



Representing Faculty, Librarians,
Veterinarians & College Professors

Dear UGFA Member,

At the town hall meeting today, we mentioned to you that we would be sending a template that you could use as the base of a letter to send to the Board of Governors, the President, and/or the Provost to object to the planned partnership with Navitas. You will find it below.

If you like, please tailor it as you see fit before sending it. If you are comfortable doing so, please copy the Association (facassoc@uoguelph.ca) on your email so that we have a sense of how many of our members have contacted the Administration with their objections to Navitas.

Sincerely,

Herb Kunze, UGFA President
Louise Grogan, UGFA Vice-President

To: President: cyates@uoguelph.ca, Provost: gwen.chapman@uoguelph.ca, Faculty Member on the Board of Governors: statia@uoguelph.ca

Dear Provost Chapman and President Yates,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to your plan to sign an agreement with Navitas, an Australian for-profit corporation owned by a hedge fund, to privatize a portion of the teaching at the University of Guelph.

My objections include the following:

- The academic standards and reputation of our University will be compromised through Navitas' aggressive recruitment and admission of students who are, in the words of the Administration, "below the bar for regular admission."
- The high-quality, publicly-funded education that we deliver at the University of Guelph will be devalued.
- The number of instructors on our campus with precarious employment will grow, as will the pressure on them to pass Navitas students.
- UGFA members, as well as other academic staff on campus, risk seeing their scholarly work absorbed by the for-profit corporation.
- Students of the Navitas program and their families will be exploited through exorbitant fees that are significantly higher than those charged to "regular" international students.

- While the University claims that the Navitas partnership allows it to make progress towards its stated goal of internationalization, this “progress” is neither ethical nor sustainable.
- There has been no meaningful consultation to determine whether or not the broad University community supports the plan to partner with Navitas.

Only four Canadian universities have established relationships with Navitas. The University of Guelph should join the much larger number of Canadian universities that considered such a relationship, and then rejected it.