

Senate Question Period
October 30, 2012

Submitted by Senator Jones

4. Question regarding the CAUT Report

The CAUT Ad Hoc Investigatory Committee Report on the situation and treatment of Dr. Michael Mason in the Department of History at Queen's University, released September 20, 2012, concludes “that administrative employees and officers of Queen’s University abused their power and acted in disregard of the wellbeing of one of their teaching employees,” and says also “that Professor Mason was denied basic rights, and that academic freedom, both as commonly understood and as defined in the collective agreement between QUFA and Queen’s University, was seriously violated” (p. 17). It is well understood that Queen’s Administration denies CAUT’s jurisdiction in this matter. Yet this jurisdictional distinction does nothing in itself to disprove or discredit the conclusions of the Report, which was published by a highly credible authority, which has been widely and respectfully reported in the media ([QUFA Forum](#) provides many of the links), and which has been [endorsed by QUFA](#) itself. In view of the significant damage that the Report’s conclusions may cause to the university’s academic reputation, would the Provost please explain why the Administration has never yet responded to the charges levelled against it? If CAUT’s charges are wrong, why not publicly refute them; if they are right, why not simply apologize and show that we can admit and learn from mistakes?