Council on Student Services (COSS)

Minutes of Meeting – March 29, 2019

Koffler Student Services Centre, Room 313, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Members:

Present:

- Beth Ali, Executive Director, Athletics & Physical Activity, Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education
- Heather Kelly, Senior Director, Student Success, Student Life St. George
- John Monahan, Warden, Hart House
- David Newman, Senior Director, Student Experience, Student Life St. George
- Richie Pyne, Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students (APUS)
- Susan Froom, Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students (APUS)
- Anne Boucher, University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)
- Joshua Grondin, University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)
- Tyler Biswurm, University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)
- Samantha Stead, Graduate Students' Union (GSU)
- Branden Rizzuto, Graduate Students' Union (GSU)
- Yasmine El-Sanyoura, University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)
- Atif Abdullah, Quality Service to Students (QSS)

Absent:

- Qusai Hassan, Council on Student Services (CSS)
- Meredith Strong, Director, Office of the Vice-Provost, Students
- Desmond Pouyat, Dean of Student Affairs, UTSC
- Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs and Assistant Principal, Student Services, UTM

Non-voting Members:

- Julia Smeed (Secretary)

Guests:

- Brieanne Berry Crossfield (APUS)
- Munib (UTSC)

Chair:

- Cameron Davies

Recording Secretary:

- Sarah Matias

AGENDA ITEMS

1) Land Acknowledgment

Chair Davies started the meeting with a personalized land acknowledgement.

2) Introductions

Chair welcomed the members and guests, and gave a brief overview of the meeting.

3) Meeting Called to Order

Chair called the meeting to order at 3:11 pm.

4) Approval of Agenda

Chair sought mover to approve agenda. Newman motioned, El-Sanyoura seconded. All in favour, none opposed. The motion passed. Grondin requested to withdraw the UTSU motions from the agenda. Boucher requests to add a discussion item to agenda, El-Sanyoura seconds. Voting to add the discussion item. All in favour, none opposed. Motion passed. Approval of the newly comprised agenda. Grondin motioned, Ali seconded. All in favour, none opposed. Motion passed.

5) Approval of Minutes from Meeting #6

Chair sought mover to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 11, 2019. Boucher motioned, El-Sanyoura seconded. All approved, none opposed. The motion passed.

Chair asked if there were any discussions on the minutes from meeting 6. Grondin begins discussion by apologizing for his language and accusatory tone at the last meeting. He believed this did not allow for due process to those speaking and apologized for how that may have impacted those present.

6) Appointment of the 2019-2020 Chair

Stead introduced the candidate for 2019-20 Chair, Hanie Yousefi.

Hanie Yousefi introduced herself. Yousefi was involved in the student community during her undergrad in Iran, and is currently completing PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences at UofT. Yousefi explained her stance in the importance of student involvement. She was the PSGSA representative in the UTGSU and currently works with high school students introducing them to science. Chair explained the nomination process and opened the floor to any questions. Monahan introduces himself and asks why Yousefi is interested in the COSS Chair role. Yousefi responded stating she liked the idea of making changes/causing impacts on the student experience, alongside her current roles, she feels as though she/the COSS committee can positively impact students' lives.

Chair sought mover to approve the nomination. Grondin motioned, Abdullah seconded. All approved, none opposed. The motion passed. Motion to be sent to UAB for approval.

7) COSS Procedure (30 min discussion)

Boucher initiated the conversation of future COSS procedures; specifically missed meetings and voting afterwards, and QSS and CSS representatives voting on a budget they don't pay into.

Susan Froom noted that COSS is a creation of the Ontario operating funds distribution manual and its policies on auxiliary fees, adding that the provincial government has indicated they will likely be

rewriting that manual and policies so as much as a discussion is warranted, the rules in which COSS operates will likely change and to keep that in mind. Boucher asked how those changes will affect the governing of COSS and how we as a committee govern ourselves on a day to day basis. Froom stated that the reason universities have student governments/students have a say is because of the ties to compulsory non tuition related auxiliary fees, but now that students are going to individually be able to opt out, this is going to be more of a challenge. Boucher notes that knowing these things is important but would like to proceed with planning for next year as if this would not affect us.

Boucher notes that it is good to know things may change but good to make changes in the meantime.

Newman noted that the points Froom made are possible but that the policy mandate will still likely require student involvement and a need for student voices, given the allowance for some mandatory fees and there will be some expectation that there will be a student voice on how the University manages the fees and we do not know what that looks like or what that timeframe is. It is still advisable to have the conversation.

Boucher rose the topic of attendance; how committee are not prepared to make an informed vote if they are not attending meetings, especially the budget presentations. Boucher continue to suggest a rule be put in place that the Chair requires notice if someone is unable to attend a meeting and only a certain number of meetings are able to be missed unless there is valid reasoning, adding that alternate options should also be provided; for example, teleconferencing, Skype, and recording the meetings as a whole.

Ali notes that we need to be cognisant of what we are trying to achieve. Our goal is to be able to interact and engage in meetings – a solution to this would be video conferencing. Pyne notes that Adobe Connect would allow members to interactively join meetings. Boucher notes live streaming would solve the issue of attendance and recording/live participation would provide an alternative for those unable to attend, while others can go back and watch the recordings for clarification.

El-Sanyoura requested clarification on how to revise COSS rules and procedures. Smeed commented that any changes would come as a recommendation from the committee, but might also need to be looked at by UAB. Froom notes accessibility and equity as a concern. Pyne also noted that travel can be difficult and suggests that we can travel to UTM or UTSC and have meetings there to accommodate others on committee. Abdullah thanked Pyne for noting accessibility, adding that travel time is an issue and conflicts with school schedule and classes at times.

Monahan mentioned that some Board of Steward (Hart House) meetings take place at UTM and UTSC and is well received for individuals who have to commute downtown for such meetings and appreciate the flexibility. The inconvenience of traveling to other campuses often allows people to sit in a different perspective.

Newman noted that Skype is an option and traveling to UTM and UTSC could also be accommodated, but since UTM and UTSC have their own divisions of Student Life, Newman requested the Student Life St. George presentation be kept at St. George campus.

Biswurm asked if it would be possible to vote to amend the guidelines. Smeed suggests that a motion be put forth to recommend that the secretary to COSS for the 2019-20 year look into

revising the Remote Attendance Policy. El-Sanyoura motioned, seconded by Froom. All in favour, none opposed. Motion passed. Froom requested the findings be reported back to COSS in the Fall.

Chair noted that the discussion time has ended and asked if anyone wants to extend. Pyne requested a 20-minute extension, seconded by Boucher. All in favour, none opposed.

Froom noted that if formal changes are to be made to the COSS procedure, UAB will have to be involved, but advice from the COSS committee would be a way to initiate those suggestions. The decision to remove an individual/group would not be left to the discretion of the committee and updating the manual completely would be beneficial, but not knowing what COSS might look like the coming year might cause delay.

Newman clarified the Equity offices, including the ARCDO etc. report directly to the Vice-President, Human Resources & Equity.

Biswurm clarified his belief that the fundamental principle is the scope of governance should parallel the scope of impact and scope of representation. Issues that affect St. George campus should be reflected in the voting. Moving forward, specifics of the implementation of this needs clarification, but taking this conversation forward is important regarding application/student body representation.

Pyne pointed out that all campuses are different and should be viewed that way, but does not believe the requirement of abstentions should not be permitted during the voting process. Pyne indicated that UTM and UTSC should still partake in the voting process, but in lieu of QSS and CSS, perhaps have their other student unions be the ones to vote so that way it can still be reflective of all campuses. Kelly suggested that perhaps it would be helpful to discuss the campus fee structure and how it works as it is very complex; and the universal principle across all 3 campus that how any student can access any service, programs and supports at any other campus however the funding for Student Life departments on each campus is quite distinct, so some clarification on the services within Student Life St George Campus might be helpful.

Biswurm responded to Pyne noting that Pyne made some valid points but still strongly believes that attendance/participation in meetings is imperative for the making of an informed decision. Biswurm added that the representative structure needs to be looked at and restructured due to some out dated procedures. Biswurm agreed with Pyne that reforming some of the COSS procedures is necessary; whether that is because our representative structure is now inconsistent with the realities of campus representation and how it now exists with the splits of UTMSU and SCSU and looking at potentially replacing the seats of QSS and CSS from those unions. Biswurm further noted that abstention should be allowed because as a full time student at one campus, one should not be able to make a decision for another student at another campus. Biswurm added that there should be no intention to limit student access, but rather a change in representation at St George Campus. , while still respecting the tri campus mandate for KPE and Hart House, but this applies differently towards Student Life due to the very little shared resources across all 3 campuses and shared representation does not make sense in this regard.

Froom noted that the GSU and Part-Time Undergraduate student union are tri-campus. Froom suggested that COSS visit the idea removing of the QSS and CSS seats all together, and replace them with UTMSU and UTSCSU representation instead.

Biswum requested to put through a motion to make a recommendation to next term's COSS membership to investigate the possibility of changes to membership of the committee and that it represent across all three campuses. Amended Motion: Be it resolved that the recommendation be forward to the 2019-20 COSS membership to investigate further the issues of proper representation and according authority in the committees' membership structure. Biswurm motioned, Yasmin seconded. Motion passed with one opposed.

Newman further commented that membership is determined through the protocol including the points Froom has made about campus membership. COSS can provide ideas and recommendations but it is a policy and will be mandated by UAB and any changes around the protocol. Newman noted that the conversation should definitely be carried on but this point should be kept in mind.

8) Other Business

Pyne thanked Davies for the work he has done and wishes him well. Smeed presented Pyne with a gift, as the 2017-18 COSS Chair, and thanks Chair Davies for his services, and presented him with a gift. Smeed also noted that COSS participation can be added to the CCR, and students on the committee can submit their participation to her for validation.

9) Adjournment

Chair Davies asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Grondin motioned to adjourn, seconded by El-Sanyoura. All in favour, none opposed. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.