Motion for the freedom of Student Press

What we will do:

1. Prevents the Students’ Association from obstructing student media societies’ publication of works of journalism, including when this journalism refers to the Students’ Association;
   a. With the exception when the works of journalism in question are discriminatory or could potentially raise legal issues for the media society.
2. Prevents the Students’ Association from compelling student media societies to publish works of journalism on matters of the association's choosing, including events or programmes run by the Students’ Association;
3. Orders that current levels of Students’ Association funding or advertising spending for media societies are maintained at the current or an increased level going forward;
4. Dictates that the access of student media societies to the Students’ Association or Students’ Association support may not be compromised or restricted now or in future.

Background to this:

1. The Student have as recently as this semester been prevented from reporting on information by the Students’ Association as the information was deemed to reflect poorly on the association;
2. The amount of income The Student is receiving from the Students’ Association has been halved this year;
3. The Students’ Association has, upon learning of the intent to propose this motion, made efforts to improve the relationship between The Student and the association.

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. A free press is an important part of a democratic society, and this should extend to a democratic student community;
2. A strong and vibrant community of student journalism is an asset to the student body as a whole;
3. The current ability of the Students’ Association to restrict student journalism prevents proper scrutiny of their work;
4. The Students’ Association should be striving to act in the best interest of students and using its limited resources effectively, and should prevent negative coverage by doing so instead of censoring student journalism;
5. The Students’ Association should not be able to threaten restricted funding and access of societies valued by the student body in order to protect its own image;
6. While this motion stems from experiences related to The Student, the same principles should apply to all student media societies and publications.

Submitted with 20 Student Signatures.