



ORIGINAL SENT VIA E-MAIL & REGULAR POST

Office of the Vice-President, Services

September 5, 2006

Dr. David Bernans
12 rue William
Saint-Pacome, QC
G0L 3X0

Dear Dr. Bernans,

I am writing to clear up the confusion surrounding your request to book a room for a reading from your book *North of 9/11*.

First, let me begin by stating publicly and firmly that Concordia does not censor its students, faculty or staff. We are committed to freedom of speech and work tirelessly to foster an environment where civil discourse is welcomed and encouraged. This is why your request was approved, as was communicated to you via e-mail on July 20.

When Security later noticed that confirmation from the proposed sponsor was still pending, the approval was rescinded pending confirmation. Unfortunately for all concerned, this information was not properly communicated to Conference Services and an e-mail was sent on July 24, 2006, informing you that your request had been denied by the university's risk assessment committee. This is absolutely not the case. In fact, this matter was never referred to the risk assessment committee.

What occurred here was a combination of human error and a booking system which needs to be improved. The confusion surrounding your request has allowed us to identify flaws in our booking system. We are reviewing the process, will make the necessary changes and will communicate them to the community.

Finally, as has been reported in the media, you are welcome to hold your book reading on campus, as was the case from the beginning.

Sincerely,

Michael Di Grappa