



MS 3G4
4400 University Dr.
Fairfax, VA 22030

Economics Department

Daniel Klein, Peter Boettke

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A open letter to Dean Sevcik, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Public Administration, University of Economics, Prague

In our capacity as journal editors, dissertation reviewers, visiting professors, and research scholars we have worked with the members of Department of Institutional Economics (KIE) at the University of Economics for a long time. Our interaction with KIE has been extensive. Under the leadership of Dr. David Lipka and others, KIE impresses us as department of high-quality and internationally recognition. Lipka and his colleagues have created a vibrant intellectual climate, a place of serious scientific scholarship and great prospects for the future.

Our esteem for David Lipka is high indeed. As a scholar he is penetrating, scrupulous, erudite, and curious. As a teacher he is generous and broad-minded. As a leader and organizer he is not merely supremely competent but creative and entrepreneurial. He is man of integrity, and sweet disposition and kindness. It is no wonder that KIE has prospered and become a friend to international scholars under his leadership. We regard David Lipka and others at KIE and the University of Economics as dear colleagues.

We do not speak lightly. Our collaboration with KIE and its associates such as Marek Hudik and Josef Sima have been ongoing, publishing in our journals, sending students to our programs both in the United States and Europe, participating in conferences and programs. To us, the KIE and its associates are one of the shining spots in Europe.

The actions that have been visited upon our friend and colleague Lipka appear all too clearly to be unjust, outrageously unjust. We regard charges against Lipka about supposed miscommunications to be trumped-up nonsense. We know David well. We know the virtue at the core of his being. And we are deeply troubled by what looms over those who have bravely come to his aid.

We protest strongly the steps that have been taken against him. What has been happening, if not rectified, will lead to destruction of the unique team that built the department of institutional economics. We can hardly imagine that our co-operation with the department could continue in the future once the original team is gone. We suggest that you rectify matters.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Klein, Professor of Economics, George Mason University and Chief Editor, *Econ Journal Watch*

<http://econfaculty.gmu.edu/klein/index.html>

Peter Boettke, University Professor of Economics and Philosophy, George Mason University, the BB&T Professor for the Study of Capitalism, Vice President for Research, and Director of

the F.A. Hayek Program for Advanced Study in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at the Mercatus Center at GMU and Editor-in-Chief, *Review of Austrian Economics*
<http://www.peter-boettke.com/>

Niclas Berggren, Associate Professor, Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Stockholm, and Editor, *Ekonomisk Debatt*
http://www.ifn.se/eng/people/research_fellows/nb

Robert Higgs, Editor, *The Independent Review*, The Independent Institute
http://www.independent.org/aboutus/person_detail.asp?id=489

Deirdre McCloskey, Distinguished Professor of Economics, History, English, and Communication, University of Illinois at Chicago; Professor of Economic History, Gothenburg University, Sweden
<http://www.deirdremccloskey.org/>

Giovanni Battista Ramello, Associate Professor Università del Piemonte Orientale; Chairman of the IEL International Programme in Institutions, Economics and Law
<http://polis.unipmn.it/php/showHomePage.php?who=ramello&cosa=links&L=EN>