

## **Town Hall Agenda & Information**

5 – 7pm, 12 January 2017

Emmanuel College, Room 119

Hosts: TGSA Referendum Committee

Moderator: Trent Voth

Secretary: Carla Marcoccia

Guests: Student Life Representatives (OVPS, AVP, Hart House, KPE)

### **Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Why we're voting
3. What we are NOT voting on
4. What services we ARE voting on
5. Cost
6. Q&A – either for guests from the U of T or for the Referendum Committee
7. No representative presentation
8. Yes representative presentation
9. Clarification of voting process
10. Q&A – Round Two
11. Thanks & Adjournment

### **Q&A Protocol**

- There is a limit of two questions, per person, on any one given issue
- Precedence will be given to participants who have not yet spoken
- Questions are to be directed to the panel
- The moderator is empowered to redirect or halt discussion at any time

## **1 – Welcome**

## **2 – Why we are voting**

- There are several memberships, services, and programs which the University of Toronto provides to students which we are not eligible to receive since we do not pay the same fees as other UofT students.
- Due to the unique relationship between TST and the UofT, we find ourselves in an administrative loop-hole. Despite being labeled "compulsory fees," these fees have not been "compulsory" for us. Therefore, for this discussion, these fees may be better understood as "ancillary services fees."
- Due to Ontario law, we cannot be compelled by TST or UofT to pay these fees, but we can vote to pay them. However, UofT only offers the services and fees as a block. Therefore, we must vote to pay these "ancillary services fees" in full or not at all.
- In essence, this referendum regards whether we choose to pay all the "ancillary services fees" and receive full access to the corresponding services or to continue to refrain from paying these fees and decline the benefits of these UofT lines of access (e.g. a student could always choose to purchase a membership in Hart House at the same price paid by a community member).

## **3 – What we are NOT voting on**

- Charles Street/ability to apply to live in student residences
- Accessibility Services
- Crisis Response
- CTSI – this is not part of Student Life & would remain officially inaccessible to TGSA students

## **4 – What services we ARE voting on**

1. **Hart House Membership**
2. **Kinesiology & Physical Education Co-Curricular Programs, Services and Facilities**
3. **Student Life Offices and Services, which are comprised of the following:**

### **Aboriginal Student services/First Nations House**

- Provides culturally relevant services to Aboriginal students in support of academic success, personal growth and leadership development.
- Offers learning opportunities for all students to engage with Aboriginal communities within the University of Toronto and beyond.

### **Academic Success Centre:**

- In addition to providing workshops and meetings with learning strategists, the centre also provides a dedicated space to which graduate students are exclusively invited in order to set and reach academic goals: e.g. a scheduled space in which graduate students can work on their respective dissertations within a community of peers in order to encourage and motivate one another.

### **Career Centre:**

- Provides access to 4,000 job listings for on-campus work (which fits the requirements for international student visas).
- Provides a Graduate Dossier Service for Doctoral students conducting their academic job search.
- Connects students to mentors and career counselors to explore multiple career paths/avenues to employ the skills they have acquired in their studies.

### **Centre for Community Partnership**

- Connects students to programs (many with a focus on Social-Justice) within the Toronto and Peel regions. These programs range in focus spanning all ages, demographics, orientations, and perspectives.
- The Centre also provides work opportunities and grants for students interested in community-engaged initiatives.

#### **Centre for International Experience**

- Provides transition advisors to help international students adjust to the University and life in Canada; runs conversational English development programs.
- Can assist domestic students with international study arrangements.

#### **Health & Wellness**

- Variety of health and wellness services are provided and fully covered by OHIP, other provincial health insurance plans, or the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP).

#### **Housing Services**

- Provides tools to assist students' housing searches such as verified rental & roommate listings.
- Assists students in becoming informed tenants, guidance on addressing landlord issues, etc.

#### **Multi-faith Centre**

- Supports the spiritual well being of students and provides opportunities for people to explore inter-faith dialogue and questions of meaning, purpose, and identity.
- Multitude of programs as events, as well as over 30 chaplains to provide holistic spiritual care.

#### **Student Campus & Community Development**

- Access to leadership development training through workshops, training, & retreats.
- Campus Organizations Advisory Board provides guidance to campus organizations on the St. George campus concerning support, goals and outreach.

#### **Early Learning Centres**

- The preference of the ELC is to enroll children of University students, staff and faculty, endeavouring to maintain a minimum of 50% of their total enrolment children of University students, and 50% children of University faculty/staff.
- Receives an operational subsidy through the incidental fees which is used to reduce child care fees for student parents by approximately 19%.

#### **Family Care Office**

- Provides confidential guidance, resources, referrals, educational programming and advocacy for the University of Toronto community and their families.
- Connects students with options for regular and emergency child care, day camps and after school programming.

#### **Sexual and Gender Diversity Office**

- Develops partnerships to build supportive learning and working communities at the University of Toronto by working towards equity and challenging discrimination.
- Offers a variety of programs, such as Q21, a regular drop-in and social space to build connections around experiences and to engage with questions that have no easy answers.

#### **5 – Cost & Governance**

The 2016-2017 fees, per session, are as follows:

|  | <b>Full-time</b> | <b>Part-time</b> |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <b>KPE Co-Curricular Programs, Services and Facilities</b> | 183.52           | 36.70            |
| <b>Hart House</b>  | 84.27            | 16.87            |

|   |                 |                |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Student Life Programs and Services</b> | 148.38          | 29.68          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$416.17</b> | <b>\$83.25</b> |

These fees are overseen by COSS, as seventeen member, student majority advisory board, which gives recommendations on changes to these fees to the University Affairs Board. TGSA students are represented on COSS by four UTSU representatives.

## **6 – Q&A: Part One**

### **7 – No Representative Presentation**

### **8 – Yes Representative Presentation**

### **9 – Clarification of Voting Process**

The voting period for this referendum is set for January 20<sup>th</sup> to February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Voting will take place online at [voting.utoronto.ca](http://voting.utoronto.ca), with back-up paper ballots available via email should any student have difficulty accessing the online platform.

Prior to the voting period the Referendum Committee will distribute a second Notice of Referendum which will include the referendum question, instructions on how to vote, as well as statements from the Yes and No campaigns.

Quorum in this referendum is set at 50 students, with a two-thirds majority of those voting needed to for a referendum question to pass. Further details on the TGSA referendum process can be found in Section E.6 of the association's Policies & Procedures: [tgsa.sa.utoronto.ca/documents](http://tgsa.sa.utoronto.ca/documents)

## **10 – Q&A: Part Two**

### **11 – Thanks & Adjournment**

Thank you for taking the time to be present and participate here tonight. We hope it was a fair and informative discussion. Please reach out to any member of the TGSA Referendum Committee with your questions, concerns, to clarify any of the information you have received tonight, or to be involved in the referendum process. We can be reached via:

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| TST Graduate Students' Association       | <a href="mailto:tgsa@utoronto.ca">tgsa@utoronto.ca</a>                                 |
| Carla Marcoccia, Chief Returning Officer | <a href="mailto:carla.marcoccia@mail.utoronto.ca">carla.marcoccia@mail.utoronto.ca</a> |
| Matthew Bowman, No Representative        | <a href="mailto:matthew.bowman@mail.utoronto.ca">matthew.bowman@mail.utoronto.ca</a>   |
| Robyn Boéré, Yes Representative          | <a href="mailto:r.boere@mail.utoronto.ca">r.boere@mail.utoronto.ca</a>                 |
| Trent Voth, Neutral                      | <a href="mailto:trent.voth@mail.utoronto.ca">trent.voth@mail.utoronto.ca</a>           |
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