



Council on Student Services
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, November 20, 2021
4 pm – 6 pm
Zoom meeting

Members: Desmond P., Sheila J., Tina D., Sarah A., Rimsha R., Isaiah M., Kashi C., Lamia A., Franklin P., Yasmin S., Bisma A., Hiba A., Ahmed H., Slava G., Erika L.

Non-Members: Tarak A., Mohsin B., Chanda C., Ian C., Heaven D. (Secretary), Michelle H., Elizabeth K., Kulsum K., Marg L., Haris M., Ahil N., Shari Russell O., Kitana P., Christine S., Tayyab R., Sarah R.

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Kashi C.
Second: Yasmin S.
All in favour. Agenda Approved

Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2021

Moved: Rimsha R.
Second: Lamia A.
All in favour. Agenda Approved

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

Moved: Desmond P.
Second: Lamia A.
All in favour. Motion approved and carried

Presentations from Portfolios of Student Experience and Wellbeing:

Health and Wellness – Shari Russell Opara

Shari O., presents the health and wellness centre, vision and mission, summary of the services and programming and available, the various service delivery options. Sarah R. Clinical team lead presents the medical services provided by the department. Tarak A. Team lead for counselling services, summary of the counselling services available to students. Elsa K. presents health promotion, mental health promotion through training and programs to promote health stuff. Shari O. then presents new initiatives provided by the department and priorities, partnerships and collaborations.

Sheila J. and Shari O. opens the floor for questions.

*Questions were similar, responses have been summarized *

(Bisma A.) What steps are the university taking to remove the barriers to access these services – such as difficulty in booking counsellors, availability of services to St. George/Mississauga students and lack of collaboration in tri-campus services?

- Services are covered by student fees there are no extra charges. It is available for students from other campus and an electronic charting system is used to ensure quality and consistency in service. In terms of reaching out, the centre prioritizes a team that is inclusive and ensure everyone can get the help needed through focusing on one student at a time and introducing navigation appointment.
- At the moment there are no wait times, the center has increased availability by expanding hours for same day appointments. Over the years, counselling resources to the centre has been expanding with the help of CSS and SCSU.
- The centre is connecting with other campuses almost daily to streamline and better their services.
- For international students, a counsellor role in the International Student Centre (ISC) which serves and supports the international students in various ways

Athletics and Recreation – Sheila John and Mohsin Bukhari

Mohsin B. discusses the mission statement and resources available to students to get connected and active. New ways to engage and support active activities online. Sheila J. presents the priorities of the department. Mohsin announces that in person events are back and following regulations to make sure it's a safe environment for the students and encourages students to connect with the Athletics team through their social networks. @UTSC_Athletics on twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Desmond P. speaks about balance opportunities in sports and recreation and emphasizes the importance of physical activity to mental health. Encouraging physical activity from the health perspective rather than performance.

Sarah A. opens the floor for questions.

Hiba A. asks how students are informed of the events, what is the promotion strategy.

The department uses its app, bulletin boards and social networks.

Haris M. suggests to promote all planned events rather than a single event and to include the residence centre in promoting these events to increase participation.

Lamia A. inquiries about the availability of graduate students targeted events.

The department does not have specific targeted programming for graduate students however, Mohsin would be happy to look at options and discuss. All the events are open to all students – part time, grad student etc.

Student Housing and Residence Life – Greg Hum

Greg H. presents broad overview of the residence centre, create a place called home and where students belonging. What facilities look like how they function, features, and how many students are housed, programs and support. The new residence promises exciting new features learning spaces, dining spaces, rooftop garden and will help double housing capacity. Housing master plan, 20-year strategy of create plans and where we want to be in consultation with students and staff.

Greg H. opens the floor for questions.

*Questions were similar, responses have been summarized *

(Isaiah M.) In regards to housing for students over the winter break, there is a residence policy in place to vacate or pay an additional fee to utilize the premises. Is there a Covid-19 accommodation for this? Are there any accommodations in place to ensure students are not coming into housing insecurity?

Greg H. mentions that the policy is due to affordability issues, the winter break payment is not accounted for in the yearly cost for staying in residence, though he is happy to re-evaluate should the policy need to be changed. The policy is created to ensure fairness for students who are leaving and who are staying. There is no accommodation however students can reach out to the office and discuss possible solutions.

(Isaiah M.) Referring to the resources for selecting different residence halls. Students feel like they do not have enough resources preferably in the form of videos to support their decisions resulting in a lack of a sense of where they where moving into.

The office creates floor plans for students to refer to. Creating videos is the something on the office's radar to provide a better understanding.

(Lamia A.) Graduate students, post-docs, TAs and visiting lecturers often acquire living space as availability allows, are there any plans in dedicating affordable living spaces and what is the projected timeline?

Greg mentions that the challenge presented is the small number of beds available and first year students take up large majority of those beds. Currently, UTSC does not have the capacity which brings him to his excitement for the new residence building. The new building will help market directly to graduate students with its projected timeline of completion of September 2023.

Adjournment

Moved: Hiba A.

Second: Rimsha R.

All in favour. Agenda Approved