



University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union
16 Bancroft Avenue
Toronto ON., M5S 1C1
info@utgsu.ca
www.utgsu.ca

December 6, 2018.

Dear UTGSU Membership:

We, the UTGSU Executive Committee, are writing to express our sincere regret that there was a significant structural oversight in making the 2017-2018 Draft Financial Audit available to all Members 13 days prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) as per Bylaw Article 3.2.1. The Executive Committee's interpretation of Bylaw Article 14.1.4 was inconsistent with Bylaw Article 3.2.1 that was ruled at the AGM, and, therefore, the General Membership was unable to vote to confirm Bylaw amendments made since the UTGSU's last AGM without first voting to waive requirements of notice as per Bylaw Article 3.1.1. Due to the reallocation of duties among the UTGSU's Executive and Staff in the weeks leading up to the AGM, gaps in oversight created failures in upholding our responsibilities to the General Membership, and we hold ourselves directly accountable.

First and foremost, we recognize that all Members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) made substantial efforts to adjust their schedules. Members took time off work, traveled long distances, made child care arrangements, and/or took leave from other important academic, professional, and personal commitments in order to attend the AGM. We understand your frustration and disappointment, and we sincerely apologize for the vexation and loss of time that we caused.

Furthermore, we want to reassure you that we have taken immediate and proactive steps to rectify these issues to improve the Union as a whole. Most importantly, we have directly communicated the situation regarding the UTGSU's draft financial audit to the Office of the Vice-Provost (Students), who have indicated to us that their Office will accept the UTGSU's Draft 2017-2018 Financial Audit as unanimously approved by the Board of Directors/General Council on December 3, 2018. We recognize the necessity of the General Membership to receive this report as per UTGSU Bylaw Article 3.1, and as an act of best financial practice, we will be calling a Special Meeting of the Membership in the new year to present the Draft 2017-2018 Audit Report as well as all Bylaw amendments yet to be confirmed by the General Membership. Lastly, during this Special Meeting, the Executive Committee will make explicit what processes have been established and reconfigured to increase oversight and to improve the internal operations of the Union.

Ultimately, we hold ourselves accountable, and it is our sincere hope that this letter will satisfy the General Membership in knowing that we are taking proactive steps to identify and rectify these structural issues so that such oversight is not repeated at any future meeting.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work towards building a better Union for all UTGSU Members.

Sincerely,

The UTGSU Executive Committee

Reference

UTGSU Draft 2017-2018 Financial Audit Report can be found online: <https://www.utgsu.ca/agm/>