



Council on Student Services Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, November 27, 2013 at 5:00p.m. in SL-232

Members: Desmond P., Tina D., Elsa K., Jennifer B., Scott M., Liza A., Sarah W., Ranziba N., Yusra K., David S., Maria Eliza B., Ibtisam J., Anna-Maria K., Majuran J., Teresa G., Fiorella S., Michelle V.

Non-Members: Nitin T., James S., Siva T., Nisbeth A., Umayangga Y., Scott M., Cat C., Erika L., Betty L., Emzhei C., Tricia P., Esther B., Nadia R., Jacinta C., Sischa M., Nicole K., Karen C., Megan L. (secretary)

1. Welcome & Introductions

Sarah W. asked for introductions due to the number of new people and then began the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved: Liza A. Seconded: Yusra K. Agenda approved

3. Approval of Minutes – September 25th, 2013

Moved: Ibtisam J. Seconded: Ranziba N.

Minutes approved

4. Student Life Presentation

Liza A. began by asking Cat C., Aboriginal Elder, to do a welcome.

presentation available at January 15, 2014 meeting

Liza A. began with an overview of Student Life's mission and outlined new initiatives in DSL: new hires, intercultural training, CCR launch, Aboriginal Elder, interfaith chaplaincy, increased number of work study positions, more exchange bursaries, and expanded club and event supports.

Liza discussed the specifics of the DSL portfolio:

- 2 new hires: Student Life Officer and Immigration Consultant (both made possible with SSF increase)
- CCR: UTSC DSL had the most number of submissions of any UofT campus and program
- Indigenous programming: MTCU funded, money for targeted groups
- Campus groups: huge growth in requests for club activities and support
- FEP: increase in participation, growth in academic/social events
- Community Engagement: includes Imani, Indigenous, BAC, Interfaith, Faculty outreach, Storefront, Path to Post Secondary

- ISC: expanded to include any student settlement/adjustment issues, internationally minded students in addition to exchange/study abroad, advising, events/programming. Increased scholarships and bursaries, Academic Travel Fund make opportunities accessible to students.

Liza then discussed the specific SSF structure and breakdown per student, explaining where money is directed for both the DSL and ISC.

Liza concluded by discussing upcoming events in the DSL, including: Leadership Conference, Multifaith Training, Lunar New Year, Aboriginal Service Learning and International Development and Culture Week. The ISC showed a video aimed at students interested in going abroad featuring student volunteers who have been on exchange.

5. Academic Advising & Career Centre presentation

presentation available at January 15, 2014 meeting

Jennifer B. began by stating the 4 pillars in AA&CC and explaining how the blended services model (academics combined with career services) provides higher level of service to students.

Jennifer outlined the “Pillar Programs” in AA&CC: Get Started, Hire Power, Choosing Your Program and discussed other key programming (e.g. job shadowing, study skills, academic integrity)

Jennifer continued by breaking down the budget explaining that funding comes from SSF and external revenues. AA&CC is currently considering their external revenue sources and how to expand. The SSF goes towards career/employer development, learning skills, Hire Power and Get Started. Jennifer further explained the 2012-13 SSF increase was directed towards: 2 new positions (Academic Success Strategist, Business Officer), Get Started, and mandated salary increases.

The number of students served in AA&CC continues to rise with >3000 students seen in 1-on-1 appointments in 2013 and >2000 students participating in Get Started 2013.

Jennifer discussed on-campus collaborations and discussed raising the bar regarding areas of improvement: working with Registrar’s Office to have earlier Academic Calendar distribution and improve Degree Explorer, working with the Academic Dean’s Office on retention. AA&CC sees unintended challenges students face and advocate for changes where possible.

Jennifer discussed some planned initiatives for the future:

- Focus on employer and alumni engagement
- Use of the Career Learning Network
- Expand experiential learning

Jennifer concluded with a video to showcase AA&CC “What’s Your Passion?”

6. Report Backs from Advisory Committees

Athletics

Majuran J. said they briefly discussed the budget but are planning on discussing it in greater detail at the next meeting.

Sarah W. added Athletics was also introducing a new subcommittee called “Women in Sports”.

Health & Wellness

Anna-Maria K. said they discussed the budget, Tayyab discussed counselling services, and they discussed the recommendations from the H&W review.

Finance

David S. said they had a budget discussion and will discuss in greater detail at the next meeting.

Academic Advising & Career Centre

Jennifer B. said they discussed the budget process and where members want to see improvements.

7. Other Business

1. Student Housing and Residence Life Presentation

Michelle V. began by saying SHRL isn't funded by SSF and instead receive 96% of their funding from student resident fees.

Michelle did an overview of the SHRL components: Residence Life, Admissions, Budget/Planning, Administration, Facilities, Off Campus Housing Support.

Michelle discussed the programming areas and described the admission process and timeline. She highlighted the residence life student staff model explaining it is a combination of full-time staff and student leaders working together to ensure objectives are met. Compass (residence orientation) is the biggest program, encouraging community building, and partners with SCSU and Student Affairs departments.

Michelle went on to further discuss residence supports and interventions including student conduct, referrals, personal development, roommate conflicts and embedded advising (Student Affairs partners), off-campus housing.

Michelle concluded by saying the residence advisory committee met in early November and had a full budget discussion.

Discussion

Yusra K. asked whether there is sexual assault and/or consent programming.

Michelle V. said there is safety programming around healthy relationships, sexual assault and dating violence. She added residence hosts a performance group during Compass Orientation to engage students on topics related to sexual violence and she also mentioned residence has Green Dot trainers which also contributes to sexual assault prevention.

Elsa K. added that Health & Wellness attended the residence Safety Fair where they included messaging on safe partying and sexual assault, which often go together.

Yusra K. added that the consent piece is really important.

Elsa K. added that the experience around consent and understanding of assault is culturally different.

Michelle V. explained there is a safe house in residence and if an assault occurs a process is followed.

Yusra K. asked if student leaders received any anti-oppression training.

Michelle V. responded the students receive extensive training before school starts and she is open to anti-oppression training, however, she feels it would be a better fit for in-service training.

2. Jennifer B. added that the AA&CC bookmarks she handed out don't have a URL included because the website is under construction. New bookmarks will be distributed when the website is active.
3. Desmond P. reminded the group that the next meeting (January 15, 2014) is for student voters to discuss the budget process and allow for directors and students to dialogue regarding the various budgets.

Sarah W. added she will book the meeting room earlier so the meeting can begin promptly at 5pm since it will likely be a full two hour meeting.

Desmond P. added he is trying to arrange for St. George groups to present at a future CSS meeting to discuss the SSF contribution to their programs.

8. Adjournment

Moved: Anna-Maria K. Seconded: Maria Eliza B.

Meeting Adjourned