

## **Council on Student Services**

### **Minutes of Meeting – November 30, 2016**

5:00 – 7:00 pm, Reading Room, Hart House

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

##### **Voting Members:**

###### *Present:*

- Beth Ali, Executive Director, Faculty of Physical Education & Health
- Brie Berry-Crossfield, GSU
- Lucy Fromowitz, Assistant Vice-President, Student Life
- Ryan Gomes, UTSU
- Mala Kashyap, APUS
- Mathias Memmel, UTSU
- John Monahan, Warden, Hart House
- David Newman, Senior Director, Student Experience, Student Life
- Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs, UTM
- Desmond Pouyat, Dean of Student Affairs, UTSC
- Thomas Wood, CSS
- Jackie Zhao, (QSS)

###### *Regrets:*

- Sarah Wheeler, GSU

###### *Absent:*

- Jasmine Denike, UTSU
- Modele Kuforiji, APUS
- Meredith Strong, Director, Office of the Vice-Provost, Students
- Cassandra Williams, UTSU

**Non-voting Members:** Adam Kuhn (Secretary), Jim Webster (Assessor)

**Guests:** Marco Adamovic, Emma Arppe-Robertson, Michelle Brownrigg, Nathan Chan, Amanda Greener, Day Milman, Jenifer Newcombe, Terese Mason Pierre, Shuyin Yu, Tom Yun

**Chair:** To be announced

**Recording Secretary:** Andrea Dell'Anno

## **1. Meeting Called to Order**

Upon achieving quorum, Secretary Kuhn called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm. As the position of Chair to CoSS remains vacant, Secretary Kuhn advised CoSS can establish a Chair *pro tempore* to conduct the business of this meeting according to Bourinot's Rules of Order.

On a motion made by Monahan, seconded by Ali, and carried unanimously by all voting members of CoSS, it was resolved:

**THAT Secretary Kuhn be appointed CoSS Chair *pro tempore* until such time as CoSS nominates a Chair for UAB approval.**

## **2. Rules of Order**

Chair Kuhn welcomed all guests, including those who will be presenting at this meeting.

Chair Kuhn reminded attendees of Bourinot's Rules of Order, particularly with regards to speaking rights. In order to keep things orderly and collegial, he advised that if one wishes to speak during a discussion, to give him a signal. If there is lively discussion, a speakers list will be kept to maintain order. Chair Kuhn circulated copies of Bourinot's Rules of Order to the committee and advised the document is also posted on the CoSS website, citing it as a handy reference to advise when it is appropriate to make a motion, or ask a question.

Chair Kuhn requested any questions around Bourinot's Rules of Order, receiving none.

## **3. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Kuhn requested any amendments to the agenda.

As no amendments were presented and on a motion made by Newman, seconded by Gomes, and carried unanimously by all voting members of CoSS, it was resolved:

**THAT the November 30, 2016 CoSS Meeting agenda be approved as presented.**

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Kuhn requested any modifications to the minutes of CoSS Meeting of October 31, 2016.

As no modifications were presented and on a motion made by Berry-Crossfield, seconded by Overton, it was resolved:

**THAT the minutes from COSS Meeting #1 (2016-17) of October 31, 2016 be approved as presented.**

Motion carried with three abstentions (Gomes, Memmel, Newman).

## **5. Hart House Presentation**

Monahan presented an overview of Hart House. Day Milman, staff advisor for the Literary Library Committee, along with students Terese Mason Pierre and Shuyin Yu, gave a pop up presentation.

Michelle Brownrigg, Chief Programming Officer and Senior Director of Co-Curricular Education, briefly presented an overview of Hart House's priority around engagement.

Monahan thanked all for their attention and requested any questions.

Chair Kuhn thanked Monahan and other guest presenters for their informative presentation and requested any additional questions.

With respect to the HH strategic, Wood stated he understands that University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) students pay fees into HH and inquired how HH how is working to ensure it is effectively reaching UTSC students in addition to all students. Specifically, things that are open to all students but may not be accessible to all students due to location. Monahan responded that there were several references to students from all campuses, intentionally. Michelle Brownrigg added that she and her team have been working very hard with colleagues at UTSC and University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) to explore that very question. She explained that the intention is to move towards a global presence on all three campuses, which very much aligns with what staff and students at those two campuses are hoping to see from HH. Brownrigg further added that although HH has a long history of implementing different programming on the UTSC an UTM campuses, at follow-up meetings with UTSC, the Centre for Community Partnerships and the various staff that work in student life at UTSC, there are a couple of things that could be enhanced, including how does HH look at what the objectives of those campuses are and the student needs in those spaces, and align what HH can offer as value added to that. She added that Liza Arnason, Director of Student Life at UTSC communicated that UTSC seeks to accomplish certain things around community engagement, seeks to accomplish certain things with respect to international students here and really wish to enhance some of the HH arts and culture pieces, attempting to align those with the arts and management program that exists at UTSC. An array of initiatives that link with initiatives that are already underway at UTSC that HH can then add value to have now

been mapped out. Brownrigg advised that HH has some long standing initiatives, such as the documentary film series that occur on all three campuses and are student-driven, however the things HH is looking forward to with respect to recent discussions with UTM and UTSC are music performances at all three campuses, debates and dialogue, with the goal to have one on each campus as a minimum in order to engage students in the space they are in. She added that there are different challenges with transportation, but the goal is really to have HH be an experience not a building. Monahan added that the HH Board of Stewards now has a template for all of the motions to the board and on this template, the person moving the resolution must explain the implications of that motion specifically for UTM and UTSC. Therefore this will force someone to look through the prism of someone else's experience when proposing something that may be great for students at St. George, but have unintentional negative consequences for students at UTM and UTSC. He stated that it is minor but impacts the work that HH does in an important way. Brownrigg added the partnership piece is key to meet the needs of these campuses.

Chair Kuhn added that if any attendees have further questions, they can follow-up with Monahan, Brownrigg or anyone else from the HH team.

## **6. 2016/17 CoSS Chair**

Chair Kuhn advised there were no motions to tend to but wanted to provide some information and an opportunity if there were any questions with regards to CoSS' motion, which voted in favour of Sandra Hudson as potential CoSS chair, but went forward to UAB, duly seconded but then failed. CoSS now finds itself without a chair. Chair Kuhn added that according to the CoSS terms and procedures, which are housed on the CoSS website and provided to all at orientation, the Chair nomination will now go back to the GSU to provide Council with some additional suggestions. Chair Kuhn emphasized that the timing with our schedule and the UAB schedule in terms of electing a chair and then holding the meetings to present the budgets and then vote on the budgets, must be precise and sequential. He reminded all members to complete the doodle poll to confirm our next meetings dates.

Chair Kuhn requested any questions.

Memmel inquired if he could briefly speak as to what occurred at UAB, which Chair Kuhn granted.

Memmel commented that it was disturbing to see what a fairly executed process at CoSS, then proceed to be overruled by a body that is predominately not composed of students. He added that it is an erasure of what already is a weak component of the institution at

the University in terms of places where students have their voices heard and where there is student engagement, a disturbing trend that he hopes we never see continue again.

Chair Kuhn requested any other questions or comments with regards to this item.

Zhao stated that to his understanding, most of the discussion of this item at UAB was in camera but requested if there is any explanation as to why this would occur as Memmel mentioned, this motion was properly generated and executed. Zhao further added that generally with something like this, administration tends not to vote since they would like student voices to be heard, and a board that is predominately administrative voted it down. Therefore, he is unsure what to communicate to his constituents, and feels all the students around the table would like an explanation.

Chair Kuhn responded that the only information CoSS has is that the motion did take place in camera, explaining CoSS does not have any other explanation other than the result of the motion. With regards to the terms of reference, all of CoSS' votes proceed to UAB, including votes on the budget at the end of the year, so that is the process of how information flows from CoSS to Governing Council through UAB. Chair Kuhn added he is not sure if there is anyone else present who has been around longer than himself that might have any additional information.

Fromowitz advised that when motions take place in camera, that what is shared with us is simply that the vote failed and it is sent back for this body to nominate another candidate, thus CoSS do not receive any other information. She added that UAB is the board that has the largest number of student members on it, although she is unsure if they are dominant presence but can find that information out.

Berry-Crossfield advised that she also attended UAB before they moved in camera to have this discussion and that it was overwhelmingly not student representatives present at UAB, but rather only a handful of students. She added that as far as she knows, this has never happened before and if she does not speak for her team and how they are experiencing this currently, she is not doing her job. Berry-Crossfield added that in contrast to the other student representatives, the GSU are not full-time student representatives, and are paid on a part-time honorarium. Therefore, when the GSU make these decisions, they have to move things quickly and make decisions that they are comfortable standing by, also reviewing past precedents of what previous executives have done in order to continue on doing the work they want to do. She added that what has been frustrating for the GSU is that it is their year to make a choice. Graduate students tend to not have a lot of space to always make choices since they enter this campus a lot differently than their undergraduate counterparts and this has led to feeling marginalized again in a particular kind of way. Berry-Crossfield further explained that she and the other GSU executives view this as a full time job, and to ask the GSU to constantly

justify their choices when this is something that has not historically been happening is disappointing. Furthermore, having a former executive also mention to her that there has already been discussion of what was discussed in camera, and having that kind of information shared and discussed among University administration, she can only assume because those were the folks in the room, is very disappointing to where we are. Especially since the GSU is not even allowed to receive information as to what the justification for this motion is and as far as she is aware, this was a regular procedure but a procedure they decided in which the GSU's choice would be taken away. Berry-Crossfield added that the GSU discussed this in multiple meetings, reviewed the regulations for the Chair and made the decision together to keep moving forward with this, then to have this shut down not only once in CoSS the previous year but also again to UAB when the GSU is attempting to move forward, is very frustrating. Specifically since the GSU does not feel they should have to be the group of folks who need to go back and refigure out where to go from here. She added that the GSU does not want to feel responsible for holding back our other student members, but this puts a large amount of pressure on them to try to make decisions when the GSU has intentionally been attempting to make decisions in good faith or without feeling how are they supposed to move forward, especially when the GSU feels this would be passed at UAB. She added that her understanding of the relationship between CoSS and UAB was advisory but did not understand that advisory meant they would have a direct hand at how this body would be allowed to run itself.

Wood added for information, that only a third of voting members of UAB are students, with the other two-thirds being faculty and administrative staff. He echoed what the GSU mentioned, specifically that everything you ever hear about CoSS and CSS is that these bodies are majority students and that is a point of pride the University often discusses, therefore having a body that is not a majority of students shut the decisions of students is disappointing to see.

Zhao added that we did follow process and looked at Sandy's CV and it was a unanimous decision that she was an appropriate nominee for this position and again, it was shut down with no understanding at all. Taking this out of student context, this could have been any one's budget that was presented, voted on unanimously and then shut down again without any understanding or any explanation. He asked what's to stop this from happening again in the future when we present a perfectly legitimate candidate, vote on it unanimous, only to have it shut down with no explanation.

Chair Kuhn reminded all that the discussion today will be included in the meeting minutes, to be vote upon at the next meeting, and hopefully at that point, become public and may increase the discussion around this process thus far. Given what we know that if the motion did fail, we are still responsible for coming up with a Chair and we can speak to

that around what would be a good timely process in terms of coming up with a suggestion from GSU.

Kashyap added APUS' voice, stating that she agrees it is disorienting what took place at UAB.

## **7. Business Arising**

Chair Kuhn requested feedback as to other presentations for the CoSS cycle, adding that in the past we have had presentations from Scott Mabury, Vice-President, University Operations and Vice-Provost, Academic Operations, as well as folks from Governing Council around process. He added that we could do this via email if anyone has any questions or suggestions of folks you would like to gather some information of.

Fromowitz interjected that before we lose two student members, she is unsure if we reached a conclusion for going forward in the event they wished to provide any input.

Berry-Crossfield advised that the GSU is still discussing where to go, as there are eight executives to organize around. They are still deciding if they provide two additional nominations but still maintain that this is the person that they have asked for. It is also asking graduate students going into the exam period to come up with folks that they know may or may not have the governing experience and these are very particular things they are keeping in mind and are hoping by the end of the week to reach a consensus, but right now the GSU is still discussing which direction they want to take rather than the direction they feel they are being forced to take.

Chair Kuhn thanked Berry-Crossfield for that point of clarification.

### **Note quorum lost at 6:41 pm.**

Chair Kuhn added that we will include this in the email and consider it an open invitation to any members of CoSS, if there are folks that you would like presentations from that the Secretary can assist in setting up, whether it is from our business operations or anyone else on campus, we would be happy to do that if you contact us directly.

Chair Kuhn reminded all members to reply to the doodle poll in order to schedule our future meetings. In our upcoming meetings we have presentations from KPE and Student Life on St. George.

Chair Kuhn announced that Rita O'Brien, one of the CoSS accessors, is retiring and acknowledged her contributions to this process over the years, wishing her all the best moving forward.

Fromowitz added that the next meeting of UAB agenda planning is January 17, advised that CoSS must meet in advance to receive notification of names and vote on the chair nomination. It will then go back into the UAB governance process and be presented at their meeting at on January 30. She reminded all that this is the last UAB meeting prior to the budgets being presented, thus we cannot have a vote on the presented budgets without a chair. Fromowitz apologized for us being in that situation but wants to let all know of the time constraints we find ourselves in.

Overton inquired what if GSU does not come back with up to two additional nominees, does the process then give a next step for decision of a chair. Chair Kuhn responded that based upon our terms of reference, his understanding is that if it was passed upon, then it would rotate to the next student union, which would be APUS. Overton requested clarification that then APUS would come forward with up to three nominees, which Chair Kuhn confirmed was his understanding in our terms of reference. Fromowitz added that the terms of reference first specifies the chair must be a student, then indicates that with regards to the rotation of the chair, the student union upon their turn will have an opportunity to nominate up to three people from their constituency. If a student government is unable to submit up to three nominees, the responsibility will go to the next designated student government until up to three nominations are received. The originally designated student government would then be first in rotation to nominate three students in the following year.

Chair Kuhn added that the doodle poll that was set up has scheduling options that would align us with UAB agenda planning and reminded all members to provide their availability as soon as possible.

Chair Kuhn requested any other business or questions.

Berry-Crossfield inquired if January 9 is when the semester starts again, and Fromowitz confirmed that the University opens on January 2, with classes beginning the following week. Overton added that classes begin on different days on different campuses. Berry-Crossfield mentioned she is assuming this date because UAB falls on January 17. Fromowitz clarified that January 17 is agenda planning, for anything going forward to UAB must be provided in advance.

Chair Kuhn requested any other business or questions, receiving none.

The meeting ended at 6:46 pm.

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These minutes were approved at the subsequent COSS meeting of 16/01/2017 and are now the record.

  
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20/01/2017

Chair Kuhn *Pro Tempore*