



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

Council on Student Services
Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, November 18, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 pm in room HL255

Members: Desmond P., Nadia R., Tina D., Chemi L., Carly S., Senping Z., Shagun K., Amanda N., Esma B., Chaman B., Oluwapelumi S., Shi Shi., Luisa G.

Non-Members: Larry W., Aileen C., Tasneem N., Kevin T., Delicia A., Ian C., Shari R., Mohsin., Kevin T., Melanie C (Acting Secretary).

Meeting to order at 5:14pm. Chemi L. thanks everyone for attending. Last meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm.

1. Approval of Agenda

Move: Senping Z.

Second: Chaman K.

All in favour. Motion passes.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 23, 2019

Move: Shagun K.

Second: Oluwapelumi S.

All in favor. Motion passes.

3. Approval of Enhancement Fund Motion

Chemi L. gave everyone a minute to read over the Enhancement Fund motion for round 1. Chemi L. takes a vote to do an omnibus vote for entire motion rather than individual votes for each club that has been approved funding.

Move: Shagun K.

Second: Amanda N.

All in favour. Motion passes.

Senping Z. asked why the Graduate Student Association at Scarborough was asking for so much money. Shagun K. said that it was because they had asked for the money to cover multiple events over the school year. Senping Z. asked how many events the \$1000.00 was covering. Melanie C. answered that it was covering 20 events. Senping Z. asked for more information about the event held by the University of Toronto Inner Engineering Association and why they had gotten \$2000.00. Chemi L. said that the event

was held for 800 people. Nadia R. added that it was a speaker event and because clubs need to pay for the speakers, events with speakers tend to cost more money.

Senping Z. asked if there is a different procedure for clubs who ask for more money or amounts that are over \$1000.00. How does the committee decide how much money to give. Nadia answered that with every group that look at how the club event will impact and affect UTSC campus life. Nadia R. continues that the committee tries to keep the amount of money given for larger events consistent. The committee also needs to consider that sometimes events are too large to hold on campus and so the clubs need to ask for more money to cover the cost of venues. Carly S. asked if the University of Toronto Inner Engineering Association's Youth & Truth event is a recognized event. Shagun K. said that it is and adds that clubs cannot apply for funding if they are not a recognized campus group.

Move for omnibus vote: Carly S.

Second: Oluwapelumi S.

All in favour. Motion passes.

Motion to pass amount allocated which was \$26,195.74. All in favour. Motion passes.

4. Presentations from Portfolios of Student Affairs & Services

- **Health & Wellness Center**

Shari R. Introduced herself and provided an overview of the services for Health & wellness. The Health & Wellness center strives to provide inter-professional health and counselling services in a safe, accessible and culturally responsive environment to optimize the students' personal, academic and overall wellbeing. Their administrative team schedules patient/client appointments, supports team members' schedules, and assists with Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) and University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) billing. Shari R. continued by saying that the Health & Wellness peer programs promote healthy living and lifestyle through peer education. Health & Wellness teams include: Nutritional Health, Party in the Right Spirit, and Sexual Health to name a few. These teams build connections and create meaningful interactions with students during the year as well as during Health & Wellness fairs.

Shari R. began to share Health & Wellness statistics stating that there have been 20,064 total visits to Health & Wellness, over 700 drop-ins for group counselling, and over 4600 walk-ins to see a nurse. Shari R. ends by saying that feedback is important to Health & Wellness and so they have surveyed over 6000 student about the awareness of the Health & Wellness Center and have found a 3% increase in awareness over the last year.

Chemi L. opened the floor to questions. Carly S. said she spoke with the department chairs who have embedded counsellors and they said that a lot of students within their departments are not aware of the counsellors. Carly S. suggested that the contact info of the counsellors be in the class syllabi so that students are made more aware of the services for them. Shari R. said that they are working on that and that the counsellors have started doing tear-away's with counsellor information on it for students. **Sarah** added that they are trying to have the counsellors and chairs meet once a year to touch base and figure out how best to improve so that students are more aware of the services for them.

Senping Z. asked if there are walk-in hours for the doctors. Tracy said that the nurses handle the walk-in appointments first to see if it is critical for the student to see the doctor on the same day.

Shagun K. stated that it would be best to have professors mention to the students about the embedded counsellors. Elsa said that she has had departments make announcements about this in their classes. They have also done activities and PowerPoint presentations about the embedded counselling in classes. Oluwapelumi S. asked what is preventing Health & Wellness from expanding. Desmond P. answered that they have expanded and some of the expansion comes from support of the campus operating budget. Desmond P. explained that they are continuing to but the campus has a major space issue and so they need to figure out the best strategy before moving forward. Desmond P. continued by pointing out that mental health is a complex situation that requires an entire community. UTSC is doing what they can to bring awareness that is supportive and life enhancing to help students but we all have roles to play. Desmond P. continued that they are reaching out to other services in the community who work in mental health and that they are engaged in every level to improve. Desmond P. suggested having a discussion about the student's health plan and the benefits students are receiving. Chemi L. added to this saying that lots of students have questions about the health and dental plans and perhaps they could find a way to bridge the gaps between these plans and the departments such as Health & Wellness, the International Student Center, and Athletics.

Amanda N. asked if the counsellors receive intercultural training because she has spoken to students who have said that they did not feel helped after a visit due to cultural differences. Sarah said that the counsellors all bring different knowledge and are actively engaged in conversations involving client work and a big part of that is the student and their background. Health & Wellness have people on the equity and inclusion team who also works on bridging that gap to better help the students. Shagun K. asked if it is mandatory to have cultural competency training for counsellors. Shari R. said that that is a question that they ask in the interview process. Chemi L. added that they cannot mandate this training but it is encouraged.

- Athletics and Recreation

Mohsin B. introduced himself and apologized that his team could not make it to the meeting. Mohsin B. began by explaining that the vision of Athletics & Recreation is to be the hub of sport, recreation, learning and leadership by building an athletics community committed to engagement, excellence and inclusion at all levels, for all abilities.

Mohsin B. explained that there are outdoor recreation programs for every season. They have a total participation of 239 students in the Summer 2018 program, 202 students in the Fall 2018 program, and 241 students in the Winter 2019 program.

Mohsin B. explained that their top priorities for 2019/2020 include: Increasing first year student engagement, embedding equity principles into programming, actively create and participate in initiatives that promote a healthy campus, implement more activities across campus to engage more students who may not access the Pan Am Centre, work with residence to enhance international student engagement, increase women's participation/ enhance women's experience, and increase social media presence to promote our programming. Mohsin B. concluded by stating that Athletics & Recreation strives to create a respectful and inclusive environment that promotes opportunity and overall wellbeing through physical activity.

Amanda N. said that for events that sell out fast it would be nice to do them multiple times throughout the year. Mohsin B. said that certain events are hard to do more than once like the colour run, but other events like the ski trip is done multiple times.

Shagun K. asked how women's programs are being promoted. Mohsin B. answered that they are promoted during orientation and clubs week. Last year they implemented physical activity ambassadors to help promote programs by word of mouth and through social media. Shagun K. asked if there is any data being collected or statistics for if the women's hours are hours that women are attending. Mohsin B. said that the problem with trying to collect data is that the women's hours are negotiated with PanAM and so they are working on doing surveys on if the hours work for women and data collection on the number of women who are able to attend women's hours.

Esma commented that they changed the layout of the gym for women's hours and they found that this increased the number of people who attend women's hours.

- Student Housing & Residence Life (SHRL)

Greg began by introducing himself and stated that the goal of Student Housing & Residence is to be a home away from home. Student Housing & Residence pride themselves on student engagement and building community.

Greg continued by saying that Residence is comprised of 91% first-year students and 9% upper-year students and this is because first years are guaranteed housing. Statistics show that the International student population has increased from 34% to 60% over 5 years, representing over 70 countries including Uganda, Ethiopia, China, and USA just to name a few. Residence Life is also involved in 24 residence-wide events, approximately 3 per week. Such events include sustainability week, mental health week, and haunted halls for Halloween. The Total attendance at from all residence-wide events is 1229 students.

Greg concluded his presentation by stating that in 2018 they started expanding their housing inventory with a new residence building. This building will include 750 beds, a dining hall, and event spaces. This will continue into 2020/2021.

Shagun K. asked if the counsellors have offices for students. Greg answered that the counsellors live on residence with the students for easy access and students can make appointments online. Shagun K. asked if the FreeStore is available all year round. Greg answered that it is currently not open because they don't have people working there all the time. Senping Z. added that the FreeStore opens during orientation. During this time everything left behind from the previous year gets put out for students to take. Chemi L. added that people have suggested that they open a FreeStore for SCSU and it is something to keep in mind for the future.

Chemi L. asked if there were bunkbeds in residence in previous years. Greg answered that they started using them in 2018. Chemi L. asked how significant the cost difference is for living on residence when you compare previous years before the bunk beds to now sharing that small room with the bunk bed. Greg answered that it does probably cost more to live on campus compared to off-campus but part of this cost is the additional services offered to students in residence. Unfortunately, it is not as simple as cutting the cost of the room in half because of the bunk beds. The cost that they come up with for rooms are costs that seem appropriate at the time.

Luisa commented that in the beginning people were upset with the bunk beds, but they have found that people are now much happier with the bunk beds and are much more social than people who have

single rooms on campus. Greg added that the demand for shared rooms are increasing. Ali added that shared rooms in Folly Hall are cheaper than living in the townhouses. Desmond P. added that the bunk beds came on the heels of a massive fire creating a large spike in demands for rooms on campus and campus services.

Oluwapelumi S. asked how long the partnership with Centennial College plans to go on. Greg answered that it is a year by year situation and depends on the number of students that apply.

Shagun K. asked if there are sessions for off-campus housing. Greg said yes, they have work study students that put together these sessions. Greg added that they have found the attendance for these sessions spike towards the end of the year. Shagun K. commented that it would be better to have all of this information on one booklet. Senping Z. responded by saying that there is a brochure for off-campus housing. Shagun K. said that they should also have the brochure online as well.

Chaman K. mentioned the FreeStore and asked if there was any data on students and their experience in acclimating to Canada weather as well as asked if student leave behind clothes. Ali answered that in terms of prep for international students, they have a winter prep 101 course with the International Student Center and Health & Wellness, as well as information on where to find winter clothes to help with their transition. Ali continued that lots of clothes get left behind and brought to the FreeStore but they don't have statistics for this. Greg added that most of the time the clothes students leave behind are not wearable or dirty beyond repair.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Adjournment

Move: Shagun K.

Second: Chaman K.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm