

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Students Concerned About Campus Police Arrest** *University Students' Council reserves judgement until all facts are in*

LONDON, ON: The University Students' Council (USC) has heard the concerns of the thousands of students who have viewed and commented upon a video of members of Western's Campus Community Police Service and London Police Service subduing an individual yesterday, and is working with the university to understand facts leading up to the arrest.

In response to these concerns, the USC will be raising the issue this morning with Elgin Austen, director of the Campus Community Police Service, to understand the context leading up to the officers' use of force.

"Students deeply value the contributions of both the Campus Community Police Service and the London Police Service, but I share the concerns expressed by students related to this incident," said Emily Rowe, president of the University Students' Council. "Based on the facts released by the university this morning, it is clear that the video does not tell the whole story. As such, I will be discussing this incident with director Elgin Austen to hear his perspective, and understand how he will be responding to this incident."

The University Students' Council provides advocacy and oversight for our student constituents, and the university has a longstanding respect for the students' council's role on campus; as such, we have full trust that the university will be open and transparent with the USC about this situation, and will engage with the students' council as they formulate their response. As such, the USC will reserve final judgement on the officers' conduct until all the facts are in.

"Based on comments posted online overnight this incident has caused deep concern among students – I want to assure all students that we are taking this matter very seriously," continued Rowe. "I am pleased to learn that the university and London Police Service will be examining officers' actions to determine if the use of force was appropriate, and the USC will remain closely engaged with the university as that examination unfolds."

The USC has been longstanding partners with the university in ensuring a safe campus community, and we will dialogue with Western to fully understand the facts of this situation, and also work to identify if there are any lessons learned from this incident that could avoid a similar situation in the future."

"I would urge students to continue expressing their opinions and concerns," said Rowe. "But I would also request that students listen to the facts as they come out, and focus their energies on developing positive solutions."

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