



# GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
LOCAL 19, CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

October 27, 2009

Dr. Brian Corman  
Dean, Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Education  
School of Graduate Studies  
University of Toronto  
63 St. George Street  
Toronto, ON, M5S 2Z9

**Re: Grave Concerns about the fate of the History and Philosophy programme**

Dear Dean Corman:

The Graduate Students' Union (GSU) is registering its grave concern and dismay at the possibility of the closure of the doctoral programme in History and Philosophy at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE.) On behalf of the over 14,000 members of the GSU, I would like to send a clear message to the administration that it would be moving in an ill-advised direction, if it allowed the demise of this programme.

Now more than ever, we need graduate programmes that provide historical contexts and philosophical underpinnings for research and related actions in the area of critical and transformative education.

Now more than ever, we need to invest the necessary resources (e.g., hiring of professors) into academic initiatives such as the doctoral programme in History and Philosophy that will send an unambiguous message to the neoliberal education forces that the humanities are central and vital components of the University of Toronto's academic mandate.

Now more than ever, the academic concerns and priorities of students and faculty members, significant stakeholders, must help inform and shape the direction of policies and programmes at the University of Toronto. The GSU is calling upon you and other relevant stakeholders to hire the requisite number of professors into the History and Philosophy programme at OISE so as to remove the justification for terminating it.

Sincerely,

Ajamu Nangwaya, Internal Commissioner  
Cc: Jane Gaskell, Dean of OISE  
Edith Hillan, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs  
Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs  
Vanessa Laufer, External Reviewers of OISE Dean  
K. Sihra, Save H&P Rep