

HSA's Financial Gun to UTS's Head: We Will CUT OFF ALL FUNDING Next Month, if You Don't Agree to Our Demands

Robin James Graham
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During the past years I have shared the stories of our alumni in America and around the world and also kept you updated about events at UTS and the new undergraduate program, Barrytown College of UTS. Almost everyone I've spoken to during the past year have been excited about this promising new development that Father requested in 1997 and gave his blessing to just a few months before he went to spirit world. Many of you have generously donated to support the new generation of students studying in Barrytown.

I was encouraged by the renewed commitment from HSA leaders to give the undergraduate program the opportunity to grow. *Just 7 weeks ago*, at the UTS board meeting in October, HSA leaders assured the UTS board that HSA would continue to support the growth of Barrytown College for the coming 2 - 5 years, while it becomes self-sustaining and able to start supporting the rest of the institution.

Given these encouraging trends, you can imagine how surprised I was to learn last week that **on December 1, Dr. Panzer, the UTS President, was presented with an HSA corporate resolution** which stated that the HSA-UWC board of directors had voted to reduce the current level of funding for UTS by 32%, effective **next month**, January 2015. The resolution says that even this level of funding, will **only** be available **if** the UTS board agrees to:

- 1) **Close** the undergraduate college in Barrytown at the end of the current academic year in May 2015,
- 2) **Remove** Dr. Panzer as the current president of UTS,
- 3) For UTS to form a joint committee with HSA, **after 1)** and **2)** are executed, to figure out what the future of UTS and Barrytown campus should be, and the level of HSA funding going forward.

When Dr. Panzer inquired as to what HSA plans are for the future of Barrytown property if the college is closed, it quickly became clear that **they have no plan**. HSA leaders told him that they would hire a "high-end consultant" to advise them what they could do - perhaps a "conference center."

Dr. Panzer asks, "Wouldn't it make sense to hire the "high-end consultant" **now, before** forcing the college to close down?" Research by Dr. Hendricks in 2009 determined that it would take tens of millions of dollars to replace or renovate the main building in Barrytown and that even if that were done, there is little demand for conference centers in this part of the Hudson Valley. As far as just selling the property, Bard College has previously told UTS it would cost them \$40 million to replace or renovate the main building. *However, with minimal upgrades, the Barrytown campus continues to be very useful for our community.*

HSA claims that their main concern is to invest in the future and in the Unification 2nd Generation. The UTS graduate school has **three 2nd Gen** and the undergraduate college currently has **thirty-three 2nd Gen**. In terms of the future of 2nd Gen, one might question whether closing down the program at UTS which attracts **11 times as many 2nd Gen** makes any sense in a forward thinking policy?

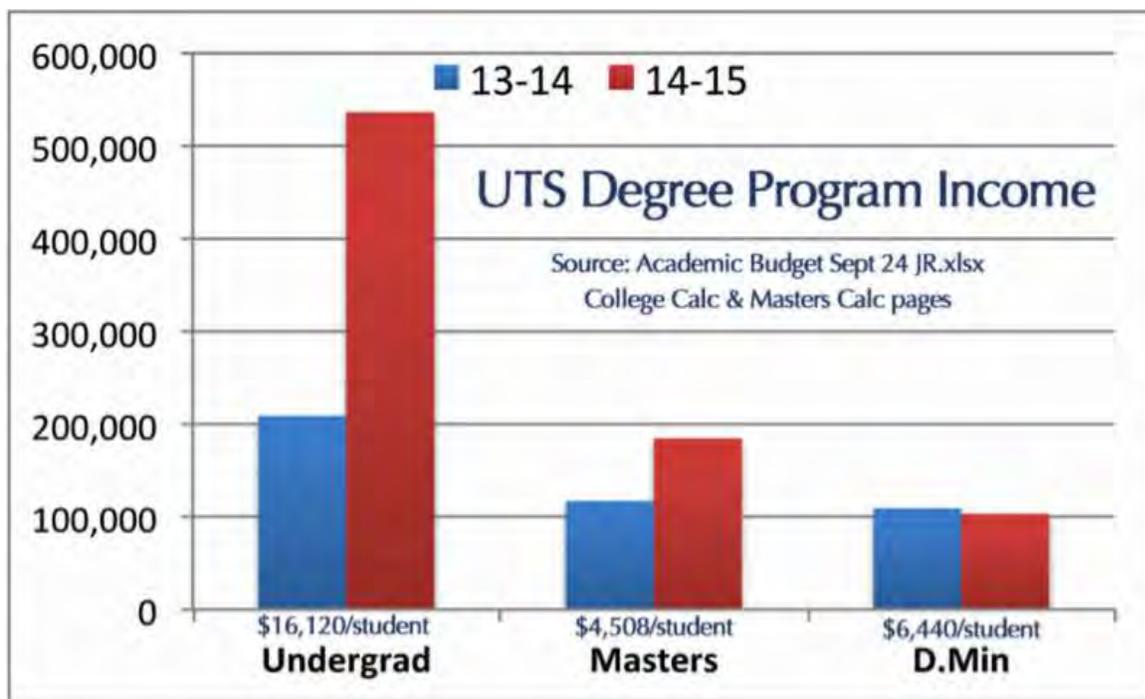
Barrytown is the only (Unification) property that is large enough to welcome the **700+ 2nd Gen** who come for the annual *Blessed Culture Sportsfest*. If the Barrytown property is lost, where will the 2nd Gen go?

HSA leaders claim that their motivation is simply to save money, but the **consequences if the UTS board votes to accept their demands will be to:**

- 1) a. Cause UTS to **lose access** to \$204,000 in Federal Pell grants and
 - b. Force UTS to put about \$127,000 into an escrow bank account which will be **untouchable** for at least a year. This will lead to an **immediate loss of \$331,000** in funding streams.
- 2) **Endanger the accreditation of the entire institution** due to the sudden funding cut **in the middle** of the academic year.
- 3) **Endanger** the ability of UTS to offer federal loans to our students, effectively forcing UTS to **close the graduate seminary**, most likely by next Fall.

- 4) Cause UTS to **betray the trust** of literally hundreds, and probably thousands, of Unification 2nd Generation who have enjoyed Barrytown in the past and will want to be able to do so in the years to come.
- 5) Cause UTS to **betray both our current and future students** at the college (and their families) who trusted the commitment to provide a heavenly college they could invest their heart and mind in during this important stage in their lives.
- 6) Cause UTS to **extinguish** Father's and Mother's hope for Barrytown and their legacy, for generations to come.

On the other hand, there is a good case to be made that the revenue made with undergraduate program will continue to grow. It is the only part of UTS that can make a profit and lead to UTS financial self-sufficiency. UTS achieved 75% of its recruitment goal for the college this year. Even with this modest level of recruitment, as the following graph shows, **the undergraduate program currently makes twice as much income as the entire graduate school.**



The UTS Chief Financial Officer reports that with tuition income based on this actual level of enrollment growth, within 1-2 years the college can further help to pay for the Barrytown property expenses and thus reduce HSA subsidies to UTS.

Dr. Panzer says that he shares the church's goal for UTS to become self-supporting. Already the portion of funding from HSA that contributes to UTS income has sharply declined, from 77% in 2012-13, to 54% in 2013-14, to 40% in 2014-15, and is projected to decline even further in the next 3 years. The CFO is developing a realistic three-year budget that anticipate further cuts in HSA support to UTS.

What disturbs me the most is the **way** HSA is playing hardball, with threats and a financial "gun to the head."

Isn't their name the "Holy Spirit Association"?

What culture does their hardball style reflect?

I know of at least four UTS alumni on the HSA Board of Trustees, several of whom also hold leadership positions in HSA's administration. They have seen shortfalls in the Barrytown College recruitment targets (75%). They have witnessed administrative shortcomings at UTS. Heck, who among us has not seen even more egregious shortcomings, screw ups and even outright corruption during our years of service to the Unification Movement? Now, in December 2014, the pot may have decided to call the kettle black.

If HSA can meet 75% of their recruitment goal of expanding membership to 50,000 by 2016 and 500,000 by 2020 then there will be **a huge need** for education. The Seminary and Barrytown College can be a best friend and partner in helping Dr. Ki Hoon Kim (UTS'96) and Dr. Balcomb (UTS'94 and '09) achieve the goals they have promised True Mother. UTS can provide graduates and ongoing training for this new wave of members.

75% of 50,000 is 37,500 new members by 2016. HSA sabotaging UTS is probably an unwise maneuver given the need for unity and cooperation. An unusual strategy to promise success.

I am sure you agree with me that HSA may want to rethink and actually lend its weight to support Barrytown, not to undermine it.

"Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand." Matthew 12:25

Let's see if, as alumni, we can prevail by working together according to the values of our alumni association. Support each other. Work together. Love one another.

UTS Alumni Association Values

- Excellence in all aspects of our work
- Mutual respect and fairness
- Courteous, ethical relations with colleagues
- Individual growth and development
- Conscientious citizenship and constructive engagement in civic life

I ask that you speak out and express your opinion. There is an online survey where you can express your views, pro or con, about the HSA demands. Then we will know what brothers, sisters, UTS alumni and friends in America and around the world think. Here is the link for the survey:

r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001F1laPDRdjYrfX8y-Wtlpry9814LdxsT4S3zf9_8q-Svf2geslVVApqcgcHryhwrhDfKXzzGAF6c6JPqNZ1DzO_YNUstCOWoFWupKM7A1lhJYYVNNnLMezZWT6B5--oldrhXrMR4oJaG5w5jMf0TRsgcvK1AiJVF9sEUshzhrKhsdJIOZ0kXTnJjJOa7hOrv&c=AbwBzphJC2x6t9X_1E_jQAYNNYkUfcXnwdFOQQklIZxiThW_EN9sKA==&ch=zLZgBYvRn0D6XqZrr1iM_ZkoD24_IBS-H6Or6yr_j2Xm4UP-Eq4MUA==

Sincerely,

Robin James Graham (UTS'80)
President, UTS Alumni Association