UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

Council on Student Services
Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 pm in room SL 232

Members: Desmond P., Nadia R., Tina D., Chemi L., Carly S., Tebat K., Senping Z., Niroban J., Qusai H., Shi Shi, Shagun K., Amanda N., Aaila W., Oluwapelumi S., Luisa H., Sarah M., Rayyan A., Greg H., Erika L.
Non-Members: Larry C., Aileen C., Aaheli M., Chris B., Tasneem N., Kevin T., Miriam M., Shari R., Mohsin B., Miriam M., Heather-Lynne M., Sandy W., Meredith S., Melanie Christoforou (Acting Secretary).

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1. **Welcome & Introductions – Desmond Pouyat**

Nadia R. began introductions and welcome. Nadia announced that she is Chair until a Chair in elected.
Nadia than began the meeting with a land acknowledgement and introduced Desmond P.
Desmond P. began preliminary remarks, welcomed everyone to the CSS year and recognized the power of community on campus. Desmond P. also recognized the importance of CSS to the Scarborough campus and hopes for good attendance at the CSS meetings throughout the year. He asked everyone to introduce themselves and the department that they represented. Nadia announced Student Affairs promotional materials from welcome day, Tasneem N. and Chris B. handed out welcome day bags to the students.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Move: Carly S.
Second: Chemi L.
All in favour. Agenda approved.

3. **Approval of Minutes – March 6th, 2019**

Move: Tebat K.
Second: Oluwapelumi S.
Agenda approved.

4. **Overview of Student Choice Initiative**

Tebat K. motioned to move the agenda from item 4 to item 5 due to the Vice provost, Students Sandy Welsh and Meredith Strong Director, Office of the Vice-Provost & Student Policy Advisor being late due to commute from St. George.
Move: Carly S.
Second: Niroban J.
All in favour. Approved to move to item #5

Sandy and Meredith arrived after motion. Everyone is in agreement to move back to item 4.
Desmond introduces Sandy and Meredith and explains that they will be speaking about the Student Choice Initiative (SCI). Sandy begins with a general overview of SCI. The Ontario government released official guidelines for the Student Choice Initiative (SCI), the provincial mandate to give students an opt-out option for certain ancillary fees. The government wanted transparency in the fees that students have to pay. These fees also include student society fees (SCSU, APUS, GSA etc). Sandy continued explaining that the essential fees are stated on the student portal in order to make clear to the students which fees were mandatory to pay. These mandatory fees included Athletics, Health & Counselling, Health & Dental, Academic Support, Student ID Cards, Campus Buildings,

and Campus Safety which are under the government guidelines as compulsory for students to pay. Other fees that do not fit into the essential bucket are defined as non-essential and students are free to opt-out of those fees.

Sandy continued by acknowledging the labour involved in having the SCI process ready. The university was not given extra funding to make these process changes. She thanked her colleagues and the student leaders for building an integrative system. Sandy emphasized that they are continuously working and budgeting for future opt-outs and hope to have the information out as soon as possible. Sandy began stating that U of T has 523 optional fees for both full and part-time students. These optional fees are also dependent on which campus the student is from and which department the student is with. Sandy then began to give statistics and numbers for the opt-out fees. As of a few weeks ago, the opt-out median was 15.3 which Sandy says is a reasonable range. The lowest value of opt-out is $15 to $380 per term, however this depends on which campus and faculty the student is a part of. This brings the percentage of fees that are optional to about 3%-36%. Sandy explains that this percentage does not include the money that students would have to pay if they opt-out of health & dental (numbers are preliminary).

Qusai H. asked if they will be receiving a list of the students who opt-out. Sandy said no, because we need to respect student's privacy and protect the student's right to opt-out. Sandy continues to say that we can however ask that the student show you a copy of the invoice that they have paid the fees. Quasi H. inquired about what can be done about students who have opted out of funds, yet still come to events paid for by student fees. He said it is not fair for students who have opted-out to attend. Sandy said that they are working out a way to deal with this, perhaps by using T-Card swipe technology to check which student has paid which particular fee, however it is the student's right to opt-out if they choose and their right to that privacy said Sandy. Desmond P. comments that there will be discussions on this issue and said that everyone is to remember that great effort is spent building community and we need to consider the impact that barring students from these events would have on campus life community. Qusai H. responds by saying that he does not want to stop students from attending events but money is important and they are getting lesser funding ever year. Sandy encourages us to wait and see what the opt-out ranges are like this year and suggests that if the ranges are low it may be worth the tradeoff of barring students from events. Sandy continues to say that she recognizes the importance of numbers but that they are working on making the system better and more efficient.

Shagun K. asked what people were opting-out of more. Meredith answered that she will be giving the opt-out percentage rates next semester for us to look at possible themes in the percentage of students opting-out. Sandy also commented that people should feel free to reach out to vp.students.utoronto.ca and plan a meeting to help you understand the information that is being given about the opt-out rates.

Senping Z. asked if there will be guidelines for what they can use the money for especially food. Nadia responds that Senping Z. is form Scarborough Campus Residence Center (SCRC). Meredith answers that each student society get a portion of the money that is used for a specific service. They are trying to the audit process a system when you tell them what the fees were used for.

Rayyan A. said that one could argue that the money for each bucket could fall into more than one category, in which case, how would it work for the money to be used for specific buckets instead of more than one bucket. Sandy responded that she understands the argument and agrees with it, however, the government thought different and made a different directive. She adds that the goal is still to capture as much of the work that is possible from the money in those buckets to help fund student societies.

Qusai H. asked where the Scarborough buckets are. Sandy answered that they are on acorn, under the financial portal. There will be a notification that there is a new area for incidental fees. Based on the student (undergraduate, graduate, PhD) the funds are different. On the portal you are able to see the fees that you have to pay or are eligible for.

5. **Overview of CSS**
Nadia R. motioned to return to item 4
Move: Carly S.
Second: Amanda N.
Motion passed.
Nadia R. welcomes everyone back to the meeting. Nadia R. begins talking about how the purpose of CSS was created to determine what the students could do to handle the rise in fees. CSS was created to support the

students and contributes to the governing council. Nadia R. added that this is a great chance to provide feedback from the students, gain board experience, contribute to the student choice initiative, and get involved on campus. Nadia R. then proceeds to explain the job of The Chair. Chemi L. asked if people will be able to vote before meetings. Nadia R. said yes. Chemi L. asked if there are emergency motions in place. Nadia said yes.

Aaheli M. asked about when the pre-budget meeting is. Nadia R. referenced to the slide with the important CSS meeting dates. Desmond P. commented that this year they decided to include the pre-budget meeting date in the slides under important dates and make the date known to everyone because every year people like to come and observe the meeting.

Aaheli M. from the audience asked if the January 23rd, the final budget meeting, is voted. Nadia said yes, January 14th is the last meeting date for questions and January 23rd meeting date is the date to vote.

Aaheli M. asked if you cannot make the January 14th meeting, can you still vote at the January 23rd meeting. Nadia said yes. Aaheli M. asked if the academic and careers is a part of this. Nadia R. said yes. Desmond P. added that Academic Advising and Careers is paid by the campus operating budget and it is a part of an integrated system. Oluwapelumi S. asked if it has ever happened that a motion to approve a budget doesn't pass. Nadia R. said yes, in the past. Nadia R. continues on with the presentation and goes over the student advisory groups.

Finance committee is comprised of the presidents of SCSU,GSAS,RC and SCAA.

Senping Z. asked if the representatives will be randomly assigned. Nadia R. said you can choose.

Shagun K. asked if all of the committees will be available online. Nadia R. said yes.

6. **Election of CSS Chair**

Oluwapelumi S. nominated Chemi L.
Senping Z. nominated Carly S.
Chemi L. suggests each candidate do a one minute elevator pitch for The Chair position.
Shagun K. asked if they could do a secret ballot.
Move: Shagun K.
Second: Aaila W.
Nadia puts in motion for secret ballot. Qusai H. abstains. He suggests that the vote should be more transparent.
Tasneem N. handed out paper for the secret ballot and collected the vote.
Chris B. counted the votes. Tasneem N. tallied the votes. Nadia R. viewed the entire process as Chair.
The vote is in favour of Chemi L.
Chemi L. is nominated as chair of CSS. Chemi L. moves to item 7.

7. **Overview of COSS and nomination to COSS**

Desmond P. starts by explaining that COSS is the equivalent of CSS at St.George campus. Desmond P. explains that he sits on COSS and that the reason we have COSS is because students pay into fees at St.George, so it is important that whoever takes on the role should be able to make it to the COSS meetings.
Chemi L. asks for nominations for COSS
Tebat K. nominated herself.
Move: Carly S.
Second: Oluwapelumi S.
Motion Moved.

8. **Appointment to Advisory Committees**
Chemi L. suggests each candidate do a one minute elevator pitch for The Chair position.
CSS Finance Advisory Committee
Desmond P. announces that the finance committee membership is already predetermined. It will consist of all 4 presidents of student unions (SCSU,SCAA,RC,GSA)

Academic Advising & Career Center: **Carly S.**
        Carly S. nominated herself.
        All in favour.

Athletics & Recreation: **Aaila W.**
        Aaila W. nominated herself.
        All in favour.

<u>Health & Wellness Center</u>: **Shagun K.**

  Shagun K. nominated herself.

  Qusai H. nominated himself.

Each candidate did a one minute elevator pitch for the position. Tebat K. moves to motion for a secret ballot. Motion moved.

Tasneem N. handed out paper for the secret ballot and collected the vote. Chris B. counted the votes. Tasneem N. tallied the votes. Chemi L. viewed the entire process as Chair. Shagun K. wins ballot. All in favour.

<u>Department of Student Life</u>: **Amanda N. & Senping Z.**

  Amanda N. nominated herself.

  Senping Z. nominated himself.

  Luisa H. nominated herself.

  Oluwapelumi S. nominated himself.

Each candidate did a one minute elevator pitch for the position.

Tebat K. motions for a secret ballot. Amanda N. abstains due to time. Tebat K. takes back motion for secret ballot. Erika announces that they are still accepting roles for the advisory committee. Work student or staff cannot be on it but CSS representatives can be on advisory committee. Chemi L. explains this process.

Carly S. motions for a secret ballot. Shagun K. motions to not do secret ballet due to time.

Chemi L. takes back the floor and decides on a vote.

Amanda N. wins the vote for one of two positions. All in favour. Senping K. and Oluwapelumi S. are tied for the second position. Another vote is conducted. Senping Z. won the second vote but the vote is redone as there was someone who did not vote. Senping Z. won the third vote.

All in favour.

<u>Enhancement Fund Sub-Committee</u>: **Oluwapelumi S., Shagun Z., & Chaman B.**

  Oluwapelumi S. nominated himself.

  Shagun K. nominated herself.

  Tebat K. nominated Chaman B and called him to ask his permission to nominate him.

  All in favour.

<u>ByLaws Sub-Committee</u>: **Shagun K. and Tebat K.**

  Shagun K. and Tebat K. nominated themselves.

  All in favour.

<u>Equity & Community Fund</u>: **Luisa H.**

  Luisa H. nominated herself.

  All in favour.

Desmond P. comments that we should spend more time talking about the importance of community in university life in a future meeting.

Seconded by Qusai H.

9. **Adjournment**

Moved: Tebat K.

Seconded: Amanda N.

All in favour. Meeting adjourned.