

Council on Student Services

April 7, 2014

4:00pm-6:00pm

214 College Street – Room 313

Minutes of Meeting

The Council on Student Services (COSS) met on Monday April 7, 2014 at 4:00 pm in Room 313, Koffler Student Services Centre, with the following present:

Voting members: Lucy Fromowitz, Desmond Pouyat, Susan Froom, Meredith Strong, Corey Scott, Caitlin Campisi, Agnes So, Yolen Bollo-Kamara, Munib Sajjad, Aman Gebru; Bruce Kidd, Anita Comella, Barbara McCann

Non-voting members: Rita O'Brien, David Newman, Serena Persaud, Jim Webster

Guests: Richard Levin, Donna Wall

Chair: Brad Evoy

Recording Secretary: Catherine Kobelka

1) Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, and Opening Remarks

Chair Evoy called the meeting to order at 4:15, welcomed all and quorum was confirmed.

2) Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Froom

Seconded by Scott

All in favour. None opposed. None abstained.

Motion carried.

3) Enrolment Services Presentation – Student Financial Support

Presentation given by Richard Levin, Executive Director, Enrolment Services & University Registrar, and Donna Wall, Director, Financial Aid & Awards.

Sajjad asked why UTSU work-study positions were not funded when other Universities kept their funding "as-is".

Fromowitz replied that the University is funding positions University position, with individual departments/faculties paying 20% of the cost.

Sajjad asked if the models have been looked at to see if it is possible to fund UTSU Work Study students.

Levin replied that program criteria are always being reviewed.

From asked what percentage of first year entry students go on to graduate from UofT.

Levin replied that data was not available at the COSS meeting but could be provided for a future meeting.

Geburu asked if there were any considerations on the graduate student funding guarantee increasing from \$15,000, based on cost of living adjustments.

Levin replied that broader University discussions would need to take place to address this.

Scott stated that he believes the figures presented contradict other information sources.

4) Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2014

Motion by Comella

Seconded by Scott

All in favour. None opposed. None abstained.

Motion carried.

5) Business Arising from the Minutes of February 3, 2014

Motion by Geburu relating to the Minutes of February 3, 2014.

GSU Motion:

1. *BIRT the Council on Student Services recommends to the University Affairs Board that a referendum be held on all graduate student fees paid to Hart House.*

BIFRT the funds necessary for the administration of such referendum be drawn from the Office of Student Life.

2. *BIRT the future budget presentations at COSS clearly specify and highlight the increase, decrease and elimination of services and fees.*

Fromowitz indicated that the COSS protocol outlines rules for referenda.

Gebru stated the change in Hart House fees are a reduction in service and the motion is relevant in that COSS has jurisdiction over service reductions.

Fromowitz stated the Hart House fee adjustment followed due process of governance in the 2012-2013 cycle.

From stated the motions seem to speak more to internal COSS procedures and recommended fee and service changes be highlighted to avoid confusion.

Comella replied that KPE, HH and SL operate under the principle that they must provide and disclose detailed budgets during their presentations. She added that there was a one year delay in applying the Hart House fee in order to communicate more thoroughly to the student body.

Gebru stated item 2 of the motion was added due to a conversation with a previous constituent who advised they were not informed of the fee change/service reduction.

Evoy stated concern that item 1 in the motion pertains to a previous governance cycle.

Kidd stated that last years' GSU members had limited attendance at COSS meetings, affecting their ability to stay current on the discussions. He added the Hart House budgets are approved via the Hart House Board of Stewards which is comprised of a student majority and this occurs prior to being presented at COSS.

Gebru stated his preference is to pass the motion at COSS and proceed to UAB for their consideration. He also agreed some miscommunication may have occurred.

From asked if the motion can be tabled for the next meeting to allow time for clarity as to whether it is covered by the Protocol.

Campisi stated that while there are differing understandings of what happened at the COSS table last year regarding the Hart House fee, the consensus amongst Graduate Students is they are not in favour of the fee. She asked if there is anything that can be done within COSS to address this.

Evoy referenced Appendix A, Constitution of The Council on Student Services.

Kidd stated his objection to the first part of the GSU motion, and supported Fromowitz's previous comments that the motion is beyond the mandate of UAB, rendering the currently tabled motion out of order.

Kidd explained the approval of the Hart House summer membership fee met all requirements of full and open transparency, was debated and appropriately voted on by the relevant bodies, and, as such, the motion is out of order.

Chair Evoy called a 5 minute recess.

Meeting called back to order.

Gebru amended the motion.

1. *BIRT the Council on Student Services recommend to the University Affairs Board that a referendum be held on compulsory graduate student fees paid to Hart House.*

BIFRT the funds necessary for the administration of such referendum be drawn from the Office of Student Life.

2. *BIRT the future budget presentations at COSS clearly specify and highlight the increase, decrease and elimination of services and fees.*

Motion seconded by Campisi.

Motion open to discussion.

Fromowitz restated that motion 1 addresses a request outside the mandate of UAB as the described fees met all governance processes; and motion 2 is already addressed in The Protocol and represents exactly what is brought forward during our COSS presentations made by Student Life, Hart House and Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education.

Gebru explained the GSU asked students what they thought of the fee, and, overwhelmingly, their constituency expressed displeasure, and the GSU is now addressing the student feedback on Hart House fees.

Fromowitz called a point of order as to whether the GSU motion is in order.

Evoy stated that there is no provision in the COSS protocol for a specific notice period, and, as such, passes Bourinot's (Rules of Order) requirements in that regard. Secondly it is unclear if a referendum can be motioned and, if so, how. He continued to note there is not enough precedent to make a clear ruling on the point.

From moved to table the motion until the next COSS meeting (Fall 2014)
Motion seconded by Sajjad.

Motion discussion: Gebru stated that by tabling the motion, those invested in it will have moved on, and the discussion may be lost.

In favour: Froom, Scott, Kidd, Fromowitz, Strong, Comella, Pouyat
Opposed: Gebru, Campisi, Bollo-Kamara, Sajjad, So
Motion Carried.

Fromowitz motioned to switch the order of agenda items 6 and 7
Seconded by Froom.
All in favour.
None opposed. None abstained.
Motion carried.

6) 2014-2015 Chair Appointment

Scott recommended Ella Henry, a third year law student and previous member of the UTSU Board of Directors.

Scott to send Persaud Ella Henry's resume and the recommendation will be put forward to UAB for appointment, as appropriate. .

7) UAB Update

Evoy stated that following COSS's inability to hold a vote in March, he sent a letter to UAB requesting further time to put forward the COSS budget motions to UAB. The request was denied.

Evoy met with UAB and the circumstances by which a vote could not be held were well received.

UAB decided to increase temporary and permanent fees to the allowable maximum. This decision is in line with the Protocol.

8) 2014-2015 COSS Retreat

GSU and UTSU indicated later summer availability.

Kobelka will send a doodle poll with various dates once the Chair has been appointed by UAB.

9) Other Business

None

10) Cycle Closing Comments

Persaud thanked COSS members and Chair Evoy for their participation in the 2013-2014 COSS cycle and presented a small gift to Evoy.

Evoy thanked COSS for the opportunity to hold the Chair role and is hopeful further guidelines can be established to assist the Council in the future.

11) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.