

December 27, 2006

Dear Dr. Barros,

The international scholarly community is distressed and shocked to learn that more than 140 of our colleagues have been deprived of their work and careers, virtually overnight. It is reported that among these colleagues are the some of the most distinguished members of your faculty. Certainly this must be a terrible loss for your institution and your students who are being deprived of a substantial part of an irreplaceable professoriat that must have taken many years to build. Lives cannot be treated so summarily and least of all by an institution that must stand for what is most humane, fair and decent.

One must hope that this event is the result of a misunderstanding that can somehow be corrected in the near future. I urge you to restore these faculty members to their employment and find other ways to meet the economic difficulties of the moment.

Sincerely,

Robert Hullot-Kentor

Dr. Robert Hullot-Kentor  
Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature