



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

150 Charles St. West, Room 127
Toronto, ON, M5S 1K9
(416) 585 - 4473
www.vusac.ca | fb.com/vusacuoft

November 25, 2022

RE: Robert Reisz's Employment at UofT

We, the elected and hired representatives of the Victoria University Students' Administrative Council, demand that the University of Toronto ceases its protection of abusers and commits to protecting survivors of sexual violence, racism, and bullying on campus and beyond. In view of the University's silence and inaction, most recently, on the misconduct of UTM Professor Robert Reisz, the VUSAC recognizes a pattern of complicity when it comes to the endangerment of the lives and well-being of students that we will not remain silent about.

Following the publication of [an article in The Varsity](#) highlighting the fact that although Robert Reisz was found guilty of sexual harassment and racism, the University of Toronto has not apologized for his actions and continues to employ him, The PEARS Project produced an open letter with a list of demands for the University of Toronto to fulfill.

The VUSAC expresses its support for the demands listed in PEARS' open letter:

1. Terminate Robert Reisz
2. Issue a formal statement condemning the actions of Robert Reisz and apologizing to survivors, students, and the university community
3. Provide easily accessible and well-promoted resources and funding for those affected by Robert Reisz
4. Hire external investigatory bodies to conduct a review of policy implementation to identify if practices follow the policy

Although a statement of moral support for survivors of abuse from professors is meaningful, the VUSAC acknowledges that there is only so much change, if any, that our student union can achieve. It will ultimately be up to the University of Toronto administration to do more by first, admitting its own guilt for not protecting students, and secondly, identifying and fixing the procedural mistakes made in allowing Robert Reisz to continue teaching.

As students at the University of Toronto, it is our responsibility to come together to defend each other and call out harm when our administration refuses to. Therefore, to make your individual voices heard, the VUSAC encourages Victoria College students to read and sign [PEARS' open letter](#). Only by demonstrating our overwhelming support for change will it truly be heard and recognized through action by decision-makers at the University of Toronto.



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In service and solidarity,

The Victoria University Students' Administrative Council

Sooyeon Lee, President

Shane Joy, Vice-President External

Jackson Leslie, Vice-President Internal

Michael Elsaesser, Vice-President Student Organizations

Dhir Shah, Academic Commissioner

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Amelia Collet, Arts & Culture Commissioner

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