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Laurier statement in response to CAUT withdrawal of motion relating to censureship

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University is pleased that, after careful consideration, the CAUT chose not to support a motion of censure. We welcome the scrutiny and discussion that has been generated by the Balsillie School of International Affairs' governance model, which we believe is a truly innovative and sound approach to governance that others can learn from and follow. Partnerships with external entities are increasingly important for all universities, and we are pleased to be at the forefront of identifying robust governance models for such relationships with our partners.

We believe the Balsillie School governance document protects academic freedom, academic program governance, and faculty working conditions by keeping them completely within the universities and separate from third-party influence. However, in light of the issues raised by the CAUT, the Balsillie School partners developed a Memorandum of Understanding that provides additional clarification of the protections in the governance document. While providing additional clarity, the MOU does not alter the governance document itself.

Academic freedom and integrity are fundamental principles at Wilfrid Laurier University and will continue to remain front and centre in all current and future agreements and partnerships.

The Balsillie School of International Affairs is a highly respected research and educational institution that aims to develop new solutions to critical problems, improve global governance, and enhance the quality of people's lives around the world. We are proud to be partners in this important initiative.

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