



UTMSU Statement regarding the Pro-Palestine Motion at the 2023 AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the highest decision-making space of the UTMSU, where UTM students set the direction of the organisation for the upcoming year. All UTMSU members (UTM undergraduate and professional faculty students) were invited and encouraged to attend the AGM that took place on November 29th, 2023 at 6:00PM in the William Davis Building at UTM.

Information about the AGM was available on our instagram page and via the Newsletter emailed to all students on November 16th, 2023, with UTMSU executive contact information made available for questions. Prior to the meeting, members had the opportunity to register and submit motions. During the meeting, members were given opportunities to propose new motions, vote or amend current motions, and share comments or concerns.

We would like to emphasise that the AGM is a democratic space—all motions were voted upon by members in the room and business could only be conducted with quorum¹ being reached.

During the meeting, a motion presented by a student regarding Palestinian Liberation was adopted by the members, you can find the motion with amendments [here](#). We would like to clarify what this motion means and update our members on the current implementation of the motion as it reads.

In regard to a “Pro-Palestine stance”: as a Union, we continue to stand against Israeli military operations that further exacerbates the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The UTMSU maintains it's anti-genocide and anti-war stance, and we will continue to advocate for the liberation of Palestinian people and peace, while supporting all students, Israeli and Palestinian, who are affected by the occupation in the Middle East.

At the moment, the UTMSU is working on drafting how the three motions presented will be implemented. We will be discussing the implementation of all motions with the elected Board of Directors to ensure they accurately reflect what students want, as Board members were directly elected by students. We will also consult with campus groups to make sure their voices and concerns are taken into consideration. Once they are ready, the UTMSU will share them with the membership.

We can assure you, we will not silence or censor campus group activities that present opposing views, unless they are deemed harmful or offensive by the

¹ *Quorum is the minimum number of members necessary to deem the meeting democratic and validate the business handled in the meeting. At the UTMSU, AGM quorum is 75 students present in person and 150 students present by proxy as set in our Constitution & Bylaws. A proxy is the authorization for one person to vote on behalf of another.*



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membership and the UTM community via the complaint methods in our Constitution, Bylaws and Policies, which were set in place by students.

The UTMSU respects the autonomy of groups on campus. We have not and will not demand any existing campus group to take an official pro-Palestinian stance nor will we penalise campus groups based on political positions. Campus Groups are the backbone of the UTMSU and the UTM community, and we respect their autonomy.

Finally, the UTMSU has and will continue to condemn anti-semitism and hatred towards any individual. As we always say, any student, regardless of their religion, race, sexual orientation, gender, or ability, is welcome at the UTMSU, and we encourage all students to seek a home at the Union. We are here for you and will always strive to support you!

- UTM Students' Union (UTMSU)