



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

Council on Student Services
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday January 12, 2021
4:00 p.m. –6:00 pm, Virtual

Members: Desmond P., Nadia R., Varsha P., Erico P., Sabrina P., Tristine A., Sara M., Bill F., Yansunan C., Tianna T., Menilek B., Fae A., Lubaba G., Eesha C., Bill F, Stephanie E

Non-Members: Larry W., Shari R., Mohsin B., Tasneem L., Chris B., Delicia A., Aileen C., Greg H., Megan L. (secretary)

1. Approval of Agenda

Move: Eesha C.
Second: Menilek B.
Agenda approved.

2. Approval of Minutes- November 18, 2020

Moved: Eesha C.
Seconded: Menilek
Minutes approved.

3. Pre-Budget Operation Plans Presentation

Varsha P. - Academic Advising & Career Centre

- began with 2019-20 highlights e.g. workshops, numbers (visits/unique visits), programming
- detailed COVID-related programming changes
- presented enhancements and additions to operating plan e.g. hiring EDI career counselor, access programming, transition programming, collaborations (CMS in AACC)

Mohsin B. – Athletics & Recreation

- began with 2019-20 highlights e.g. upward engagement trajectory pre-COVID, increased drop-ins, supporting/partnering with athletic-natured clubs, increased social media engagement
- detailed COVID-related programming changes
- presented upcoming plans e.g. increased student employment, online/peer-to-peer/women’s programming

Shari R. – Health & Wellness

- began with 2019-20 highlights e.g. visit numbers, annual survey results
- detailed COVID-related programming changes e.g. service shift to virtual
- presented upcoming plans e.g. hire EDI mental health staff, expanding counseling/peer supports, virtual health promotion, vaccination

Nadia R. – Student Life

- began with 2019-20 highlights
- detailed COVID-related programming changes e.g. online shift allowed for international partnerships, collaboration improved tri-campus delivery, immigration advisor live chats

-presented upcoming plans e.g. hire Imani Coordinator, expand programming for Black students, develop Black & Indigenous staff network to support Black & Indigenous students, build relationships between international & local students

Overview of CSS – Nadia R.

- explained that Student Services, Health & Wellness, Athletics, and Career & Academic supports are at the forefront of producing/creating for students, strengthens community, and reflects student values
- highlighted representation at different tri-campus tables and Desmond being a key member of Executive Team
- reminded students all members have a vote although only the student vote determines the outcome, with a simple majority required to pass
- discussed what happens in the event the budget vote fails i.e. The Protocol is initiated with the fee increase determined by CPI/UTI
 - lessor of UTI/CPI is a permanent increase; greater of UTI/CPI is for three years then “falls off”
 - The Protocol only provides for essential fees to support maintenance of services to avoid jeopardy, however, doesn’t allow for program growth; Desmond clarified since The Protocol doesn’t allow for program growth, the planned EDI hires would not proceed in the event of a “no” vote.
- Added that while funding is sourced from other areas (e.g. tri-campus funding, provincial funding, operating budget, etc.) it is unreliable and heavily dependent on trends & priorities
- Last time funding was requested for staffing was 2017; positive vote means steady funding, increased accountability, longevity of programming, aids in recruitment of talent

Total proposed Student Service Fee Increase (total, FT):	3.48%/year = \$14.22/year
Projected UTI/CPI:	UTI 4.16% + CPI 2.0% = \$25.14/year

Discussion

- *All questions were similar in nature, only responses have been provided and summarized for brevity
- Questions were surrounding difference between \$14.22 and \$25.14 fees; clarification of how fees can be used
- The \$25.14 is the maximum UTI/CPI amounts that can be asked of Campus Affairs Committee in the event of a “no” CSS budget vote
- the UTI/CPI is only intended to maintain programs, not grow programs, as it is not continuing e.g. the higher UTI/CPI amount “falls off” every 3 years and therefore not reliable. This means EDI hires will not happen in event of “no” vote and The Protocol initiated
- A “yes” budget vote means \$14.22/year which will allow for EDI hires; “no” vote will have \$25.14/year without EDI hires
- UTI/CPI only covers program maintenance, which includes inflation of pay, benefits, programs, etc. It’s difficult to build something when the amount is unpredictable and falls away every 3 years
- services are being maintained at a baseline level and fees must be increased in order to continue to maintain; economies are built into the CSS budget while still sustaining the baseline; savings can be redeployed to hire EDI positions
- some departments e.g. AA&CC using carryforward amounts for hires while UTI/CPI doesn’t take that into consideration; Athletics is asking \$0 this budget but UTI/CPI will include increase for that department nonetheless
- Question asked whether there has always been “no” vote since 2017
- Desmond replied that some years there has been a “no” vote in some areas, with a “yes” in others, pointing out UTSC has a better record than other campuses

Closing

-Nadia said that hiring Black staff enables support of Black students and is a way Student Affairs can support anti-Black racism

-Desmond shared a story about meeting with SCSU President when he first started and thus wanted to ensure the cross section of staff reflected the student body so no students feel unrepresented; believes a strong alignment exists between proposed budget and student values

4. **Adjournment**

No motion to adjourn for special meeting