



February 11, 2021

MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY

RE: Education for All Campaign Update

Since the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year, the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) has been diligently working on the Education for All Campaign to demand better and fairer treatment for all students. This membership advisory is an explanation of the campaign timeline and what we have achieved through this campaign so far:

On July 31, 2020, the UTMSU officially launched the Education for All campaign to demand:

1. Immediate reduction of tuition fees for all students
2. Fairness for International Students
3. Increased non-academic scholarships for all students
4. Increased awards and grants for Indigenous and Black students
5. Increased paid Experiential Learning and Internship positions for all departments
6. Stand-alone mental health counsellors within all departments
7. Improvement of Accessibility Services

Accompanying this, we launched an [emailer](#) where we asked students to get involved and email the University of Toronto Mississauga Senior Administration about the demands of the campaign. After that, we developed and released the [Education for All Lobby Document](#) as well as the [Fairness for International Students Lobby Document](#) that we used in our first Lobby Meeting with representatives of the UTM Senior Administration on September 23, 2020. During that meeting, we presented our lobby demands and discussed the details of the campaign and the circumstances in which UTM students are in.

Students are overworked, overpaying, and underrepresented.

Although both parties went back and forth on the demands throughout the meeting, we called upon the UTM Senior Administration to act on these demands and to create a plan of action regarding the lobby document by Monday, January 18, 2021, and to begin implementation of the plans by fall 2021.

On January 20, 2021, we met to discuss the status of the demands of the campaign from the UTM Senior Administration. After four months, here is what they had to say:

1. Regarding the immediate reduction of tuition fees for all students, Senior Administration mentioned that they will continue to provide one of the province's top financial aid packages for domestic student support, including substantial forms of need-based aid; continue to make multi-million dollar investments in scholarships to support diversity and access for international students. However, there is no plan to further reduce and eliminate tuition fees for fall 2021.



2. As for our second demand, Fairness for International Students, Senior Administration is interested in and willing to create a working group to directly interact with international students to better address distinct challenges. However, there is no plan to further invest in resources and services for International Students for fall 2021.
3. In regard to our third demand, Increased Non-Academic Scholarships for All Students, this received a similar response to our first demand. When we asked where the funds would come from and how to better invest the funds, we were told it would come through donations.
4. As for our fourth demand, Increased Awards and Grants for Indigenous and Black Students, Senior Administration seemed more interested in this demand. We were informed that they are in the midst of spearheading major fundraising efforts to develop new endowments designed for students from disadvantaged populations facing financial pressures. As for the presence of Campus Police, they are interested in creating a planning initiative that involves students in mapping out its future developments. Additionally, Senior Administration will be releasing a new strategic plan for hiring more Black, Indigenous, and Queer Faculty members.
5. In regard to our fifth demand, Increased paid Experiential Learning and Internship positions for all departments, UTM Senior Administration mentioned that there are two programs that focus on paid placements and work-integrated learning, however, this will be a minimum of two years to implement.
6. As for the sixth demand, Stand-Alone Mental Health Counsellors Within All Departments, Senior Administration is interested in working with CAMH to explore new academic opportunities for conversation around mental health and wellbeing. Additionally, they will implement the insights developed by U of T's Mental Health Framework. There is no timeline established for this.
7. Lastly, for our seventh demand, the Improvement of Accessibility Services, Senior Administration is working on further developing their faculty and staff training on Accessibility Services and how to further accommodate students in need. But, the University will continue to offer volunteer, unpaid, note-taker positions.

Lobbying for structural change is a key aspect of the UTMSU's work and being able to discuss accessible education, mental health resources, increasing grants and awards, the protection of student's rights in work settings, fairness for international students, and greater access to education for Black and Indigenous students is incredibly important and needed. Although we did not hear all the answers we wanted, the work here is not done.

Moving forward,

- We will continue to lobby for the reduction of tuition fees well past fall 2021.
- We will ensure that International students are continuously consulted on the matters that affect them the most such as health care and other support services.
- While simultaneously providing bursaries and grants for students, we will continue to lobby the UTM administration to find ethical ways of supporting students.
- We will follow up with UTM senior administration on their new strategic plan to hire more Black, Indigenous and Queer faculty members.



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- While simultaneously providing job opportunities for students, we will work with the UTM administration to redesign the experiential learning process in a way that best supports students.
- We will continue to provide the UTMSU Mental Health Peer Support Program to students while also advocating for better mental health resources from the University.
- We will work in collaboration with Accessibility Services to improve the current services available to students and work with other unions, and the administration to ensure that note takers can be adequately compensated.

Above all, we will continue to consult with you, the students, to ensure your needs are being well represented at both the University of Toronto Mississauga Campus as well as across the University of Toronto as a whole.

Want to get involved or ask questions? Email our President, Mitra Yakubi, at president@utmsu.ca.

In student solidarity,
The UTMSU Executives