

19 April 2017

Mr. Viktor Orbán
Prime Minister
1357 Budapest, Pf. 6,
Hungary

Email: miniszterelnok@mk.gov.hu

Dear Prime Minister Orbán:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Association of the University of British Columbia, I am writing to express our concerns about the recent amendments to Hungary's *Act on National Higher Education* that threaten the operations of the internationally renowned Central European University (CEU).

The CEU attracts students, faculty, and staff from around the world to engage in higher education and research to the benefit of Hungary and over 100 other countries that participate in the CEU community. Since its founding, the CEU has built an outstanding reputation based on the work of scholars with deep global connections. The amendments that have been made to the *Act on National Higher Education* will have the effect of making it impossible for the CEU to operate as a free and independent graduate university.

The world's strongest democratic societies support the principles of academic freedom and autonomy in their universities. The changes that have been made to Hungary's legislation governing higher education have seriously undermined these principles and threaten the integrity of Hungary's universities. We urge you to revoke these changes to the *Act on National Higher Education*.

Sincerely,



Professor Mark Mac Lean
President

cc: Dr. Michael Ignatieff, President and Rector, Central European University
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada