



RALUT

RETIRED ACADEMICS AND LIBRARIANS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

20 September 2007

Professor David Naylor
President, University of Toronto
Simcoe Hall

Dear President Naylor

Towards 2030 Task Force Areas of Focus and Nominations

RALUT, The Retired Academics and Librarians of the University of Toronto, was formed on February 19, 2001. Its membership rapidly grew to about 700. One of the objectives set out in RALUT's founding Constitution is "to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship between retirees and the University of Toronto." RALUT has been involved in collegial discussions with the University on how to strengthen retirees' connections with the University (e.g. on the setting up of the soon-to-be-established Retiree Centre and the abolishing of mandatory retirement). On May 1 of this year, RALUT was honoured to listen to what must have been your first public presentation on the Towards 2030 initiative. That meeting concluded on the happy note that the 'great minds of yesterday' will continue to contribute their enthusiasm, experience and expertise for the benefit of the great minds of tomorrow.

The RALUT Executive has discussed your call for suggestions of Task Force Areas of Focus. We feel that as retired faculty and librarians we have a passionate but more objective perspective on the future of our university. We recommend that two of the Task Forces focus on:

- > The University's response to the changing demographic patterns in our country and especially in our Province. Within the next decade the proportion and the absolute number of people over 55 years will be around 20% and will likely continue to escalate. The challenge is to articulate how the learning needs of this group will be met, including the expansion and realignment of formal and informal academic programs and later life learning initiatives.

- > The best strategy for our University to strike a sensible balance between Education and Scholarship, the evolving core missions of the University. This Task Force will examine the increasing emphasis on enhancing the student experience by fostering, inter alia, small classes, hands-on learning, mentoring, faculty-student ratios and increasing the academic contact between cutting edge researchers and undergraduates. RALUT members, most of whom have spent decades in teaching and research concur with your description of our University as a 'research powerhouse'. We are also aware that striking a balance between enhancing the student experience and fostering excellence in scholarship, is complicated by the very rapid increase in student enrollment (e.g. a doubling at UTSC in 10 years) and the treadmill of the Basic Income Unit (BIU) funding model which currently does not reflect either

quality teaching or the role of intensive research.

RALUT looks forward to participating further in this timely and important initiative and trust that you and the Towards 2030 Secretariat will recruit at least a few of the hundreds of retired faculty and librarians to your Task Forces.

With best wishes for productive discussions,

Sincerely

Douglas Creelman

President