



**Council on Student Services**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019**  
**5:00 p.m. – 7:00 pm in room SL232**

**Members:** Desmond P., Nadia R., Tina D., Chemi L., Carly S., Tebat K., Senping Z., Niroban J., Shagun K., Qusai H., Amanda N., Aaila W.

**Non-Members:** Larry C., Aileen C., Chris B., Tasneem N., Kevin T., Miriam M., Shari R., Mohsin B., Marg L., Liz A., Liana W., Zahra M., Juanita M., Scott M., Anushay K., Melanie Christoforou (Acting Secretary).

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Chemi L. announces that we will get started with the presentations until we achieve quorum.

The meeting officially begins at the end of the Department of Student Life and the International Student Centre presentation.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Move: Carly S.

Second: Senping Z.

All in favour. Motion passes.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2019**

Move: Carly S.

Second: Shagun K.

Qusai H. abstains as he did not read the minutes from last meeting. Motion passes.

**3. Presentations from Portfolios of Student Affairs & Services**

- Department of Student Life and the International Student Centre

Erika L. finished her presentation by asking if there are any questions. Shagun K. asked for more information about the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Erika L. answered that CCR is an official institutional document that recognizes student involvement outside the classroom. It is a way for students to better see all of their experiences on campus, to see themselves as leaders and to allow students to develop new skills. Erika L. recognized Norman Javier's work on CCR to make it more accessible to all students and states that they are now in session two of their All-In Leadership Program launched which launched this Fall 2019.

Carly S. asked about the Global Leader's Certificate Workshop dates for the winter term. Erika L. said that all of the workshops for both the fall and winter are up on CLN and are available for students to sign up. Carly asked for more information on the Global Local Real Talk series. Anushay K. explained that the talk series is a casual and engaging monthly conversation that explores a variety of hot topics in pop culture through conversations and shared connections. Anushay K. said that they currently have five sessions that are available on CLNx such as, Priyanka Chopra-Jonas and the story of Kashmir and Hustlers the movie, sex work, and Feminism.

Senping Z. asked how the new Health & Wellness counselors work. Erika L. said that the counsellor will be working half day at Health & Wellness and half day at the International Student Center. Erika L. continued that there will be proactive preemptive programming to encourage students to think more about their mental wellbeing and to provide a stigma free environment. Qusai H. added that due to graduate students having a different health plan, he had tried to organize something similar to this but was not able to and asked if the counsellor could focus on insurance for international students and graduate students. Erika L. said that the counsellors do handle and work with the different insurances.

Shagun K. asked how the students are finding out about the counsellors. Erika L. said that the International Student Center has been making students aware of the counsellors and referring them to Joanne, who is the counsellor for the International Student Center counsellor, when need be. Shagun K. asked if international students are also being notified of the counsellor for Residence. Erika L. said that there is another counsellor for Residence that helps the residence students. Desmond P. added that there is a plan in place to embed counsellors into every department on campus. The main point of the program is to have a counsellor that is available to all of the students. Desmond P. also added that the counsellors are not independents. The counsellors work for Health & Wellness, but they also work with the other departments on campus so that they are more accessible and relevant to students all over campus, creating a healthier campus community.

Shagun K. shared that she heard feedback that students were uncomfortable going all of the way to certain counsellors in certain areas on campus. Shari RO. said that students who have feedback can email Health & Wellness so that Health & Wellness can follow up with them in a confidential way. Quasi H. asked if the reason that some students felt uncomfortable going to certain locations on campus was due to accessibilities. The question could not be answered due to confidentiality.

Tebat K. commented that she had spoken to Sheri and Sheila, about how some professors have suggested having counsellors in offices spaces around where professors have office hours so that it is discreet. Desmond P. said that that is great and feedback is good but that we must keep in mind that there is a severe space shortage on campus but that it is a good idea to keep in mind as the campus is changing.

Carly S. commented that she had a conversation with one of the chairs and apparently students are unaware of there available counsellors and suggests that perhaps we could start putting this information in course syllabi.

Senping Z. had a question from last meeting. He asked how the opt-out services affect student life. Desmond P. responded that one has to understanding how the funding work. Funding for the International Student Center is throughout the operating budget and also contains student service fees while we no longer have. Desmond P. continued by saying that we are keeping tabs on the fees that are being paid and bridging the funding to keep it whole. Desmond P. said that he is in constant conversation with the principal so that there is ever a shortfall in the budget, there will be a back-up plan. For the next two to three years there should not be a problem as we will be in the 25% range. We will need to see how this is going to look over the next three years to see where it settles. Previous CSS meetings have asked why we have reserves of money and this is why. Desmond P. said that it helps us deal with shortfalls that we do not anticipate.

Chemi L. says that if people are interested in certain topics to email her and they can put it in the meeting at a different time.

- Academic Advising & Career Centre

Marg L. introduces herself and begins the Academic Advising & Career Centre presentation. Marg L. brought attention to her staff and all of the individuals who have been working in collaboration with AA & CC. She is proud of the Get Started Program and all that they had accomplished during the summer. Marg L. began to explain that the AA & CC works to help incoming and outgoing students transition into and out of our school. They advocate for students and provide valuable information so that students are better able to make informed decisions.

Marg L. also explained that research funding through high education quality council of Ontario has been working with the Get Started Program and the statistics from the program show that students attending Get Started do better in their courses and tend to have higher GPA's. Marg L. said that the ACCESS Program offered to international students is a program created to help them be ready for work after graduation. Marg L. said that CLNx has been opened to campus partners for jobs and volunteering opportunities for students and that CLNx merged with CRR last semester. Marg L. says that we have a new six week program called ArriveUTSC which will be launching next semester. The program is a tricampus symposium to go over what we already do for students and how we can improve and make our programs better.

Marg L. finished the presentation and asked for questions. Shagun K. asked if the graduate counsellor program will be available moving forward. Marg L. answered yes, it will be continuing. Shagun K. asked if there are specific graduate programs that graduate students are being recruited from. Marg L. answered no, it is not specific, AA & CC recruits graduate students from every program.

Senping Z. commented that he got feedback from students that there are international students who are unable to make it to Get Started and asked if there was a way to deal with this. Marg L. answered yes, all of the Get Started Programming and slides are available online. There are also special session dates for students who are unable to make programming days.

Qusai H. asked if AA & CC keep track of graduate students and if they are able to find jobs after graduation and if those jobs are in their field. Marg L. answered that they are working on putting a system in place to keep track. Shagun K. asked which programs are being advised for. Marg L. answered that it is a wide range.

Aaila W. asked for an example of experiential learning. Marg L. answered Arts, Culture, & Media have their own platform online for them to post jobs and volunteer opportunities. We have CLNx.

- AccessAbility

Tina D. began by handing hands out pencils. Tina D. started her presentation by explaining that she is the director of AccessAbility. Her role is to ensure that students with accessibilities are included and feel included on campus. Tina D. continued that the principles of AccessAbility is to ensure the dignity of the student, to ensure individualization in terms of help for each student, and inclusivity amongst the UTSC campus and community. Tina D. explained that they offer a holistic service and that the core of AccessAbility is understanding that the student is not just a student with a disability, everyone has their own abilities. Tina D. began to give statistics, stating that there are close to 1200 students registered with AccessAbility. Tina D. said that there have been an increase in the number of drop-in appointments, an increase in the number of students attending the monthly socials, workshops, and note-takers. They also have a disability symposium that is to assist students with accessibilities with the transition in and out of jobs.

Tina D. explained that they have an embedded counsellor from Health & Wellness that is in two days a week. Tina D. mentioned that they also have a program called GOALS which monitors drop-in rates with the counsellor. AccessAbility also works with faculty, the dean's office, and the Center for Teaching and Learning to create a more inclusive and safe campus.

Tina D. expressed her appreciation for in-class note takers and how important CCR is for this program. Tina D. said that this year they have a new disability consultant, more work study students, and are bringing in occupational therapists. Test and exam AccessAbility schedules are moving to the Registrar's office and they will now be scheduling exams for AccessAbility accommodations.

Tina D. concluded the presentation by telling everyone to remember that what you do matters and for everyone to continue with their services so that we can create a safe and inclusive environment.

Tina D. asked if there were any questions.

Qusai H. asked why the funding diagram in the slides in the AccessAbility presentation overlapped, if there was a reason for this. Tina D. answered no.

#### **4. Other Business**

Chemi L. commented that punctuality is important for meetings and that if anyone had feedback for the meetings to let her know.

Qusai H. asked if there was a process to remove a member of the committee if they wanted to be removed. Chemi L. answered that there are ways to make that happen. Qusai H. asked if the individual can be replaced. Chemi L. answered yes.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Move: Shagun K.

Second: Tebat K.

All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:33pm.