

University of Toronto Students' Union

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STATEMENT

For immediate release
Thursday September 24th, 2015

RE: Filing of Claim for Previous Executive Director Severance

On Sunday, September 20th, 2015, the UTSU Board of Directors approved the filing of a claim against Sandra Hudson, former Executive Director, Yolen Bollo-Kamara, former President, and Cameron Wathey, former Vice-President Internal and Services for allegedly improper severance and overtime payments.

The UTSU is pursuing this course of action to ensure that its resources for serving students are protected and so that our members are not limited from informed participation in our union.

Your students' union offers many important services to students and acts as an important voice for their needs, supporting many activist causes and protecting student rights. The allegedly improperly paid severance constitutes around a tenth of our operating budget, and so our decision to move forward is not motivated by a desire to discredit these individuals, but rather to keep the resources that students have paid to us and which we use to serve and advocate for them. In all aspects of how this is handled, the Executive Committee has taken great care to choose the most appropriate and reasonable way to address the situation.

We are open to arbitration or mediation as a way of resolving the issue, and would prefer a non-court resolution, but the advice of our legal counsel was to follow this procedure of filing a claim. Although this is a substantial course of action, the Board and Executive Committee of the UTSU have a fiduciary responsibility to use its resources responsibly to serve students.

As always, the leaders of the UTSU envision and work for an organization where participation in all aspects of the organization is actively encouraged, including creating a culture where members feel welcome to ask whatever questions are required to hold us to account. To this end, if any UTSU member or member of the press has questions about this issue, please contact one of the spokespersons below.

Yours in service,

The UTSU Executive Committee

ANTI-HARASSMENT AND RESPECT

For members of the press: The filed statement of claim contains personal information for legal reasons. Please take care to retract any personal information which is not in the public interest.

For UTSU members: We will not tolerate malicious comments about or harassment toward any party involved in this claim. The UTSU Executive Committee will actively condemn any comments which are harassing, malicious, or derogatory.

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