



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
TORONTO, CANADA M5S 3H7

2013 JUN 10 P 3: 37
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT SECTION

University College
University of Toronto
15 King's College Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H7

31 May 2013

To: Robert Ford, Mayor, City of Toronto
Cc: Clerk, City of Toronto
Re: Keeping the University of Toronto Back Campus Green
TEYCC 24.83 / PB23.11

We are writing in our capacity as senior faculty fellows of University College, and members of University College Council, to make a statement regarding the involvement of the College with the plan to build a dedicated site for high-performance field hockey on the Back Campus field that lies immediately north of University College. Each of us has a strong relation to University College, having participated in the life of the College for many years. A motion to Designate University of Toronto's Back Campus as a cultural heritage landscape is currently before City Council, after having been passed by TEYCC (24.83) and, unanimously, by Preservation Board (23.11).

While the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education indicates on its website that University College was included in the discussions regarding whether to construct the Pan Am Field Hockey Centre on Back Campus, the fellows of University College were in fact informed of this plan only on 30 November 2012 – more than seven months after contracts had been signed with Infrastructure Ontario and Pan Am Games to carry out this construction project. At the College Council meeting of 30 November, a motion was passed by the Council (31 in favor, 3 abstaining) to declare strong opposition to this plan to build on Back Campus. The only members of College Council to abstain from the vote were Principal Donald Ainslie and two members of the UC staff.

Principal Ainslie has stated that he was not personally notified of the plan to build on Back Campus, in spite of the fact that his tenure as principal began in July 2011, long before the proposal began to move through University governance (29 February-11 April 2012). No written documentation has been found in the records of the Principal's Office to indicate earlier communications. The previous principal of UC, Sylvia Bashevkin, was not informed of the plans to build on Back Campus. The failure to consult University College goes hand in hand with the failure to consult with other neighboring entities, such as Massey College: in his remarks



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delivered on 26 March, former Dean of Kinesiology and Physical Education (and current Warden of Hart House) Bruce Kidd declared that "I regret that Massey missed out on these discussions." Massey did not "miss out": Massey was left out. So was University College.

There was good reason for such lack of consultation. During the period 1992-94, a proposal to install an underground parking garage under Back Campus, topped with an artificial turf playing field, was actively pursued. The plan was in the end turned back, largely through the heroic efforts of then-Principal of University College Lynd Forgonson. The long history of Back Campus as a fundamental element in the traditions of campus life at University College, the founding college of the University of Toronto, was of deep value to the fellows of UC, who worked hard to defend that green space. It continues to hold great significance for the members of the College, including students, alumni, staff, and faculty.

Thank you for considering the motion to grant heritage designation to University of Toronto's Back Campus as a cultural heritage landscape.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander Leggatt
Professor of English, Emeritus
Speaker, University College Council
Graduate of UC Class of 1962
Fellow of University College (1965-present)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Leggatt".

Paul Perron
Professor of French, Emeritus
Principal of University College (1997-2005)
Fellow of University College (1997-present)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Perron".

John Marshall
Professor of Religion
Vice-Principal of University College
Fellow of University College (1999-present)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Marshall".

Suzanne Conklin Akbari
Professor of English and Medieval Studies
Member, Executive Committee, University College Council
Fellow of University College (1995-present)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Akbari".