

**Council on Student Services**  
**Meeting Minutes on Wednesday, November 16, 2022**  
**4 pm – 6 pm**  
**AA160 Council Chambers**

**Members:** Neel J., Nadia R., Sheila J., Yumna A., Amrith D., Thai D., Tina D., Hycil F, Greg H., Arthur H., Dila. I, Victoria M., Erika L. Afshana M., Varsha P., Michael S., Syeda G.

**Non-Members:** Tarak A, Lee B., Cornell J., Ian C., Chanda C. , Charles D., Heaven D. (Secretary), Carmina E., Lyndsay E., Monica G., Nicole G., Pratik G., Sarah H., Steven H., Kashfia I., Alina K., Elsa K., Marg L., Tahira R., Colleen R., Sandra R., Shari O., Abisha P. Larry W., Rachel W.,

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Michael S. welcomed everyone and Yumna A. opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement.

**Approval of Agenda**

Moved: Michael S.

Second: Thai D.

All in Favour. Agenda approved.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes –October 19, 2022**

Moved: Michael S.

Seconded: Amrith D.

All in Favour. Meeting Minutes approved.

**Approval of Motion from the Enhancement Fund Committee (Round 1)**

Michael S. opened the conversation for enhancement fund application questions.

Nadia R. provided the highlights from the enhancement fund applications most student group events would be held in person.

Moved: Michael S.

Seconded: Thai D.

All in Favour. Motion carried.

**Presentations from Portfolios of Student Experience and Wellbeing:**

**Health and Wellness: Department Team Presentation**

Shari R. spoke on the department's meaning of wellness for every student by highlighting the department's Vision and Mission statement. Alina K. then discussed the values of Health and Wellness in terms of their collaboration, empathy, empowerment, support and inclusivity. Elsa K. discussed the Front Desk and Administrative support. Tarak A. discussed the various Counselling Services provided by the department such as individual counseling, group therapy, workshop and embedded counseling. Steven H. then spoke about the ways in which students are able to schedule counselling sessions. Highlighted the aim of the department, which involved the creation of a non-judgmental team and a safe environment for students. Chanda C. discussed the navigation of Core Team. Sarah H. introduced

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the Health Services and her team. Sarah highlighted the different health services provided by the Health and Wellness Center including X-Rays, immunizations, and health related advice. Rachel W. discussed that in health promotion they are promoting wellness on campus through building connections with student volunteers. Abisha P. added that this effort is achieved through fairs every month and through different department and event collaborations. Shari O. discussed new initiatives such as partnering with Toronto Public Health. She discussed the Equity Engagement and Marketing & Communications team and their efforts in making genuine connections with students.

Shari O. opened the floor for questions.

Thai D. asked if AccessAbility Services are partners with the Health and Wellness center.

Shari O. responded that they have partnered together since there are several issues such as mental health which is important in both departments. Elsa K. added together they develop different kinds of programming such as a Panel of Health Professionals who work on different one-on-one relationships with students.

Michael S. asked if a relationship exists between the Health and Wellness Center and Sexual Violence Prevention Center.

Shari O. answered that they work closely with them through referrals.

Afshana M. requested confirmation of how many counsellors they have in the Health and Wellness center.

Tarak A. confirmed that 8 Counsellors are currently present in the health and wellness center along with more vacancies.

Afshana M. followed up by asking what efforts are made to increase the number of counsellors in the department.

Tarak A. stated that efforts are made to hire more people and that students are given opportunities to book same day appointments. For example, the urgent crisis appointment, so no one would get turned away.

Michael S. asked if they work with campus safety, and how accessible they are to students.

Shari O. responded that they work with Campus Safety and are trying their best to increase staff availability. Elsa K. added that they have done a lot of collaborations with Campus Safety, especially training the student volunteers. Tarak A. included that none of the services work in silence, they are all connected.

Yumna A. asked if the Peer Support Team would be able to advocate for a student, or would they have to present it to Elsa K.

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Elsa K. responded by stating that Peer Support Team are trained to deal with situations like this and are knowledgeable of all the resources available. She added that they want to empower students to make their decision, however it does not always work and so the peer support team steps in to help.

Thai D. stated that doctor's availability to students were quite low and so were the bookings.

Shari O. stated that they are in the process of hiring this week and discussing the urgent booking spots.

*Athletics and Recreation: Lyndsay E.*

Lyndsay E. provided a snapshot of the department's events and initiatives. The Athletics and Recreation facility strives to create a respectful and inclusive environment for students. The aquatics program offers swimming classes, drop-in lane swimming and open lane swimming. There are intramurals teams similar to varsity leagues, that help students have access to diverse competition. Interhouse is less competitive than intramural where students can join as groups or individually. Other activities such as basketball and volleyball drop-in programs are offered at both the beginner and intermediate level. The Women's program and Group fitness classes, students have access to activities such as Zumba and yoga. Outdoor recreation and residence programming which she stated is in the process of expanding. MoveU educates students on the benefits of remaining active through events and tournaments. Finally, employment opportunities at the facility for students which included photography and coordination positions. Lyndsay E. ended her presentation by stating that the department's priorities are centered around increasing the number of students who participate in exercise activities.

Lyndsay E. opened the floor for questions after the presentation.

Michael S. asked about an event that previously happened by the valley and involved colors.

Nicole G. responded, the color run is associated with sneaker squad, and that they had to pause the event due to COVID. She added that in anticipation of sneaker run it would resume Summer of 2023.

Yumna A raised a concern regarding the department's initiative to have more presence on campus.

Lyndsay E. responded by stating that they have space and allocation to put in some effort and bring some programming to the overall campus, including residence.

Nicole G. added the department does have programming on campus. Residence ambassadors come to campus and run drop-in sessions predominately occurs behind Joan Foley. She stated that in the winter those activities move indoors like floor games, and they are looking to incorporate more indoor sports and have students participate.

Yumna A. asked whether these activities are limited to students.

Nicole G. stated that the focus is for residence students, but it would be open to all students, and they would love for everyone to participate.

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*Student Housing and Residence Life (SHRL): Greg H.*

Greg H. highlighted the department's mission to make students housing an inclusive and engaged community that everyone can see as their home. SHRL have townhouses and apartments with full kitchen and dining room in all units. He discussed that student housing and Residence life have prepared a mixture of shared and single rooms and mixed gender units. Students have support no matter where or when, with the department's method of embedded counsellors specifically for residency students. Residence is an essential service during the pandemic, and because of this student housing never closed. During this time, they had single rooms for all students. SHRL now has 95% first year students, 64% international and 36% domestic students. Representing at least 56 different countries with China being the largest population of international students. Residence programming which account for 96 community programs, and approximately 1680 res chat accessible to communicate with students. Living learning communities: sustainability and global citizen, is a new initiative that will include residence services, program and support- residence counselling, off campus housing resource, and 24hr on call response. The new new residence coming up will include a total of 750 spaces. This place would include a rooftop garden, dining hall, community kitchen, study room, single and double room and suites. Greg stated that the future of housing will include upper year housing and graduate housing.

Greg H. opened the floor for questions.

Tina D. commented that Student housing has an inventory of accessibility housing which has drawn students to this campus. She added that there is a lot of activity for wheelchair accessibility and the existing inventory has been challenging for guests and they are helping residence in increasing the amount of accessibility housing.

Yumna A. asked whether counsellors receive sexual violence training and what would they do if the need was more immediate.

Greg H. responded by stating that the counsellors would report it to health and wellness.

Tarak A. included that there is a wide range of services physically sitting in residence. He added that they do not have to walk all the way to health and wellness and have see a counsellor.

Neel J. stated that he wanted to take a moment to thank the teams for sharing their knowledge. He expressed that he is still learning, and the information given was insightful for SCSU and student representatives.

Thai D. raised a question concerning the process of dealing with sexual violence with the claimant and respondent are both still on campus.

Greg H. responded SHRL will respond based on the recommendations of the Sexual Violence Prevention and Support center. He discussed that in order to figure out what is the best process we listen to recommendations for the student and also if they are housing both students, they think about making alternative living arrangements.

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Neel J. stated that we have a crisis response coordinator reporting directly to the Dean. He discussed further that they need to look at academic mapping and keep both parties safe and lead the way where the claimant and respondent are both supported at UTSC.

Michael S. asked what would have happened in the situation where the claimant is a residence student and what policies are in place to limit it.

Greg H. responded by stating that they usually have space available to move people, temporary or permanent, and they work with recommendations to figure out what the best-case scenario is. He added that depending on what the interactions are, they would support both parties in terms of coming in contact with each other.

Yumna A. asked whether there is a priority for international students since it would be much harder for them to find housing.

Greg H. stated that there are times when they look at applications case by case. He stated that once they get to their wait list then it gets a little bit more complicated. He added that these are real challenges for real people that are taken seriously.

Amrith D. stated that for orientation this year he noticed that there was not a lot of residence students and if there were any conversation to have move in day before orientation.

Greg H. stated that the real logistical challenges that dictate move in day. It is typically on the long weekend of labour day, which is also the last day of summer exams. They give students until Saturday to move out which gives staff 24 hours to flip units. He added that they are still trying to make this work since orientation events are critical, and want everyone here at the same time.

**Adjournment:**

Moved: Michael S.

Seconded: Yumna A.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned.