



Council on Student Services
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022
4 pm – 6 pm
AA160 Council Chambers

Members: Neel J., Nadia R., Sheila J., Yumna A., Amrith D., Thai D., Hycil F., Greg H., Sheila J., Jeffrey K., Erika L., Victoria M., Afshana M., Varsha P., Michael S.

Non-Members: Heaven D. (Secretary), Nicole B., Lee B., E-Lin C., Ian C., Carmina E., Pratik G., Monica G., Kashfia I., Marg L., Colleen R., Tahira R., Shari R., Sandra R., Jennifer T., Larry W.

Nadia R. welcomed everyone and Yumna A. opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement. Nadia R. then announced that she will be chairing this meeting as Amrith D. had to resign and a new chair will be elected.

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Yumna A.
Second: Thai D.
All in favour. Agenda approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2022

Corrections to include for the CSS chair nominations, Michael S.' vote was not counted.

Moved: Michael S.
Seconded: Afshana M.
All in favour. Meeting Minutes approved.

Election of CSS Chair

Amrith D. nominated Michael S.

Michael S. accepted the nomination.

Michael S. shared that he is the President of SCSU. He has served in various positions to listen to students and has previously served on this council too. He is a part of certain committees within SCSU. Externally, he has had an opportunity to work with the Canadian Federation of Students.

Votes for Michael S. as Chair:

All voted unanimously in favor of Michael S.

Michael S. is nominated as chair of CSS.

Presentations from portfolios of Student Experience and Wellbeing:

Student Life and the International Student Centre – Erika Loney, Senior Manager

Erika L. highlighted the programs in Student Life and the International Student Centre, with the focus to help students transition through and out the other side of the institution. She discussed how the program supports student identity such as Black student engagement and Indigenous communities. She discussed that they have decided on four educational focus: Self-Development, Critical Thinking, Skill Building and Local-Global Community Engagement. UTSC was the first campus to have on-campus events last year, workshops, trips to local restaurants, restart building relationships between students and staff. Service statistics show a 32% increase in immigration appointments. Key collaborations and partnerships were discussed including Athletic & Recreation/Health & Wellness, AACC, Student Housing & Residence Life, Library/ACM, and Tri-Campus colleagues. She discusses the goals for 2022-23 for her team and how they will be speaking to the Advisory Committees within this week.

Erika L. opened the floor for questions after her presentation.

Amrith D. raised a question about the Chaplain Committee and that there have been accessibility problems. Amrith would like to advocate for more multi-faith prayer spaces on campus.

Nadia R. responded that multi-faith prayer spaces are out of her jurisdiction as it falls under The Office of Business, Operations, and Strategic Affairs (BOSA). As a short-term solution multi-purpose rooms are used as prayer spaces.

Yumna A. suggested that a policy should be created so that students are not denied when requesting the use of multi-purpose spaces.

Sheila J. added that rooms in the new buildings such as IC2, will have multi-purpose rooms.

Amrith D. included that there are churches in U of T St. George for students to utilize. Inquiring further how the same accessibility can be reflected in UTSC.

Nadia R. responded that the University of St Michael's College and its churches functions as an independent institution. Greg H. further stated that the college have their own governing bodies and budgets.

Michael S. raised a question that would UTSC consider funds coming externally to work towards a multi-faith building.

Nadia R. responded that no one has come forward with such a suggestion or funds for it, but they will not be rejected.

AccessAbility – Colleen Reid

Colleen R. started with a general overview of the department. She discussed how they want to address specific student needs with regards to accommodations by removal of any physical and systematic barriers. Funding comes from operating, government grants and the AccessAbility enhancement fund from student fees. The AccessAbility Enhancement Fund provides resources to students such as socials for students. She discussed the different programs of the department such as the First Year Transition Program and Graduation (Transition to Work). Colleen R. concluded that a Student Advisory Committee will be launched soon.

Colleen opened the floor for questions.

Michael S. inquired about the status of the Student Advisory Committee.

Colleen responded that the committee is currently formalizing operations.

Yumna A. inquired whether there is a solid plan for external funding.

Colleen responded that there are a lot of options, but such a need must be communicated to them.

Hycil F. asked if there are any campus life accommodations.

Colleen informed Hycil that the department's primary focus is academic accommodations, however they plan to collaborate and have conversations with groups such as the SCSU to create inclusive events.

Michael S. raised a question as to what is classified to be accessibility.

Yumna A. presented a scenario wherein a student needs accommodation due to a family death.

Colleen R. responded that there are always accommodations available regardless of the situation and is usually case-dependent.

Kashfia I. confirmed that students like in the scenario will be directed to her to determine needs.

Nadia R. added that the departments are all interconnected. If a student were to reach out with a need not under its departmental jurisdiction, the staff works together to support and meet student needs.

Academic Advising & Career Centre(AA&CC) – Marg Lacy, Jen Tigno, E-Lin Chen

Marg L. discussed their team and the AA&CC overview. She added that supports and services are available both in-person and virtually. Jen T. discussed different programs the department offers such as

the Get Started Program, ArriveUTSC among others. E-Lin C. discussed different opportunities in the department with Career Learning and Exploration opportunities. Marg L. concluded the 2023 initiatives.

Marg L. opened the floor for any questions.

Victoria M. discussed that the U of T Mississauga (UTM) has a prayer building and inquired as to how UTM students are able to access one.

Erika L. offered to determine how UTM got the space.

Adjournment:

Moved: Michael S.

Seconded: Afshana M.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned.