

February 4, 2021

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Dear Professors,

We are deeply disappointed in the Department of Political Science's decision not to rescind Mr. Singh's scholarship simply because the award decision is ["based solely on the information and documentation" Mr. Singh provided in his application](#). Taking his application at face value despite many students speaking out about his harmful behaviour in the classroom and pointing to numerous public posts that call his commitment to equity into question sets an unfortunate precedent.

The department is effectively conveying to students that all they have to do to win this award is just *say* they have worked to support marginalized communities, even if their public statements create the opposite effect. The David Rayside Undergraduate Scholarship outlines that it is awarded to "students who have demonstrated commitment and leadership in co-curricular activities, on or off campus, promoting greater public understanding of social and cultural diversity and enhanced inclusion of historically marginalized populations"—something that we do not feel is reflected by Mr. Singh's public comments. The department's stance makes it appear as if it is more concerned with the technicalities of the application process than the stated intent of the award.

Irrespective of what he might have stated in his application, Mr. Singh's public statements are antithetical to and negate efforts to support marginalized communities. Moreover, many more qualified students applied for this scholarship, and Mr. Singh being selected as a recipient meant that these students' efforts were left unrecognized. In writing both of our open letters, we are not questioning Mr. Singh's academic qualifications—in fact, he received two other awards from the Political Science department this year for his academic performance that have not come under scrutiny or attracted any concerns from us or other students. Rather, we take issue

with his receipt of a scholarship intended to further “the inclusion of historically marginalized populations,” when his statements have had the opposite effect.

We are proud to be students at the University of Toronto, and our intention has been and continues to be to preserve the integrity of this institution by pointing out this incongruent award selection. Our objective is not to “cancel” or silence any individual student. Rather, we are joining the [Arts and Science Student Union](#)’s and the [University of Toronto Students’ Union](#)’s calls for greater transparency and accountability. We urge the department to review its commitment to equity in light of repeated student concerns.

Amelia Eaton  
Stephen Clarkson Scholarship in Political  
Economy

Tessa Di Vizio  
J. Stefan Dupré Memorial Scholarship in  
Canadian Politics

Helen Ho  
David Rayside Undergraduate Scholarship

Christine Sun  
David Rayside Undergraduate Scholarship

Talia Holy  
Alexander Mackenzie Scholarship in  
Political Science

Saman Shabbir Asim  
David Rayside Undergraduate Scholarship

Alexa Kalsatos  
J. Stefan Dupré Memorial Scholarship in  
Canadian Politics

Kate Schneider  
The Ruth Robinson Leberg Book Prize

Andrew Zhao  
Suzanne and Edwin Goodman Prize

Anastasia Marie Hendricks  
J. Stefan Dupré Book Prize  
Andrew Nigrini Sr. Memorial Scholarship

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