



March 11, 2014

Graduate Students' Union, University of Toronto
16 Bancroft Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1C1
Attention: Bradley Evoy

Dear Mr. Evoy,

As you are aware, the Executive Committee of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (the "Federation") is in receipt of a petition that appears to have been signed by individual Federation members belonging to the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (the "GSU") requesting a vote on decertification from the Federation. The petition was received on September 19, 2013 and proposed that a vote be held on March 24 to 28, 2014.

The Bylaws of the Federation stipulate that in order to be valid, a petition calling for a vote on decertification must, amongst other things, be "signed by not less than twenty per cent (20%) of the individual members" (Bylaw II.1.f). Additionally, in order to be valid, a name on a petition must be reasonably legible, include the proper full name, be accompanied by a valid and corresponding student identification number, and a unique signature (Bylaw II.5.a.vi). The Bylaws further stipulate that "the Executive Committee will have sole authority to determine whether the petition is in order" (Bylaw II.5.a.vii).

On October 3, 2013 and again on October 21, 2013, we wrote the GSU informing them that the Executive Committee would be commencing the process of verifying the validity of the petition and requested the assistance of the GSU in procuring a membership list to be used for the sole purpose of verifying the names on the petitions. On October 25, 2013, you informed us that the GSU was not in possession of a membership list and that the administration of the University of Toronto, citing privacy concerns, was unwilling to provide us with said list.

In an effort to resolve the issue and to allay any privacy concerns, we contacted the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students directly on November 4, 2013 and met with representatives from the GSU on November 22, 2013. On December 12, 2013, you wrote to us indicating that the privacy concerns still remained and suggested that a meeting take place between the Federation, the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and the GSU. Your letter also expressed the desire that we could "continue to negotiate these matters in good faith and with expedience."

On December 20, 2013, in an effort to expedite the process, the Federation met with Meredith Strong, Mike LeSage, and Rafael Ashkenazi from the University of Toronto's Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and Bradley Evoy from the GSU. At the meeting, it was proposed that the petition verification process be undertaken by a mutually agreed upon third-party auditing firm to be selected by the Federation. The University agreed to provide the membership list to the third-party firm and to reimburse the Federation for the costs associated with a third-party review. Mr.

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Evoy provided the GSU's consent to this proposal. Federation representatives agreed to seek approval of this proposal from the Federation's Executive Committee.

A special Executive Committee meeting was convened at the earliest opportunity and on January 16, 2014, the Executive Committee approved the use of an auditor to perform a third-party review of the petition. On January 20, 2014 the Federation began the process of interviewing auditing firms, and selected the firm of Deloitte to conduct the verification process. This selection was communicated to the University on February 7, 2014. Unfortunately, we had to wait until February 19, 2014 for the University to provide its mutual agreement to the hiring of Deloitte, and until February 26, 2014 for it to release a membership list to Deloitte representatives.

On March 6, Deloitte informed us that the full report on the status of the petition would be completed either Tuesday (March 11) or early Wednesday (March 12), but that the conclusion of their review indicated that the petition did not meet the threshold to trigger a referendum. This information was also communicated to the Federation's Chief Returning Officer. Attached for your information is Deloitte's report.

Throughout this process, the Federation has sought, at every instance, to expedite the verification process. We sought, at the first opportunity, to procure a membership list as a means to validate the submitted petitions, including agreeing to sign all necessary confidentiality agreements. Failing that, we agreed to the suggestion by the University and the GSU to the use of a third-party independent auditor to undertake the verification process on our behalf, and sought and received the necessary approvals to make this happen.

It has always been our intention that should the petition be valid, a referendum on continued membership in the Federation would be conducted from March 24 to 28, 2014. As you are aware, a Chief Returning Officer had been appointed to oversee the process, and numerous other logistical supports had already been put place to ensure that a vote could take place pending the outcome of the verification process. It is therefore disconcerting that the petition purporting to be signed by over 20 per cent of graduate student members at the University of Toronto appears to contain a large number of signatories who are not members of the Graduate Students' Union and were therefore not eligible to sign the petition.

The Federation's Executive Committee, at the behest of the Graduate Students' Union and the University of Toronto, authorized Deloitte to conduct the petition verification on its behalf and will be respecting the outcome of the independent third-party verification that the petition does not contain the requisite number of valid petitioners and is therefore not in order .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alastair Woods", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alastair Woods
Chairperson

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