

375
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EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY

Rector's Office

DEPARTMENT OF

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND MOBILITY

DR. Michael Adams
President
The University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
USA

Registration
number:

Official in charge: Márton Bélik

13/8/2010 Budapest

Dear President Adams:

I am writing in hopes of clearing up several misunderstandings that appear to be impeding the excellent cooperation we have enjoyed with the University of Georgia for over a decade.

While we wish to maintain and build on our excellent record of cooperation, we are very concerned about a number of recent developments.

1) Despite asking us, through the offices of Dean Noel Fallows and Provost Arnett Mace, about the validity of academic credits and transfer credit transcripts issued by us to University of Georgia students for the Maymester in Budapest program in 2008, the University of Georgia denied transfer credit for this program, for which we are the academic sponsor, in 2009. We have no idea why Georgia would doubt the validity of our transfer credits or transcripts, or why Georgia would suddenly seek to deny academic credit to its students for this excellent program after accepting our transfer credits since 2005. That is especially true since we have served as academic sponsor for the Maymester program initially developed at Georgia under terms requested by your Dean Clifton Pannell in 2005.

2) Further, again despite receiving confirmation from us that the credits and transcripts were valid, Dean Noel Fallows of your University apparently conducted a clandestine investigation of our transfer credits and transcripts. Of course we do not know why your University felt it necessary to do this. We are further concerned that it was done by sending the transcripts of Georgia students previously registered at our University to third parties for evaluation, who then passed them on to us under false pretenses, in some cases actually impersonating the students who had no knowledge of this activity. Sending our students' transcripts out in this manner, disclosing their names and U.S. Social Security numbers without their knowledge or consent, would appear to be a serious violation of our own policies regarding the release of student information, as well as a serious violation of both Hungarian and European Union privacy law. You can understand why we feel responsible for seeing that transcripts issued by our University are not put to any improper or illegal use.

3) We are further concerned that, for reasons we do not completely understand, the University of Georgia has used an incorrect evaluation of our transfer credits and transcripts for the purposes of

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taking disciplinary action against our Adjunct Professor, Dr. Dezsó Benedek, with whom we have had a very positive collaboration for the past decade that has benefited both our schools. This disciplinary action was apparently taken on the basis that the transcripts issued upon proper authority by Eotvos Lorand University "not official Hungarian transcripts," according to an evaluation agency with which we were not previously familiar, Josef Silny & Associates. There seems to be some further suggestion in these proceedings that we do not acknowledge academic sponsorship of the Maymester program. In case there is any remaining confusion, let me assure you that these statements are false. Any actions taken against our Adjunct for academic misrepresentation on this basis are based on false grounds. Of course we are also concerned about the way this action, based on the supposed illegitimacy of our programs, credits, and transcripts, also reflects negatively both on our Institution and the students to whom we have previously issued credit, including many students from your own University.

4) That brings me to my final point of concern, which is that Officials at Georgia's Office of International Education have contacted other U.S. universities that previously accepted our transfer credits to warn them against having their students participate in our programs. Based on just such an intervention by your Office of International Education, for example, Notre Dame University no longer accepts our transfer credits for the Maymester or any other program or coursework from our University. I am sure you can understand the seriousness with which we view this negative impact on our programs and external relationships. We are not sure what reason Officials at your University have for questioning the academic value of our programs, especially those based on our cooperation with the University of Georgia, or why they feel any compulsion or authority to undermine our relationships with other U.S. institutions.

On this point I would respectfully remind you that Eotvos Lorand University is the oldest University in Hungary, and we like to believe we have a storied tradition and excellent academic reputation. We currently maintain cooperative relationships with over 150 international Universities, relationships we value highly and do not wish to jeopardize. Accordingly, we wish you would look into this matter and let us know if there is any information we can provide to reassure Officials at your University of the quality and integrity of our academic programs, and anything your Office of International Education can do to repair the damage already done to our reputation and relationships in the U.S.

In that same vein, we would hope that if there were ever any question—whether about our academic sponsorship of the Maymester in Budapest program developed at Georgia, or any transfer credits issued or transfer credit transcripts we sent to the University of Georgia, or any other issue concerning the relationship between our schools—that you would feel free to merely ask us about it. What we do find highly unusual in this particular situation is that we did receive a request from your Provost, Dr. Arnett Mace, which we did answer to confirm our academic sponsorship of the Maymester in Budapest program developed by Dr. Benedek at Georgia and subsequently transferred to us, as well as the validity and authority of our transfer credit transcripts.

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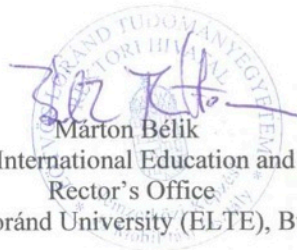
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Apparently there was some misunderstanding in this regard when we informed Dean Fallows and Provost Mace, as well as the evaluation agencies employed by them, that these programs were developed by a Georgia professor under Georgia curriculum guidelines—and not ours—so that all the information they were seeking concerning the Maymester in Budapest courses must already be in the records of the University of Georgia.

Therefore, it is my hope that by writing to you we can clear up any misunderstandings and place the relationship between our two schools again on the cooperative and mutually beneficial footing we have enjoyed in the past. I would take it as a personal favor if you could look into these matters and let me know what we can do to accomplish that objective.

Kind regards,



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