



Council on Student Services
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 pm in room SL 232, Student Center

Members: Desmond P., Nadia R., Sheila J., Varsha P., Chemi L., Carly S., Tebat K., Senping Z., Niroban J., Qusai H., Shagun K., Amanda N., Aaila W., Luisa G., Oluwapelumi S.

Non-Members: Chris B., Larry W., Aileen C., Tasneem N., Greg H., Mohsin B., Kevin T., Melanie C (Acting Secretary).

Chemi L calls the meeting to order at 5:21pm. Chemi L. begins with a land acknowledgement.

1. Approval of Agenda

Move: Carly S.

Second: Shagun K.

All in favour. Motion passes.

Tebat K. asked if they had received the budget yet. Chemi L. answered that today's meeting would be giving the budget breakdown and that voting would take place on January 23rd, 2020.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – Monday November 18, 2019

Move: Luisa G.

Second: Senping Z.

All in favour. Motion passes.

3. Pre-Budget Operation Plans Presentation

Desmond P. began with giving a recap of the Student Choice Initiative (SCI), stating that it provides students with the choice to opt out of non-essential fees. This started in fall 2019. Since then, Student unions have launched legal action against the government's SCI program. Recently the divisional court of Ontario has ruled against the Government but the government is appealing the decision. With the new SCI initiative the government did not change the process for approving fees. It remains the same as in previous years.

Desmond P. continued by stating the non-essential fee categories that CSS will vote on. A new category

instituted by the government is called Academic Support. Desmond P. explained that this is a gift because this category has allowed us to reconfigure and include important positions that affect student life. Academic support is essential. Desmond P. stated that the non-essential fee budgets are discussed but not subject to the Protocol and therefore not subjected to a required vote. The fees are a little different due to the non-essential fee categories being separate.

Desmond P. called up Sheila J. to provide an overview of the operating plan for the Health & Wellness Centre including current and new initiatives. Walk-in counselling as well as walk-in Nursing has been cutting student wait times. Sheila J. also stated that Health & Wellness has embedded counselling services in 12 areas across campus. Health & Wellness are continuing with their group counselling sessions and with their UTSC Mental Health Network. Sheila J. stated that all current initiatives are continuing forward. Sheila J. gave statistics from Health & Wellness stating that 90% of students would recommend the Health & Wellness Center, 88% of students reported that their needs were met by the counselor, and 85% of students reported that their needs were met by the nurse.

Sheila J. continued with new initiatives that Health & Wellness would like to begin. They began a soft launch of MySSP – My Student Support Program in the fall. Tebat K. asked if they were allowed to ask how SSP is doing in terms of statistics. Sheila J. answered not right now, but that the stats would be made available. Health & Wellness has begun a partnership with Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Shagun K. asked if MySSP is available already. Sheila J. answered yes. Shagun asked how the online counselling services pilot would work. Sheila J. said that when you come to Health & Wellness to speak with a counselor they will ask the student if they would like to continue sessions online or in person.

Sheila J. moved on to Athletics & Recreation. Sheila J. began with statistics. Sheila J. continued with new Athletics & Recreation initiatives such as One Day Tournaments, which include eSports (bringing video games to Panam) as way to get people to walk over. Sheila J. stated that there will also be new Women's Programs such as Women's Strength Training, Women's Rock Climbing, Women's Boxing, and Dance fit with C-Flava. Athletics & Recreation also want to continue employing students through program monitors, program instructors, referees, social media coordinators, on-site supervisors, coaches, lifeguards, and more. The athletics & Recreation social media following is also increasing across all platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). Sheila J. ended her presentation by stating that the advisory committees were in support of the plan for both Health and Wellness and Athletics & Recreation.

Varsha P. began and spoke about the current AA& CC initiatives such as their workshops and online modules on a wide variety of topics from preparing for exams to writing a cover letter, Fairs/Panels & Networking Opportunities, experiential learning which includes work study positions and job shadowing, peer to peer coaching such as Get Started, practice interviews, study skills, and 1 on 1 drop-ins. Varsha P. began to give AA&CC statistics.

Nadia R. began with Student Life Achievements in 2019-2020 including Indigenous Programs and Outreach collaborations across campus (Orange Shirt Day with SCSU) and the launch of First Year Learning Communities and First Year Advisors for continual first year support. Student Life also applied

and received APUF funding to expand and enhance the Imani Academic Mentorship Program. The International Student Center also had a number of achievements in 2019-2020. They hosted the first parent/family orientation session, hired a new embedded counsellor, and worked with faculty and departments to integrate intercultural skills development into the curriculum.

Nadia R. continued that moving forward, there are 4 main priorities for 2020-2021. First, Student Affairs, Student Life, and the International Student Center will be merging into one team. As such, we will be revisiting and renewing our mission, vision, and values as well as Establish a new strategic plan that aligns with the campus' new strategy, and tri-campus priorities. Second, our global learning initiative will support faculty with new international course initiatives, led by the Office, Vice Principal and Dean of Academics. Student Life wants to secure pathways for additional funding to increase student mobility in partnership with DARO. Third, to improve orientations and transitions. Fourth, to continue to build community. Nadia R. said that it is our hope that we strengthen our Community Engagement programs in partnership with Admissions and Recruitment, Community Development and Engagement Office, TDSB and TCDSB. Student Life wants to be more involved in mental health engagements by working with other departments.

Desmond P. commented that we know that there are challenges around mental health, therefore a sense of community is critical. Student Life needs to take the lead with building community but it is something that everyone needs to be a part of. It is a shared responsibility across the campus to make everyone feel welcome and to increase school spirit. It is better when we have student feedback rather than just staff feedback as campus community starts with its students.

Carly S. liked the idea of a student life and athletics collaboration. Nadia said that there are events that athletics do on campus like yoga and it would be better if Student Life could enhance this and spread more awareness of these events. Aaila W. commented that one of the biggest issues is that students think U of T is just a building rather than taking into consideration all of the staff who work hard to put these event together. Nadia R. commented that instead of just booking and organizing the events, Student Life wants to be there and be a part of the events.

Nadia R. began her overview of CSS and the role of CSS members. She stresses that should anyone have questions they should ask so that they are better informed when making decisions that represent student interests at Tri-campus tables with respect to the student experience at UTSC.

Nadia R. continued explaining the CSS budget vote that is required for essential budgets. Nadia R. stated that Academic Support is high because of the SCI. There was an error made when determining the student fees budget and a primary position was left out. Nadia R. stated that they are meeting with the financial committee and trying to correct this. The proposed mandatory fees are lower than the CPI and UTI fee which is good. It is \$10.62 higher than the student total mandatory fees last year. This year it is \$391.26, last year mandatory fees were \$380.64. The proposed mandatory increase is 2.79%.

Shagun K. asked what goes under the Academic Support category. Desmond P. responded that most new positions such as immigration advisors for students who are on probation as well as the Student Life team are now under the academic support category which is why it is so high.

Chemi L. commented that all of the committees have advisory committees, however, Academic Support is a funding source for Student Life which is why we have kept an advisory committee for Student Life. Chemi L. added that if Academic Support moves forward it should have a student committee so that there is a better understanding of what the fund is covering.

Carly S. asked if the court votes through do we revert back. Desmond P. answered that that is a fair assumption. Qusai H. commented that the 12.38% for the entire academic category is only a \$10.62 increase from last year which is not a lot. Chemi L. commented that students have a right to question any increases so that they have all of the information to make an informed vote.

Nadia R. commented that if anyone wanted an unbiased opinion to ask Amanda N. and Senping Z. about their roles at Student Life.

Desmond P. commented that when voted the budget goes to campus affairs, the motion goes as one. However, we will be voting on each essential fee category. Aaila W. asked if the Academic Support category is also a part of AA&CC. Desmond P. said no, AA&CC is funded by the campus budget.

Chemi L. commented that she does not want student fees to increase. Aaila W. asked if we were allowed to vote as a whole. Nadia R. answered no, they have to vote line by line for each category.

Nadia R. added that the catch is that there are some people on the committee who are graduating this year and so they will not feel the impact of this decision next year. Sheila J. added that everyone needs to keep in mind that all of the departments are connected. When you vote no to one department, there is a domino effect on the other departments as well. Desmond P. added that we are all one team, so you have to realize that all of the departments are interconnected and saying no to one affects the other.

Luisa H. said that OSAP will increase what is essential, so the people on OSAP will cover this increase. Everyone sees the same increase both domestic and international students. Chemi L. said that it is important to hear both for and against sides of the vote. If anyone has questions feel free to ask.

Desmond P. said that it is important to remember that compared to the inflation last year, we are not even 1% above that. If we did not see these increases in prices every year we would see an erosion of campus life. One of the reasons is because enrolment over the years has increased and due to this we have had to hire more positions to improve services. Desmond P. continued that we have terrific services here at UTSC and we want to keep them at that level, therefore the fees need to increase. We need to realize the value of our services because we want to keep that.

4. Adjournment

Move: Shagun K.

Second: Amanda N.

All in favor. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.