



SENATE STUDENT CAUCUS
Notes of Meeting

Date: Friday, April 7, 2017
Time: 9:30am – 11:00am
Room: 209 Assumption Hall

Present: Mr. Christopher Baillargeon, Ms. Nusrat Tarin Chowdhury, Mr. Chaitanya Dharwa, Dr. Claire Mummé, Mr. Ryan Flannagan, Dr. Ziad Kobti (chair), Ms. Sharon Munro, Dr. Tina Pugliese.

Absent: Mr. Aftab Anwer, Mr. Justin Bugayong, Mr. RJ D’Aguilar (co-chair), Ms. Bernarda Doctor Dr. Sean Horton, Dr. Jennifer Johrendt, Mr. Dave McEwen, Dr. Gurupdesh Pandher, Dr. Kathy Pfaff, Dr. Geri Salinitri, Ms. Amber Shaheen.

In Attendance: Dr. Mohsan Beg, Ms. Anna Kirby; Ms. Renée Wintermute (University Secretary), Ms. Alison Zilli (University Secretariat).

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 Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2017

The minutes were not approved at this time.

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding business

4.1 Mental Health Issues – Course Syllabus

(See document SC170407-4.1 for more details).

NOTED:

- The Student Counselling Centre provides a variety of services for faculty and staff on the topic of mental health awareness including consultation, outreach, information on how to make a referral, and general education.
- The University of Windsor is moving towards a campus wide Mental Health Strategy to raise awareness on mental health issues.
- As part of this overall strategy, instructors are encouraged to provide students with some basic information as to how they can access mental health resources.
- At some universities instructors include information about mental health services on their course syllabi. For example, a web link to mental health providers on campus, phone number for 24/7 Helpline for students in crisis.
- Some of the common problems that are being presented by students include depression, anxiety, relationship issues and feeling overwhelmed or “stressed”.
- There are a number of factors that may trigger the development of mental health issues in University as the transition and change that arises from living at home to living independently can be difficult for many students.
- At Simon Fraser University faculty members are provided with mandatory suicide training prevention

training so that they can be aware of the possible warning signs that could lead to suicide.

- The Residence Assistants (RAs) are provided with specific training such as Mental Health 101, delivering bad news, how to receive a disclosure for sexual assault, etc.
- In response to a question raised regarding partnerships it was noted that there are plans to bring in psychiatry residence students to help improved services and in consultations a few times a week.
- One of the largest issues that is being faced by the counseling center is the high volume of students that need help and the severity of problems. Most of the time students do not seek help until they are at a high crisis point in their lives.
- Implementing strong prevention programs and peer mentorship for incoming and international students is key to having strong mental health services.
- The item was received for information.

Items for Information

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Report of the Student Liaison Subcommittee and Co-Chair

Nothing to report.

5.2 Student Caucus IT Advisory

NOTED:

- The University launched the new my UWindsor Google Account app for the campus community so that students can use their handheld devices to find out about their grades, exams, courses, schedules, finances, new, events etc.
- Given that there are many UWindsor apps that all have different purposes and functionality, it was agreed that it would be timely to review all of the UWindsor apps with a view to determining which ones are official UWindsor apps and determining if some information can be amalgamated.
- Currently there are apps for the Guidebook, Safe Lancer, Lancer Loyalty, Honk, Blackboard, Bike Share, etc.
- Ongoing upgrades are being done on campus to improve and upgrade wireless connectivity in many areas.
- An inventory of classrooms is being conducted to determine which rooms should be upgraded for AV equipment, chairs, etc.
- Given that study space is very important for students, the area is collaborating with the Centre for Teaching and Learning to identify spaces that could also be converted into learning spaces, outside of the traditional classroom environment.

5.3 Report on Student Affairs and Life on Campus

NOTED:

- An overview was provided on the various Student Affairs initiatives undertaken over the course of the past few months.
- Welcome Week is in the process of moving to a team-based approach with incoming students being brought in and team environments created to foster activities.
- The team based approach will help provide existing upper years students with leadership opportunities to mentor the new recruits.
- A call for volunteers to participate in Welcome Week has generated tremendous interest resulting in over 250 student volunteers.
- The CAW is in the process of being re-envisioned as the Centre as it needs updating to make it more inviting and user-friendly for students.
- Sexual assault workshops will be provided to train faculty, coaches and staff in how to recognize, respond and refer when they hear about incidences of sexual violence from students or those they mentor.
- Resources have been put into continuing to have a Writing Support Desk in the Leddy Library (which is run by four part-time writers) in order to provide students with help regarding various aspects of their

academic writing.

- A software program can be purchased and put onto self-serve computers for students that just need to review their spelling and grammar.

Additional Business

6 Question period/Other Business/Open Discussion

6.1 Update on Working Group on Part Time Student Issues

NOTED:

- The survey on Part-Time student issues has been completed and is in the process of being circulated in the next few months.

7 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.