



Office of the Chair and Graduate Chair

## DPES 2011-2 Safety Concerns

From: William Gough, Chair, DPES

CC: Caroline Rabbat, Director, Campus Safety and Security

Date: January 13, 2011

As many of you are aware there have been two incidences of concern in the SRB in the last two months, the second occurring earlier this week. A faculty member was accosted by someone unknown to him and asked for a particular chemical substance. It was the same individual asking for the substance and asking it of the same faculty member. In both instances gun use was threatened, although no weapon was brandished. Campus police under the supervision of the Director of Campus Safety and Security, Caroline Rabbat, have taken these incidences seriously. Working with Toronto Police human and electronic surveillance will be increased in the SRB in order to try to apprehend the perpetrator.

Given other events in the GTA and in the US, I recognize there is a heightened concern for security. This is understandable and plays out in different ways depending on our experience and world view. Some of you are very concerned and this is affecting your well being and your ability to work effectively. Others have little to no concern and may be mildly exasperated at what may seem to be an exaggerated response. I ask all to express patience with each other as we work through these security concerns.

Caroline Rabbat will be meeting with our administrative staff this week to discuss their concerns. She will also attend our departmental meeting next week to talk more broadly with the department. She is willing to meet with any other group or individuals in the department, as am I.

I am reviewing the relevant Health and Safety aspects that have arisen as a result of this. I have asked researchers and teaching labs to review their protocols for the safe and secure storage of chemicals and have requested chemical inventories be reported to the Chair's office.