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

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