Congratulations to the 2013 Winner of the Jay Newman Award For Academic Integrity

Dr. James L. Turk, Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)



Jim Turk graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University with a degree in sociology, social psychology and anthropology. He received a master's degree from the University of California at Berkeley before completing his doctorate in sociology from the University of Toronto where he was a faculty member for nearly 20 years. He then worked in the labour movement for groups such as the Ontario Federation of Labour and the Canadian Union of Public Employees in various positions including Director of Research and Director of Education. His

greatest contributions to the academy have been as Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, a position he has held since 1998.

As Executive Director of the CAUT, Dr. Turk has been an active and effective defender of academic ideals who has made the CAUT into a credible and powerful voice for academic staff, postsecondary education and the academy in general. In considering his nomination for this award, members of the Academic Freedom Committee were particularly impressed by his leadership in the case of the proposed partnership between York University, the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University and the Balsillie Centre for International Governance Innovation. Significant control over academic matters was being handed to CIGI by the institutions' senior administrators. Despite determined opposition, Dr. Turk's skilful negotiation eventually compelled the universities to uphold collegial governance and academic integrity. Committee members were also inspired by accounts of Dr. Turk's tireless campaigns on behalf of individual academics. Professors Nancy Olivieri, David Healey and Hassan Diab described harrowing experiences involving attacks on academic freedom and personal credibility, denial of clinical data, and even dismissal from an academic post and the threat of extradition from Canada. In each case these academics attributed the positive resolution of their situations, and the protection of their careers, to Dr. Turk's efforts. Finally, his outstanding scholarship on the threats to academic freedom and on the importance of universities' continued existence as sources of knowledge and research for the public good, demonstrated in such published works as Universities at Risk: How Politics, Special Interests and Corporatization Threaten the Integrity of the University, (James Lorimer & Co., 2008), fits perfectly with the spirit of this award.