



University College Literary and Athletic Society  
15 King's College Circle  
Toronto ON M5S3H7

March 4, 2013

RE: Response to your letter dated March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013

To the Core Executive of the University College Literary and Athletic Society,

We would like to take this opportunity to clear up some of the confusion surrounding our position regarding the levy referendum occurring on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2013. The Arts and Science Students' Union maintains, and has done so for more than twenty-five years, that students should not be required to pay for the construction and maintenance of university infrastructure. This stems from our long standing dedication to the University of Toronto as a publicly funded, open, and inclusive institution of learning.

Though we acknowledge that this levy and its possible financial cost will be borne exclusively by University College students, it would be irresponsible of us to abandon our long-held policy due to the fact that it will only impact 20% of our membership. We believe that these members deserve our support on this levy vote, as they would on any other similar project. Any violation of collegiality that we caused by advertising this position, and our alleged breach of your Referendum Code—a Code which remains as of this writing not immediately available—we must humbly ask for understanding.

We would like to address the central vein of your letter, mainly that our communication to our membership has been somehow misleading regarding your levy. But, even after scouring the letter, we remain confused as to what these factual inaccuracies actually are. The charge that this levy is somehow "illegal" would fall into the category of an inaccurate statement, and you would be right to demand whomever use it stop. Unfortunately, we cannot find an instance where we have claimed this levy is "illegal," apart from your own letter. Your Constitution spells out quite clearly that the society is within its rights to ask for a levy increase, in this case an increase of 73%, to be submitted to Governing Council for approval. We are confident that the office of Vice-Provost will agree.

Another one of our statements that you take umbrage with is our comparison of the proposed construction with that of other academic buildings on campus. Though we cannot compare these renovations of a National Historic Site to other building projects on campus, we can continue to hold that essential space on campus, be it libraries or reading rooms, should be built and maintained by the university through regular revenue streams and donations. Without devolving into pedantry as to what percentage of the prospective renovations will constitute “student space,” we argue that the vast majority of the cost of this project—over ten million dollars according to your own published information—is for the new library and reading room.

Penultimately, we feel encouraged in our opposition to this levy in the understanding that no matter the outcome of it, the college believes that construction of this fantastic project will go ahead. University College students are right to feel pride in their home, and we have no doubt that your alumni will heed the call to contribute to this pride by making donations to this project. With the support of the Faculty of Arts and Science, Simcoe Hall, and your alumni, the University College building renovations are sure to guarantee it remains at the centre of the University of Toronto imagination.

Finally, though we appreciate your encouragement in ensuring our claims are substantiated, we remain generally perplexed as to the Literary and Athletic Society’s repeated charge of misleading our members, as all of our statements regarding the levy came from information included in the society’s own documents. We would have taken up your invitation to ask for clarification from Principal Ainslie, but he has indicated that the college is not responsible for the levy, and that all concerns surrounding it should be directed to the Society.

If you require more clarification please do not hesitate to get into contact with us. We look forward to continuing our constructive relationship in the best interest of our mutual members.

Sincerely,

The Arts and Science Students’ Union Executive