



SENATE STUDENT CAUCUS
Notes of Meeting

Date: Friday, April 8, 2016
Time: 9:45am – 11:00am
Room: 209 Assumption Hall

Committee Members: Mr. Chris Baillargeon, Mr. Ronald D'Aguiar (Co-Chair), Dr. Ziad Kobti (Chair), Ms. Vicki Jay Leung, Dr. Dave McEwan, Dr. Tina Pugliese, Dr. Clayton Smith.

Absent: Ms. Ghadeer Alghosein, Dr. Tirupati Bolsetti, Ms. Bernarda Doctor, Ms. Larissa Howlett, Mr. Emmaual Igodan, Ms. Priyanka Jaggi, Mr. Morteza Lalmazloum, Dr. Gurupdesh Pandher, Dr. Kathy Pfaff, Mr. John O'Reilly, Mr. Amin Safaei, Dr. Geri Salinitri (regrets), Prof Gemma Smyth, Dr. Ryan Snelgrove, Ms. Dhouha Triki

In Attendance: Ms. Renée Wintermute (University Secretary).

Formal Business

As quorum was not reached, the following is an unofficial summary of the non-quorate meeting.

1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was not approved at this time.

2 Minutes of March 11, 2016

The minutes were not approved at this time.

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

Items for Information

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Report of the Student Co-Chair and Student Liaison Subcommittee

NOTED:

- The student co-chair provided members of the Student Liaison Subcommittee with responses and updates to the issues raised. It was noted that they were happy to be able to report back to their constituencies the feedback obtained.

5.2 Safety Working Group - Update

NOTED:

- The Safety Working Group met once and identified a number of safety concerns and questions relating to policies and procedures including: ensuring that students are informed of the mechanism for reporting safety issues (with clear responses on expected timelines for addressing the concerns); encouraging student groups to have a safety representative on their boards; clarifying the policy on monitoring equipment including camera installation; establishing a budget line item from central to cover safety/security related items and costs; clarifying policies and procedures in cases of power failures and

ensuring backup lights (floor lighting) in classrooms; having student representation on the central health/safety committee, if this is not already the case; clarifying and ensuring consistent application of the policy on keys and building access; ensuring all members of the university community are provided with timely information and proper contact/responders names in cases of emergency evacuations; working with the City to street crossing safety concerns; addressing issues of deferred maintenance asap particularly when associated health and safety concerns; and requiring that authorized contractors on campus wear identifiable visible badges.

- There should not be different levels of safety and security across campus.
- Safety and security concerns impact the student experience and can impact enrolment.
- Rather than identifying specific safety issues that have arisen in the past, the Working Group was advised to focus its draft report under three themes: health and safety, security/access, and deferred maintenance (understanding that there is overlap between these three). The report should then address how the three themes connect to the student experience. If a strategic priority is to enhance the student experience, issues of health and safety, security and access, and deferred maintenance are making it so that the University is unable to meet this priority.

5.3 Textbook Costs

NOTED:

- Karen Pillon and Scott Cowan in the Leddy Library are actively scouring for open source materials with a view to building a webpage that will link to the materials.
- Student focus groups on textbook buying patterns conducted by the Bookstore reveal that while first-year students often purchase textbooks, upper-year students generally do not because it is cost prohibitive. This impacts their learning experience.
- A Working Group consisting of Ziad Kobti, RJ D'Aguilar, Renée Wintermute, Karen Pillon and Scott Cowan will work to develop a draft document outlining guiding principles around textbook costs and accessibility in support of enhancing the student experience.

5.4 Student Caucus IT Advisory

Nothing to report.

6 Report on Student Affairs and Life on Campus

NOTED:

- Food Services is extending its hours of operation during the examination period and a coffee venue in the CEI building will be open during the summer.
- Student Affairs update: Clark Residence will be demolished over the summer, allowing the University to invest in existing Residence Halls; the re-visioning of the Student Centre continues; the bus referendum was passed by both UWSA and GSS; the new student ombudsperson is a shared position between the UWSA, GSS and OPUS; student elections were successfully held; the University continues to work to ensure that it is able to fully support the five refugees (three from Syria) that will be coming to the University in Fall 2016 under the WUSC program.
- In response to a question, the Dean of Students noted that the role of the student ombudsperson is to remain neutral and point students to the right offices or procedures. It was noted that the majority of the work is in referrals.

Additional Business

7 Question period/Other Business

Dr. Clayton Smith was sincerely thanked for his years of service and commitment to the student experience.

8 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11am.