

University of Toronto Students' Union

12 Hart House Circle
Toronto, ON, M5S 3J9

media@utsu.ca

416-978-4911

STATEMENT

For immediate release
December 30, 2015

RE: Impeachment of the Vice-President Campus Life

On December 30 2015, the UTSU Board of Directors voted to impeach the Vice-President Campus Life, Akshan Bansal. Effective today, Mr. Bansal is no longer affiliated with the UTSU.

Earlier this month, Mr. Bansal was publicly accused of sexual assault. Given that Mr. Bansal has previously been accused of sexually inappropriate conduct as well as of failing to fulfill his responsibilities as an Executive, the Board concluded that his conduct, especially in relation to the most recent accusation, had made his position untenable.

It is important that, as the leaders of the UTSU, executives uphold the mission and values of the organization. We therefore encourage our members to continue to hold their elected leaders to account.

Please direct all questions to the contacts listed below.

Sincerely,

The UTSU Board of Directors

ANTI-HARASSMENT AND RESPECT

We will not tolerate malicious comments about, harassment towards, or violence towards any person involved in this statement. The UTSU Executive will actively condemn any comments which are harassing, malicious, or derogatory; that are discriminatory and based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity; or that serve to perpetuate violence, especially against women, trans people, aboriginal people, people from the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, or any other people who have experienced sexual violence.

For more information (media contacts):

Ben Coleman, President

905-484-5082 or 416-978-4911 x 223

president@utsu.ca

Jasmine Denike, Vice-President External

647-238-8594 or 416-978-4911 x233

vpexternal@utsu.ca

Appendix - Outline of Impeachment Procedures Under the UTSU Bylaws

As per Bylaw X (5) iii. of the UTSU Bylaws --

- A motion to impeach an executive has to be sent to the Board of Directors at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which it will be considered. In this case, the motion was sent on December 20, 2015, and the meeting occurred on December 30th.
- A motion to impeach may not be withdrawn.
- The accused executive may have at least forty-five (45) minutes to offer a defense, and can be represented by an individual of their choosing.
- The accused executive has the right to present documentary evidence, which must be sent to the Board at least three (3) days prior to the meeting at which the motion is to be considered.
- The motion to impeach requires a 2/3 vote to carry, which was met in this case (the vote count was: 24 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstention, and 1 spoiled ballot). The requirement for a 2/3 vote only applies if the Executive Review Committee has recommended impeachment, which they did on December 14, 2015.
- The accused executive shall leave office upon announcement of a successful vote.