

Thank you,

Genevieve.

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>
> ----- Message d'origine-----
> De: Genevieve Deguire [mailto:gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca]
> Date: lun. 17/09/2007 15:05
> À: Yolaine Ruel
> Objet : RE : RE: RE : RE: RE : FW: Request for ASL services
>
> hmm I'm confused because I thought the interpreter request was being
  taken
> care of. I will do a follow up with him. Thank you.
>
> Yolaine Ruel <Yolaine.Ruel@uottawa.ca> a écrit :      v\:*
> {behavior:url(#default#VML);} o\:* {behavior:url(#default#VML);}
  w\:*
> {behavior:url(#default#VML);} .shape {behavior:url(#default#VML);}
> st1\:*{behavior:url(#default#ieooui) }      Hi Genevieve,
> I can understand your disappointment. Let's see what can be done.
> I can't find information on the event from the uO Calendar of
  events.
> I'll call the department to find out more about the activity - who's
> responsible and who should organize for the interpretation. I'll
  keep
> you informed.
> Meanwhile, have you done an "official request" (I put Official in
> brackets because I know prof. Rancourt's aware of your need - he was
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cc
> on our last week correspondences) to Prof Rancourt? I have not
heard
> from him or anyone from his department for an interpretation's
request.
> If he's the person in charge, I suggest you send him a request
directly
> with a cc to me.
> Let's keep each other informed.
> Yolaine
>
>

Objet: RE: RE : RE: RE : RE: RE : FW: Request for ASL services

Date : Mon, 17 Sep 2007 15:29:54 -0400

À : "Genevieve Deguire" <gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca>

I just talked to the Physics department's secretariat where Prof Rancourt works and there's no information about this weekly event.

I'll contact Prof Rancourt as well and ask for more info. I'll cc you.

y

From: Genevieve Deguire [mailto:gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca]

Sent: 17 septembre 2007 15:05

To: Yolaine Ruel

Subject: RE : RE: RE : RE: RE : FW: Request for ASL services

hmm I'm confused because I thought the interpreter request was being taken care of. I will do a follow up with him. Thank you.

Yolaine Ruel <Yolaine.Ruel@uottawa.ca> a écrit :

Hi Genevieve,

I can understand your disappointment. Let's see what can be done.

I can't find information on the event from the uO Calendar of events. I'll call the department to find out more about the activity – who's responsible and who should organize for the interpretation. I'll keep you informed.

Meanwhile, have you done an "official request" (I put Official in brackets because I know prof. Rancourt's aware of your need - he was cc on our last week correspondences) to Prof Rancourt? I have not heard from him or anyone from his department for an interpretation's request. If he's the person in charge, I suggest you send him a request directly with a cc to me.

Let's keep each other informed.

Yolaine

>
> -----
>
> From: Genevieve Deguire [mailto:gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca]
> Sent: 17 septembre 2007 12:03
> To: Yolaine Ruel
> Subject: RE : RE: RE : FW: Request for ASL services
>
>
> Hi Yolaine,
>
>
>
> I went to the event last Friday as the film was captioned - I
knew
> that there would be no interpreters but I went anyway for the film.
I
> think that they could not turn on the c.c. with the technology they
> had. I was told that their copy was not captioned, but I am not sure
> if it is the copy or really the technology.
>
>
>
> I was disappointed with the little concern they had with this
issue. I
> was not offered bus tickets for the waste in transportation, or a
> commitment to ensure that the technology would work or that they would
> get copies that are captioned in the future. There was also a
> presentation before the film and they did not come to summarize it to
> me. Basically I was let go of quite quickly without any second
> thoughts as if I was some kind of intrusion and they were relieved
> from not having to take any responsibility.
>
>
>
> Overall I am not happy with what happened.
>
>
>
> I hope to get interpreters for the whole evening now in case the
film
> is not captioned. But is there any other way this complaint can be
> addressed?
>

>
>
> Thank you,
>
>
>
> Genevieve.
>
>
>
> Yolaine Ruel <Yolaine.Ruel@uottawa.ca> a écrit :
>
> Hi Genevieve,
>
> I agree with you for tomorrow. Let's focus on the next weeks.
>
> Thanks for the information but, like I said on my previous
message,
> when it's an activity open to the public - not a course - you just
> have to identify yourself directly to the service, faculty or
> department that organize the event and ask for the accommodation you
> need. University Services, faculties or departments are responsible
> to provide accommodation for non student. If they don't know how to
> do it, they will communicate with the Access Service. We'll help them
> with the request.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Yolaine
>
>
>
>
>
> -----
>
> From: Genevieve Deguire [mailto:gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca]
> Sent: 13 septembre 2007 15:59
> To: Yolaine Ruel
> Cc: dgr@uottawa.ca
> Subject: RE : FW: Request for ASL services
>
>
>
>

> Hi! It is way too last minute to request for tomorrow but we
can
> request for the following Fridays and whenever there are
> interpreters available I will attend.

> 1. Where is the event? MacDonald Hall Auditorian MCD 146
> 2. How long it will last? 7:30 to 10:30 but if no
interpreter is
> available until later like 9 pm that is okay because I will
> watch the caption of the film
> 3. What is the subject? Different every week. Discussion
follows
> the films. The films are oriented towards political and social
> issues.
> 4. Are you a student or a visitor? Visitor
> 5. Whose in charge of the event? You can contact Denis RAncourt
At dgr@uottawa.ca
>
Please get back to me ASAP with the answers.
>

> Yolaine
>
> Yolaine Ruel
> Chef - Manager
> Service d'accès - Access Service
> Centre universitaire, pièce 339
> University Centre, Room 339
> Université d'Ottawa - University of Ottawa
> Tél. - Tel (613) 562-5976
> Téléc. - Fax (613) 562-5159
> ATS - TTY (613) 562-5214
>
>

Objet: RE : Re: RE : Re: Cinema politica

À : dgr@uottawa.ca

Is there a way I can find out in advance if the film is captioned? It would save me a long trip from North Kanata. I CANT follow a film without caption. In classrooms I use sign language interpreters - this is to show how serious my deafness is. Thank you !!! :) Go accessibility!!

Genevieve.

dgr@uottawa.ca a écrit :

If a film has captions then we can certainly turn them on: Remind me at the film!

Most films we show are also available at the university OPIRG's, or you can buy them from Exile Books.

dgr

De : "Genevieve Deguire" <gendeguireXXXX@yahoo.ca>

À : dgr@uottawa.ca

Sure, please do! Also are the films closed captioned? Would the organizers be okay with turning it on? I am hard of hearing. Genevieve.

dgr@uottawa.ca a écrit :

Genevieve: Can I add you to the weekly announcement OCP email list?

> Hi,

>

> I see that the cinema politica website has not been updated. Is there

> any way I can find out where the films will be playing on Fridays and

> the list of films? This would be great!! Thank you :) Genevieve.

>

>