April 3, 2017

Dr. Michael Ignatieff
President and Rector
Central European University
Budapest, Hungary

Dear Dr. Ignatieff,

As an academic partner of Central European University, I write to convey Duke University’s support as you address potential legal changes in Hungary that imperil your ability to continue as an academic institution.

Duke is fortunate to have a number of CEU graduates as current members of our faculty in economics, history, religious studies, political science. These colleagues have distinguished themselves as scholars and teachers, and their CEU training brings an important global perspective to our academic community. We have also welcomed CEU students into our graduate programs. Currently six CEU alumni are pursuing graduate degrees in Duke’s department of economics, and we have regular exchanges with Ph.D. students in a range of disciplines.

In addition, Duke enjoys a growing number of academic collaborations with CEU, such as:

Duke’s Human Rights Archive and the Open Society Archives, now known as the Blinken Archives, are developing a partnership with their counterparts at CEU.

The director of the Duke Human Rights Center and a professor of gender studies at CEU recently co-taught an online collaborative interdisciplinary research seminar, “Preserving and Interpreting Knowledges of the Past and Promoting Social Justice,” as part of CEU’s Civic Engagement Initiative.

Duke and CEU faculty have several ongoing collaborations in economics, history, and European studies, which have led to visiting fellowships, co-authored papers and conferences.

CEU is a vital institution that has done so much, in a relatively short time, to empower free inquiry and the dissemination of knowledge throughout Europe, and indeed the world. Duke University stands with you in support of that noble mission.

Sincerely,

Sally Kornbluth
Provost and Jo Rae Wright University Professor