

PSAC 901

Dear Patrick Deane,

We are deeply disappointed by your continued refusal to participate in an open meeting with Queen's graduate student workers. Over 100 graduate workers, students, and community members came to your office to deliver their #RamenReasons in the freezing cold, hoping to express the reality of our financial precarity and the reasons why tuition fees must be abolished rather than raised. Instead of taking that opportunity to speak to those whom your decisions affect, you chose instead to hide in your office and call on security to place Richardson Hall on lockdown.

These issues are important not only to the contingent of representatives you've offered to meet privately, but to all members of our community. To suggest a closed door meeting represents, at best, a fundamental misunderstanding of the extent of our anger, hurt, and poverty. For that reason, we cannot accept a private meeting without certain assurances in place.

Because of your continued refusal to meet with the graduate community as a whole and hear *all* of our concerns, we are writing to tell you that the only scenario in which we will have a private meeting with you, is if at that meeting you sign a Letter of Understanding which guarantees:

- You and all university representatives will immediately cease and desist all lobbying efforts to lift the tuition freeze.
- All future lobbying efforts regarding University funding will be to increase public government funding of Universities and to advocate for the total abolition of tuition fees.
- A commitment to abolishing tuition fees beginning with an immediate reduction in 2023.
- The equalization of domestic and migrant tuition fees.
- That the minimum graduate student funding salary be raised to match minimum wage for full time employment in Ontario (\$32,240) and indexed to match cost of living increases.
- A formal acknowledgment that fulfilling Queen's mission to "push the boundaries of knowledge through research" and "offer an exceptional student experience" requires the end to graduate worker poverty and an end to tuition fees, which pose a significant financial barrier to accessing education and performing research.

If you plan to continue lobbying the Ford government to lift the tuition freeze then you must be prepared to answer to every one of us. If, rather than committing to build a better Queen's together, you continue in your active work to maintain and strengthen frameworks that force our members into poverty, you must be prepared for us to continue to get louder.

You must be prepared to hear from the people whose best interest you are currently fighting against. Until such a time that you agree to take real and substantive action to end graduate student poverty, we as students, workers, and community members will continue to engage in collective action to ensure that our voices are heard.

Sincerely,
PSAC 901