



SENATE STUDENT CAUCUS
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Friday, February 12, 2021

Time: 9:33-10:39 am

Room: Virtual (MS Teams)

Committee Members:, Linden Crain (Co-Chair), Herman Dayal, Emily Fraser, Brent Furneaux, Edy Haddad, Shashi Jasra, Ofelia Jianu, Tanay Jivani, Ruth Kuras, Phebe Lam (Chair), Dave McEwen, Sharon Munro, Donna Patterson, Christine Vanderkooy, Caitlin Paulos

Absent: Mohammed Abdulaziz, Sean Horton (regrets), Aman Patel (regrets)

In Attendance: Danny Anger (Senate Governance Officer).

Formal Business

1 Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

S. Jasra/S. Munro
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2020

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2020 be approved.

C. Vanderkooy/B. Furneaux
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Re: Implementing the Online Code of Conduct Certificate Across all Faculties

NOTED:

- The Faculty of Human Kinetics is in the process of developing an online code of conduct mini course. It is expected to be implemented in Fall 2021.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

Items for Information

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Report of the Student Co-Chair

Student Issues and Concerns

NOTED:

- Mental health is a growing concern across campus and there needs to be continuing efforts to help students who are struggling with mental health issues.
- The Student Counselling Center has a 2-3 person wait time.

- It was noted that this wait time needs to be reduced and to provide flexibility for students to schedule appointments with a counsellor.
- Academic accommodations for students by Faculty and staff need to continue to be flexible. Providing that 5 to 15 minute grace period for assignment submission has been well received by students.

Mental Health Challenges and Online Learning Workshop

NOTED:

- On March 2, 2021, the Senate Student Caucus co-Chairs will host a panel discussion on mental health challenges for students and faculty. The focus of the workshop will be a variety of discussions surrounding mental health and well-being.
- The discussion will include 4 student panelists representing student residence, UWSA, OPUS. There will also be faculty members on the panel who have expertise in mental health issues.
- A 20-minute question and answer period will follow the discussion to provide solutions on mental health issues across campus, specifically those related to online learning.

Mental Health Resources on Campus

NOTED:

- The Office of Student Experience conducted a survey on the mental health resources available across campus. 85 students participated in the survey:
 - 71 % of the students surveyed are aware of the mental health resources available on campus;
 - 55 % of the students surveyed are able to find the information on mental health resources; and
 - 38% of the students surveyed have the MYSSP Application downloaded on their phones.
- Written feedback to the Office of Student Experience indicates that there is a stigma around mental health issues and that students are uncomfortable talking about mental health issues that affect them and find it difficult facing/discussing these issues with a counsellor.
- It was noted that the University will be updating the banner on its homepage to highlight the mental health resources available to students.
- It was noted that the co-Chairs sent a request to all Deans and Associate Deans requesting information on the types of mental health resources that are available to students in their respective Faculties.

Student Counselling Centre – In-Take Coordinator

NOTED:

- The co-Chairs met with the Director of the Student Counselling Centre, Dr. Mohsan Beg. The Centre is currently looking for a full time In-Take Coordinator to help continue with the 24 to 48-hour Step Care model. The model provides immediate access to mental health services at the University. This position will provide contact for students to help them navigate the resources available to them.
- It was noted that this position will help combat the wait times that students are experiencing when seeking support.
It was noted that an additional \$7 million will be provided by the Ontario Government for mental health on University and College Campuses.

5.2 Student Feedback Form Submissions

(See document SC210212-5.2 for more details.)

NOTED:

- Members were reminded that the Student Feedback Form is an online form for students to share feedback (positive or negative) on academic issues and concerns. The students have the option to provide feedback anonymously or provide their name and Faculty.
- It was noted that a limited number of students have been providing feedback. It is hoped more students will participate in submissions as it becomes more established.

Academic Policy - Voluntary Withdrawal

NOTED:

- It was noted that there is concern on raising the percentage of graded work to 40% prior to the voluntary withdrawal date as it will increase student workload in September and October.
- In response to a suggestion that a 25-30% range may be fairer, it was noted that a solution to this issue may be having stricter deadlines for professors to have work graded and distributed to students prior to the voluntary withdrawal date.

AGREED:

- The co-Chairs will follow up with the concerned student for further clarification.

5.3 Report on Student Affairs and Life on Campus

Student Experience

NOTED:

- It was noted that an acting AVPSE will be announced shortly to faculty, staff, and students.
- It was noted that for Intersession and Summer 2021, the University will continue with an online teaching model.
- For Fall 2021, the University is in the process of planning a graduated return to campus. The plans for the return are subject to Federal, Provincial and local Health Unit regulations. It was noted that logistically a lot of planning will be put into place to ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff.
- It was noted that Provincial health regulations are currently capping the number of students in an instructional space at 50 students for the trades or clinical courses. For all other practices, the Provincial limit is 10 students.
- The biggest challenge with providing face to face lectures is the logistics of moving people from class to class (*eg.*, cleaning the classroom after a lecture and social distancing protocols to and from the scheduled class, *etc.*).
- It was noted that ITS and the Centre for Teaching and Learning are renovating classrooms to accommodate for hybrid course delivery (*eg.*, some students attending an in-class lecture, while others are attending the same lecture remotely.)
- It was noted that there is concern for what students will do between classes while they are on campus. The University is considering all options for students' study and lounge spaces that will comply with social distancing protocols. It was noted that this planning will include more Food Services and cleaning services.
- It was noted that the Provost Office will be proposing a new plan for Flexible and Compassionate Grading at Senate. The proposal will not include retroactive flexible grading. However, the proposal will include an extended voluntary withdrawal date and one pass/fail course for Winter 2021.
- A member argued that the one pass/fail option for students is not acceptable given the circumstances and challenges that the pandemic has created for students.
- It was noted that this proposal was a result of considerable consultation with Deans and Associate Deans, and it is in line with the practices of a number of other universities across Ontario.
- It was noted that there were 231 students in Residence in the Fall 2020 and currently there are 200+ students for the Winter 2021 semester. It was noted that students are being encouraged to receive a COVID-19 test when returning to campus from reading week.
- It was noted that the Campus has set up a COVID-19 testing site and it has been well received by the students.
- It was noted that we should see a decline in the number of positive COVID-19 tests for international students due to the International Student Readiness Plan, which ensures that students properly quarantine and follow all appropriate health protocols upon arrival.

- It was noted that the University has teamed with Windsor Regional Hospital to provide a vaccination site downtown in the Social Work building.

Campus Services

(See document SC210212-5.3 for more details.)

NOTED:

- It was noted that staff members are continuing to work on campus in: Food Services, Bookstore, Print Shop, Parking Services, and the UWinCARD Office.
- It was noted that business for these services has been significantly impacted. On a normal day, Food Services would process 5000-6000 transactions a day, currently they are processing 300 per day which is to provide food to students living in alumni hall.
- It was noted that the Campus Bookstore continues to remain open with employees on site every day. The Bookstore is providing online ordering services for textbooks and courseware. This service has been reduced to curbside pickup three days a week; Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
- It was noted that there are roughly 30 employees on campus periodically. Food Services has had 150 employees on layoff since April 2020. The Print Shop is operating on an as-needed basis, which includes work related to essential course materials (teaching and learning).

Additional Business

6 Question period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

B. Furneaux/S. Munro
CARRIED