

***Motion of solidarity with students and staff from University of Toronto's Transitional Year Program***

Moved by: rosalind hampton, VP Diversity & Equity; passed unanimously

Whereas the University of Toronto's Transitional Year Program (TYP) is a full-time, eight-month access-to-University program intended for adults who do not have the formal qualifications for university admission;<sup>i</sup>

Whereas since 1970 the TYP has created a path by which people from historically underserved and oppressed communities—such as those who are racialized, working class, gender and sexual minorities, differently abled, Aboriginal people, refugees, and single mothers—can enter into Undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts and Science;<sup>ii</sup>

Whereas the TYP implements equity-based pedagogies, employs diverse teaching and administrative staff, and provides support services addressing the unique lived experience of each of its students including academic advising, counseling and financial aid;<sup>iii</sup>

Whereas the TYP and others like it are examples of initiatives that can successfully work toward the integration of Canadian Universities and indeed recommendations for such a program at McGill University have emerged out of the Faculty of Education Diversity and Equity Committee (2007-2009), McGill University Equity Sub-Committee on Race and Ethnic Relations (2010) and the Principal's Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement (2011);

Whereas the University of Toronto has been systematically dismantling the TYP through freezing the program's budget and reducing space for student enrollment;<sup>iv</sup> and "through non-renewal of staff contracts, a refusal to replace recently retired staff positions, and a proposal to physically remove TYP from its current location ... ultimately threatening the autonomy and existence of TYP as it stands;"<sup>v</sup>

**Resolved** the EGSS Council expresses solidarity with the students and staff of the TYP in denouncing the cuts to the TYP program and expressing support for the Transitional Year Programme Preservation Alliance's call for the University of Toronto:

1. To commission a task force to update "The Kelly Report" to determine the future of the Transitional Year Programme. ("The Kelly Report" was the outcome of a previous taskforce in 1977 that conducted an investigation into TYP and recommended the continuation of TYP after significant research into its viability. We are asking for updated research to be conducted).
2. To reinstate fulltime status to Faculty/ Renew the contracts of integral Faculty.
3. To preserve the autonomy of the programme's curriculum with its own space, dedicated to the student body.<sup>vi</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.utoronto.ca/typ/>

<sup>ii</sup> Soledad Superville (2013, March 2) "The University of Toronto's Racist Assault on the Transitional Year Program." *BASICSnews*, <http://basicsnews.ca/2013/03/the-university-of-torontos-racist-assault-on-the-transitional-year-program/>

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iii Enas Abdalla (2013, March 28). "Education, liberation, action! Forum & townhall – OPENING REMARKS BY ENAS ABDALLA," (posted April 3, 2013) *Equity Studies Student Union, University of Toronto*, <http://www.uoftessu.com/tag/transitional-year-programme-at-the-university-of-toronto/>

iv Justin Panos (2013, April 24) "Varsity blues: U of T Provost gets big raise while dismantling program for unprivileged." *Rabble*, <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/campus-notes/2013/04/varsity-blues-u-t-provost-gets-big-raise-while-dismantling-progr>

v "Education, liberation, action!' Forum on equity and education presented by University of Toronto Transitional Year Programme students and alumni." *Rabble*, <http://rabble.ca/whatsup/education-liberation-action-forum-equity-and-education-presented-university-toronto-transiti>

vi [http://www.activism.com/en\\_CA/petition/preserve-the-transitional-year-programme-making-excellence-accessible/42707](http://www.activism.com/en_CA/petition/preserve-the-transitional-year-programme-making-excellence-accessible/42707)