



March 26, 2018

Mr. G.C. Nowlan
Arts & Science Students' Union
100 St. George St., Room 1068
Toronto, ON M5S 3G3

Re: Response to [Open Letter to University of Toronto Alumni Association re: Faith Goldy-Bazos Cressy Award](#)

Dear Mr. Nowlan,

Thank you for delivering the open letter regarding the Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award. We appreciate your recognition of the meaning and value of this award. Since the award was established in 1994, we have presented more than 3,800 Cressy Awards, a testament to the rich contributions our students make to the life of the University and to the wider community while they are pursuing their studies at the University of Toronto.

As you may know, the Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Awards are sponsored by the University of Toronto Alumni Association and are administered by the University of Toronto's Department of Alumni Relations on behalf of participating departments and divisions. Both the University of Toronto Alumni Association's Board of Directors and the University have carefully considered the issues you raise.

Cressy Student Leadership Awards are presented in recognition of volunteer leadership contributions demonstrated while students are enrolled at the University of Toronto. The candidates' files are judged according to what they have contributed at the time of the award, on the basis of demonstrated evidence as judged by a rigorous process. Accordingly, it would be inappropriate to rescind the award granted to Ms. Goldy-Bazos in 2012.

Let us also take this opportunity to state unequivocally that bigotry, hate, intolerance and violence have no place on our campuses. As enshrined in its policies, the University of Toronto is committed to the free flow of debate, strengthened by a multiplicity of diverse ideas and beliefs. These principles are among the hallmarks of excellence at the University of Toronto – and the UTAA joins the University in reaffirming their importance. At the same time, the University and the UTAA are committed to diversity, equity and inclusion as core values and cornerstones of outstanding scholarship, teaching, and learning. However, these values can thrive only by welcoming the broadest range of people and encouraging the free expression of their diverse perspectives in an atmosphere of mutual respect and civil discourse.

We appreciate you bringing your concerns to our attention, and for your continued engagement in the U of T community. To ensure we provide an open response to your open letter, this message will be also posted online on the UTAA website.

Sincerely,

Scott MacKendrick
President
University of Toronto Alumni Association

Barbara Dick
Assistant Vice-President, Alumni Relations
University of Toronto