



## A MODEST PROPOSAL

### *FOR PREVENTING THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATES OF THIS UNIVERSITY FROM BEING A BURDEN TO THEIR ALMA MATER AND FOR RENDERING THEM BENEFICIAL TO THE PUBLIC*

It is a melancholy Object to those who walk through this great University, when they see the Streets, the Roads, and even the Carriageway of the Rotman School of Business crowded with 'Strikers' of both sexes importuning an already generous *Alma Mater* for yet greater *Emolument*. These sad *Ingrates*, instead of quietly and contentedly attending to their tutorial Duties and to the assiduous preparation of their Dissertations on divers Matters Scientific, employ all their time in strolling about and disturbing the *Peace* with their raucous *Complaints*.

I think it is agreed by all parties that this prodigious number of idle *Doctorandi* in the present *Deplorable State* of the University is a very great additional *Grievance*; and therefore whoever could find out a fair, cheap, and easy method of making these students sound, useful members of Society would deserve so well of the *Governing Council* as to have his statue set up for a *Preserver of the Academy*.

As to my own part, having turned my thoughts for many hours upon this important subject, and maturely weighed the several schemes of both Apologists and Critics of the *Malcontents*, I have always found them grossly mistaken in their *Computations*. The number of *doctorandi* in our Academy is usually reckoned at six thousand, but of these I calculate that no fewer than five thousand are supernumerary to the necessities of the *Respublica Litterarum*. I have therefore lately employed my thoughts without intermission on what course may be taken to ease the University of so grievous an *Encumbrance*.

I humbly offer it to public consideration that we relieve doctoral candidates of *all* pecuniary subventions, and rather regard them as a species of unremunerated 'Interns,' or better, *Apprentices* to the *Master Craftsmen* of the University, to wit, the *Learned Professors* of our several Faculties.

The advantages of my Scheme are as obvious as they are many. First, it will put to an end those pernicious *Combinations* or 'Unions' of persons, by which the *Ill-Disposed* endeavour to extort, as of right, a portion of the *Common Wealth* of the University, for there would be nothing to which they could lay claim. Secondly, it would ensure that the Condition and Status of *Doctoral Candidate* would be closed to all but *Gentlemen* or *Ladies* of private means, with the happy result that our *Parnassus* would finally be rid of the spawn of vagabonds, tinkers, mechanics, and other low sorts who now crowd its fair groves. Thirdly, as I have been assured by an Acquaintance versed in the Mysteries of the *Exchange*, we would render an inestimable service to *Men of Wealth* by considerably augmenting the ranks of that '*Reserve Army of the Unemployed*' so indispensable for the discipline of the *Mob*. Fourthly, the Revenues liberated by my Scheme could be most justly devoted to ameliorating the lamentable 'Liabilities,' or *Debts*, of the Fund from which the Stipends of aged, decayed, and decrepit *Academicians* are drawn. Finally, those who aspire to the *Professorial Estate* shall know once and for all that their preferment is a matter of *Grace and Favour*, not of *Desert or Demand*.

I protest, in the sincerity of my heart, that I have not the least personal interest in endeavouring to promote this Necessary Work, having no other motive than the *Common Good of the Academy* by giving some pleasure to the *Rich*.

LAWRIN ARMSTRONG

