



TMAPS
Toronto Metropolitan Association of Part-time Students
Local 105 of the Canadian Federation of Students



TMSU
TORONTO METROPOLITAN
STUDENTS' UNION



OPEN LETTER

To: President Mohamed Lachemi, Toronto Metropolitan University

CC: j5mendez@torontomu.ca, president@cupe3904.ca, kloschia@torontomu.ca, cupelocal233@gmail.com, editor@theeyeopener.com, ontherecord@torontomu.ca, zolfaghari@torontomu.ca, chairperson@cfsontario.ca

From:

Toronto Metropolitan Association of Part-Time Students (TMAPS)
Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union (TMSU)
Toronto Metropolitan Graduate Students' Union (TMGSU)

Date: 10-22-2025

Dear President Lachemi,

We are writing in response to the unsigned email received from contact@torontomu.ca regarding our October 1 open letter (Copied Below).

The email provides no indication of who authored it, nor does it bear a name, title, or office of accountability. For a matter as serious as the violent assault of a student by campus security, an act that has shaken our community and brought TMU's credibility into question, such an anonymous and generic response is both inappropriate and disrespectful. Are we, the students of this university, not entitled to accountability from the people who run it?

Beyond tone, the substance of the response fails to address most of our specific demands or meaningfully acknowledge the broader context of repression and complicity we raised. To clarify:

1. Public Apology and Redress:

No public apology has been issued to the student who was assaulted, nor has the university committed to providing medical, counselling, or academic supports. Referring vaguely to a "review" does not constitute redress.

2. Independent External Investigation:

The "review" mentioned in your reply appears to be internal. Our letter explicitly called for an independent, external investigation with transparent terms of reference. Referring this matter back to the same Community Safety and Security (CSS) structure that oversaw GardaWorld's operations only perpetuates the problem.

3. GardaWorld's Removal:

The university has not addressed the demand to terminate its contract with GardaWorld, a company whose record of violence and complicity extends far beyond TMU — including staffing armed guards



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at Florida's "Alligator Alcatraz" migrant detention compound. The officers' removal from campus is not enough; the corporate structure that enabled this assault must also be held accountable.

4. Divestment from Complicity:

The administration has not addressed student concerns regarding divestment or responded to the broader context in which students are organizing. Students continue to face disciplinary action for advocacy while systemic issues remain unacknowledged.

5. Ban on Magen Herut:

Your response stating that "only Toronto Police Service and TMU's campus security officers have the authority to enforce the law on campus" misses the point. We are aware that Magen Herut is not officially "authorized," that is precisely the issue. Despite this, their ongoing presence and intimidation on or near campus continues unchecked. A mere statement of policy does not protect students from physical danger or harassment. We asked for a formal, enforceable ban on Magen Herut and similar militia groups, and a proactive commitment from the administration to prevent their access to TMU spaces.

6. Transparency and Accountability:

The administration has not committed to releasing findings of the review publicly, nor provided a timeline, scope, or leadership of the process. "Pending the outcome" is not a form of accountability.

Your reliance on Community Safety and Security (CSS) as the body responsible for addressing a crisis directly tied to its failures demonstrates a lack of understanding of what accountability requires. This is not a procedural issue, it is a question of institutional complicity in the repression of students, particularly those advocating for Palestine.

We remind you again that this incident did not occur in a vacuum. It is part of a pattern of silencing, surveillance, and intimidation faced by Palestinian and allied students, which the administration's ongoing silence and inaction have enabled.

We once again call for a public, signed response from a senior university official, ideally the President, addressing each of our demands in full, with clarity on next steps and timelines.

We expect this response by Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

We remain prepared to mobilize students, faculty, and community members to hold TMU accountable for the violence and repression it continues to permit.

Sincerely,

Toronto Metropolitan Association of Part-Time Students (TMAPS)
Toronto Metropolitan Students' Union (TMSU)
Toronto Metropolitan Graduate Students' Union (TMGSU)



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Email Received from the University:

RE: Open Letter: Student Security Assault

Contact Toronto Metropolitan University <contact@torontomu.ca> Tue, Oct 7, 2025 at 4:10 PM

To: executivedirector@tmaps.ca

Thank you for taking the time to email with your concerns. As we've shared, the video is upsetting and difficult to watch and we understand this has caused concern for our community. The safety and security of all community members is a priority of the university, and we have invested significantly in a safety and security model that reflects the lived experiences of our community and the reality of our location so that it can meet the needs of all community members.

We want to assure you that the university is taking this matter extremely seriously and a review of the incident is being undertaken. Pending the outcome of the review we will not hesitate to take additional action. We can also confirm that the security guards involved in the incident will not return to campus. The university has not pressed charges against the community member and unfortunately cannot comment further on a police matter.

While we respect your request for the university to take immediate action at this time, it's important that the university completes a thorough and comprehensive review of what happened in order for us to determine next steps. Pending the outcome of the review we will not hesitate to take additional actions.

We also want to confirm that all security coverage for Toronto Metropolitan University must be provided by or contracted through TMU Community Safety and Security. Community members have a right to peacefully demonstrate on campus and the presence of any group on campus who seeks to intimidate community members is cause for concern.

In addition, only Toronto Police Service and TMU's campus security officers have the authority to enforce the law on our campus. No one else – including and especially members of Magen Herut – is authorized to provide security services on campus. As is their regular practice, Community Safety and Security (CSS) will carefully patrol our campus, with special attention to anyone appearing to act as a vigilante.

Thank you again for your email.