

Dr. President Ignatieff:

We are a small public Liberal Arts and Science based university in rural Colorado USA, but that does not disconnect us from the larger world of higher education. Indeed one of our faculty is a CEU alum. Our Faculty Senate wants to add its voice to the growing international concern regarding the legislative changes on the part of the Hungarian government that threaten the operations of the Central European University (CEU).

The CEU has established a prestigious and respected reputation among institutions of higher learning worldwide and the CEU has embraced and promoted open intellectual inquiry and academic freedom, the hallmarks of academia. Its student body, faculty and staff are drawn from around the world and it is critical that the institution remains a free and independent international graduate university. The CEU has brought educational opportunities to students from around the world and as result, prestige to Hungary.

The recent amendments to Act CCIV on National Higher Education not only restrict the CEU in its educational mission; they also establish a dangerous precedent for other institutions of higher learning in Hungary. We stand with you in supporting the open intellectual life and inquiry of the CEU.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Thiessen-Reily

President, WSCU Faculty Senate