

December 14, 2010

Dear Councillors of the City of Toronto,

On behalf of the 11,000 members of the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union, we urge you to discuss and support this motion. The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) campus is home to a diverse group of students attending University to achieve a place in academia. As students and elected representatives, we are concerned about the misrepresentation and underrepresentation of marginalized communities on our campuses. We acknowledge that race, class, gender, language or ethnic origin and work to remove barriers, to create accessible post-secondary education for all.

The MacLean's article entitled "*The enrolment controversy*" portrays the Asians as a homogenous, isolated group. However, both Canadian and foreign-born Asians are a heterogeneous group that have a diverse set of experiences and attributes. The University of Toronto Mississauga is home to many Asian Canadians that have, and will continue to contribute to Canadian society and national development.

According to this article, universities are a space created to benefit and cater to the white, dominant population, and minority groups are taking away from their experiences. This division is problematic, as it segregates students on campuses. As a voter, a constituent and an elected student representative, I urge you all to support this motion. Already, the Cities of Victoria and Vancouver have passed similar motions, and several thousand Torontonians have expressed their concern and outrage for the blatant racism printed by MacLean's. It is imperative that leaders of any community, especially those that represent a community as diverse as Toronto, speak out and support the idea that members of marginalized groups are valuable and deserving of positions in academic institutions.

On behalf of the University of Toronto Students' Union and our 11,000 members, we call on the City of Toronto to follow the lead of Vancouver and Victoria in sending a strong united message to MacLean's that their values do not represent ours, and further, to request an apology for perpetuating racism and ethnic stereotypes about our communities.

Sincerely,

Kumari Giles

Vice-President Equity

University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union

Local 109, Canadian Federation of Students

Munib Sajjad

Vice-President External

University of Toronto Mississauga
Students' Union

Local 109, Canadian Federation of
Students