Dear students,

Today, Ryerson University took the unprecedented step of attempting to terminate the long-standing operating agreement it has with the Ryerson Students’ Union (RSU). Without any notice, the RSU was given a letter of termination and, within minutes, the University released a public statement that it will no longer recognize the RSU as the official student government. Amidst ongoing negotiations with the University for a mutually-beneficial operating agreement, the University’s actions are a shock.

The University’s attempted termination of the operational agreement, and added threat to support an entirely new student government, actively undermines the autonomy and democratic rights of students. The RSU does not accept this termination as valid under the agreement.

For over 70 years, the RSU has been the voice for student change, securing victories, and providing services that are integral to campus life. This year alone, the RSU has:

- Implemented the Vision Care Benefit and increased students’ psychology benefits;
- Created a wellness centre to support mental health needs;
- Implemented town halls for students to voice concerns and better support membership;
- Created an Oversight Committee and passed accountability measures to ensure that the Executive Committee and the management team remain accountable.

Despite the University withholding the fees it collected from students for RSU initiatives, the RSU has continued to provide essential services to its members, including the Good Food Centre and The Centre for Safer Sex & Sexual Violence Support, in addition to the five other Equity-Service Centres.

This year’s Board and Executive have actively taken steps to address students’ concerns about allegations of financial mismanagement. The RSU conducted an internal review and retained an external firm to review certain expenses. The RSU has increased financial and internal controls, including hiring a full-time Executive Director and Financial Controller. Earlier this week, the RSU filed a report with the Toronto Police Service.

The RSU has always been willing to engage with the University, but refuses to make concessions to the University that will jeopardize students. The RSU will continue to operate and support students. We look forward to addressing students at our Semi-Annual General Meeting on February 3rd, 2020. We encourage students to participate in the upcoming RSU General Elections.

Sincerely,

The Ryerson Students’ Union