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The Status of UTS: Cooperation and Good Will?

Richard A. Panzer
December 20, 2014

"I had a dream of reviving Christianity even by sacrificing ourselves. There were even some critics among us who questioned what I was doing, so to found this Seminary was a difficult decision on my part. But I had to do this. How many times I came to this property to pray before deciding to purchase it for the founding of the Seminary! To this degree I was serious about reviving Christianity and saving the nation of America and the world through the Unification Theological Seminary."

Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, Commencement Address 1999

I was glad to read in Dr. Balcomb's letter, "The Status of UTS," sent out on 12/18 his statement that the "challenges that lie ahead for UTS...can be resolved with cooperation and goodwill" and that "we are not looking to close UTS, or sell the property."

If he truly means these things, I respectfully ask him and the HSA board to withdraw their December 1 resolution which demands the closure of Barrytown College, the onfamilyfed.org) immediate 32% cut in funding next month, and, oh yes, the removal of the current President.

As pointed out by Dr. Winings, UTS Vice President of Academic Affairs, this reckless interference with UTS governance WILL ENDANGER the accreditation of UTS. If that is what HSA actually intends, to convert UTS into an unaccredited Bible School, then it should be transparent about that with UTS Alumni.

UTS is ready, willing and able to work together with HSA to reduce the level of HSA support, but not with one month's notice and not with the bullying threat of the withdrawal of all funding if we do not obey their demands.

Is this HSA's idea of how to show "cooperation and good will"? Just two months ago, at the UTS board meeting, Dr. Balcomb and Dr. Jenkins assured the entire UTS board that HSA-UWC would support the development of Barrytown College for 2 - 5 years.

Dr. Balcomb says he wants to make the Barrytown property "sustainable," but closing the undergraduate college without telling the Unification Community what its strategy is for making the property "sustainable" is a recipe for MORE DEFICITS, not less, and for the eventual closing and loss of the property for future generations of Unificationists.



Barrytown College is the undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree program at the Unification Theological Seminary



In just a few days, **more than 820 people** have signed the online [Save Barrytown College and UTS petition](#) created by our students. These young, committed Unificationists trusted our church's and seminary's announcement that a new undergraduate college based on True Parents' ideals was being established in Barrytown. *They were willing to take on the formidable challenge of pioneering a new college that would be very different from every other college in America.*

Is this how we repay them? Closing down their college after only a year and a half? What does THAT teach them about faith and perseverance?

Is this how we build trust with our Second Generation? By breaking our promises and making threats?

The reason that True Father called for a college to be developed in Barrytown is because *he knew the importance of higher education in impacting American culture.* He was delighted to learn in April, 2012, a few months before he went to spirit world, that the college was finally being launched.

The challenges that UTS faces CAN be overcome with "cooperation and good will." More than 800 young and old Unificationists are saying to HSAUWC, "let us see through your actions that you mean what you say."



True Father signing Barrytown College proposal in April 2012

If you are like-minded, I encourage you to request the leadership of HSAUWC to rescind their resolution, so that UTS and HSA can actually cooperate in the resolution of this crisis.

Sincerely,

Richard



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