

Racist Incident at Massey College

September 27, 2017

Dear Professor Segal:

The undersigned faculty write to express profound outrage over an incident that took place at Massey College Tuesday, September 26, 2017. We understand that in your presence, Senior Fellow Michael Marrus addressed a Black Junior Fellow of the College, with the words, "You know this is your master, eh? Do you feel the lash?"

We write to express our full support for the Junior Fellows who responded quickly to this incident of anti-Black racism on campus with calls for change. Towards that goal, they have articulated a list of demands (below) that offer steps towards redress, which we support wholeheartedly.

In our eyes, the very legitimacy of Massey College hinges on the effectiveness of your response to this incident. We encourage you to approach this moment with the seriousness it demands, and with the courage and vision to make this an occasion for fulsome transformation.

We reiterate our support for the demands made by the Junior Fellows:

1. The termination of Michael Marrus' association with Massey College as a Senior Fellow;
2. A formal public apology issued from Massey College;
3. The immediate title replacement of Master with a suitable alternative title to describe the head of Massey College;
4. Mandatory antiracist training organized by Massey for all Junior and Senior members of the Fellowship—specifically for members of the House Committee;
5. A formal meeting with Hugh Segal and the administration of Massey College to present their plan of action in response to this and other ongoing issues affecting racialized members of the College.

Sincerely,

Deborah Cowen, Geography & Planning

Andrea Muehlebach, Anthropology

E. Natalie Rothman, History

Lucia Dacome, IHPST

Joseph Berkovitz, IHPST

Jeff Bale, Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning, OISE

Alejandro Paz, Anthropology

Nicole Laliberte, Geography UTM

Katherine Blain, Historical and Cultural Studies/Classics