



TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
A Commonwealth University

College of Liberal Arts

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Department of History

18 April 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

At its meeting on April 18, 2017, the Temple University Department of History voted unanimously (19-0-0) to issue the following statement in support of Central European University.

“The Faculty of the History Department at Temple University expresses its concern about recent Hungarian legislation threatening the American-Hungarian institution, Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary. The amendments to Hungary’s national Higher Education Act signed into law by the President of the Republic of Hungary, János Áder, on April 10, 2017, restrict the academic freedom of international universities operating in Hungary and make it impossible for CEU to continue its operations in Budapest.

CEU was founded in 1991 on the principle that successful democratic societies require the free exchange of ideas. The global reach of CEU is attested by its diverse staff, faculty, students, and alumni, who come from all 50 US states and more than 110 countries. Its graduate programs consistently rank in the top 200 worldwide. The action of the Hungarian government against CEU is an explicit threat to the independence of the institution and an attack on academic freedom. As such, it fundamentally undermines civil society, and its attempt for intellectual control is contrary to values that we as scholars and teachers hold dear.

The European Parliament will discuss the situation in Hungary on April 26. We urge the Parliament in their deliberations to consider CEU’s established place in the international academic community, its long-lasting contributions to the development of democratic societies in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989, and the importance of academic freedom and institutions like CEU to civil society.”

Sincerely,

Associate Professor and Chair
Department of History