



SENATE STUDENT CAUCUS
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Friday, April 12, 2019

Time: 9:30-11:00am

Room: 209 Assumption Hall

Committee Members: Chris Baillargeon, Ryan Flannagan, Darren Larue, Jennifer Johrendt, Dave McEwen, Zeina Merheb (Co-Chair), Kathy Pfaff, Katherine Quinsey (Chair), Lena Sleiman.

Absent: Bernarda Doctor, Sean Horton (regrets), Shashai Jasra (regrets), Prof Ruth Kuras (regrets), Sharon Munro (regrets), Bharat Maheshwari, (regrets), Sathish Pachika, Geri Salinitri (regrets), Amber Shaheen.

In Attendance: Renée Wintermute (University Secretary) and Alison Zilli (University Secretariat).

Formal Business

1 Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

C. Baillargeon/L. Sleiman
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2019

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2019 be approved.

C. Baillargeon/D. Larue
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

Items for Information

5.1 Report of the Student Liaison Subcommittee and Co-Chair (Mandate of Student Caucus)

NOTED:

- The Co-Chair reported that she has been reaching out to other student bodies about how best to hear the student voice and looking into what other universities do.
- Over the past few years the Student Co-chairs have struggled with establishing a reliable Student Liaison Committee often due to lack of understanding about the role of Student Caucus.
- There has been much discussion over the years regarding the role and structure of the Student Caucus and historically the group has had issues with lack of agenda items and quorum. Senate Student Caucus may not be the best avenue for bringing forward student concerns.
- In reviewing the role of the Committee with external peers, the Student Co-chair highlighting findings that were gathered based on research into comparable structures at other universities. For the most part, such committees tend to fall under the Office of the VP Students.
- The Student Caucus can provide a link between widespread issues of student experience and the academic policy that is the purview of Senate.

- Some ideas generated to bring the Student Caucus to students' awareness included having a promotional material as part of the students Windsor Welcome packages and, holding focus groups. In addition, a number of key priorities were identified, based on NSSE results as well as day-to-day experience of staff, faculty, and students: advising support; mental health support; academic integrity and student advocacy, with strong support for review of the Student Advocate position; equity and support for racialized groups, *etc.*
- There also was support for reaching out to Faculty and AAU-based student societies, either by way of representation on the committee or in providing input regarding issues of priority to their students.

AGREED:

- Overall, the Caucus recommended to keep the Committee in its present form; to review its structure (as a separate Senate committee, a subcommittee of APC, or a committee under the AVP, Student Experience) and composition with a view to more direct connection with day-to-day student life; and, to follow up with the information campaign as discussed.

5.2 Paws for Stress – Update

NOTED:

- The Paws Room events which were organized in collaboration with the Peer Support Centre and Windsor Chapter of Therapeutic Paws of Canada were very successful with over 200 students in attendance at the events.

5.3 Report on Student Affairs and Life on Campus

Student Experience

NOTED:

- Updates on the activities and initiatives in the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Student Experience were provided.
- More than 300 students participated in the University of Windsor's Relay for Life event which raised \$50,000 in support of the Canada Cancer Society and its programs of research, services and advocacy
- The Alternative Spring Break program has been well-subscribed with trips to locations such as Costa Rica (to study water security issues); Windsor (downtown mission); and Walpole Island (engage in number of activities at the Walpole Island First Nation Heritage Centre)
- Student Accessibility Services has improved its exam process as a result of restructuring, additional resources, and strong leadership in the area.
- Student Experience continues to circulate a student newsletter in order to keep students informed of the events and activities across campus.
- Many capital projects are underway with over \$5 million in investments which will include updating the old bathrooms in MacDonald Hall.
- The space situation for Turtle Island remains unchanged and although the space is located in a major student hub, the space itself is not meeting the needs of staff and students.
- The Co-curricular Transcript (CCT) continues to exist as an under-utilized and cumbersome program as students can easily just use a CV to communicate the same information. In addition, the subscription is costly.

Campus Services

NOTED:

- There have been challenges for food services as students are leaving residences to live elsewhere for the summer and to move to off-campus housing.
- The Club (located in Vanier Hall) is open for dining, serving a wide variety of homestyle dinner specials to students living in residence. Feedback from students has been positive.

- The Bookstore continues to struggle as sales have declined by 40%, which is a major concern. Sales through clothing and general merchandise are not sufficient enough to make up the shortfall. As a result, staffing has been reduced to 3.5 people.
- In response to a question raised about whether there have been initiatives to rent textbooks digitally, it was noted that this has been offered but there was very little student interest. In addition, the bookstore hasn't sold and laptops in years as the profit margin is extremely low.

Additional Business

6 Question period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

Dr. J. Johrendt/C. Baillargeon

CARRIED