



SENATE STUDENT CAUCUS
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Friday, November 13, 2020

Time: 9:33-10:38 am

Room: Virtual (MS Teams)

Committee Members: Mohammed Abdulaziz, Linden Crain (Co-Chair), Ryan Flannagan, Emily Fraser, Brent Furneaux, Sean Horton, Shashi Jasra, Ofelia Jianu, Tanay Jivani, Ruth Kuras, Phebe Lam (Chair), Dave McEwen Donna Patterson, Christine Vanderkooy, Caitlin Paulos, Sharon Munro

Absent: Herman Dayal, Edy Haddad, Aman Patel

In Attendance: Danny Anger (Senate Governance Officer), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary).

Formal Business

1 Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

E. Fraser/S. Jasra
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2020

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of September 11, 2020 be approved.

S. Jasra/L. Crain
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

Items for Information

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Report of the Student Co-Chair

(See document SC201113-5.1 for more details.)

Information Awareness Campaign Update

NOTED:

- An Information Awareness Video Campaign has been developed to promote the Feedback Form; many SSC members have participated. The campaign has been well-received across campus.
- The Feedback Form has been launched, as well as a corresponding email that receives the feedback forms. The Secretariat's office will handle all incoming inquires and direct the concerns to the appropriate parties.

- Monthly meetings have been arranged with society presidents, UWSA Senators, and the student leaders sitting on the Senate Student Caucus. The meetings have provided issues and concerns for consideration by Senate Student Caucus.

Recent/Upcoming Initiative – Online Etiquette Focus Group

NOTED:

- Members provides their thoughts on issues relating to online etiquette and the Winter semester can be improved.
- November 24, 2020 the Senate Student Caucus and the Centre for Teaching and Learning will host a panel discussion on “netiquette” for students and faculty. Students will be offered the opportunity to provide faculty advice and suggestions on ways to deliver a safer and more user-friendly online learning environment. Issues that may arise include: 1) recording other students while speaking on camera; 2) mute button issues; and 3) interrupting professor’s lecture.

New Students Issues and Concerns

1. Standardizing Assessment Deadlines

NOTED:

- All courses do not have standardized deadlines for assessments. Ex. One assignment can be due at 4:30 p.m. and another assignment due at midnight. Is it possible to make all online assessments due at midnight to make it easier for students to stay organized?
- It was noted that students may not like having all assignments due at midnight or at the exact same time.
- There was concern with a set deadline for courses that do not have a set course time.

AGREED:

- It was agreed that faculty should be left to determine what deadlines are best for their students. The pedagogy and requirements of the class are prepared by the professors and they know what is expected of the students. The issue is the compounding of multiple assignments due around the same time.
- Present to Provost’s Council to determine if information regarding best practices for standardizing deadlines should be sent to the Faculties.

2. 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. The course will not be mandatory but will be encouraged for students and will provide students with direction on how to contact TAs and GAs.
- There was general discussion on whether this should be expanded across all Faculties.
- It was noted that the Office of Student Experience and the Office of Online Learning will be developing some awareness materials around online etiquette or netiquette.

AGREED:

- Senate Student Caucus will revisit this initiative when more information becomes available. The student co-chair will follow-up.

3. Standardizing Course Lectures

NOTED:

- There are a variety of platforms being used: Zoom, MS Teams, Blackboard, only audio lectures, slide deck and video lectures and only posting powerpoint slides, which can cause confusion for students. Can the platform be consistent across all online courses?

AGREED:

- It was noted that this should be left to instructors to decide what platform is best able meet the teaching and pedagogical needs of their specific course.

4. Reintroducing the Pass/Fail Option for the Winter 2021 Semester

NOTED:

- It was noted that the pass/fail option for all courses was presented when the University first went to the online model in the Winter 2020 semester due to COVID-19 restrictions., and because instructors and students had to immediately switch to online learning more than half-way through the semester.
- Students are concerned with the difficulties of online learning and many feel that the pass/fail option should be introduced to help relieve the stressors associated with online learning.
- It was noted that, following discussions to move the voluntary withdrawal date from November 18, 2020 to the last day of classes, it was agreed by Deans and Associate Deans across the institution that the current date on November 18 was appropriate for the University.

AGREED:

- It was agreed that the pass/fail option may affect the credibility of the degree and reflect negatively on the institution, particularly if this is not a trend in the province. When the pass/fail grading is seen on a transcript, it can raise concerns by employers and on graduate school applications.

5. Providing Students in Residence with Opportunities Outside of Their Dorm

NOTED:

- Many students living in residence are feeling the effects of social isolation. How can students living in residence be positively engaged and active during this time?
- It was noted that, in October, the Residence Council hosted a scare house event to engage students living in residence. Students have expressed they are not leaving residence and efforts need to be made to engage students off campus with events in Windsor-Essex county, within health and safety guidelines. The AVPSE will take this back to Residence Services to ensure continued efforts in this area.

5.2 Report on Student Affairs and Life on Campus

Student Experience

NOTED:

- The University will be placed on the Federal Government’s Designated Learning Institution (“DLI”) list. This will allow international students to travel to the University. The government has placed a number of requirements on the Universities and Colleges to be designated as a DLI. A main requirement is to provide COVID-19 testing on campus. The University is actively pursuing all options to fulfill the requirement.
- There are many concerns surrounding the wellness of our students going into final exams for the Fall 2020 semester. In response to this, Holiday Care Boxes will be provided to 500 students.
- Two Rainbow crosswalks have been placed on campus to support our LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and staff members. Along with this initiative, the University participates in the Pride Parade and raises the pride flag.
- E-Sports has launched and is competing in the League of Legends. 12 institutions are currently competing in the League of Legends.

- The University is pursuing 1-2 virtual guests' speakers to engage students.
- The University is proposing to undertake a significant piece of work called the 'Indigenous 3 Year Work Plan'. This is in response to the University's investment to supporting Indigenous Scholars who were hired over the last 3 years. The University will be hiring 2 Indigenous staff to support the work in this initiative.
- New restrictions have been put in place in Residence due to COVID-19: all lounges and study areas have been closed. Students have received clear direction, expectations, and consequences if these restrictions are not adhered to.

Campus Services

NOTED:

- UWIN card office has been open since May and if students, staff, or faculty members require an ID card they are able to have one made in the CAW centre. The offices are open Monday-Friday and the individual requiring a card will have to complete the COVID-19 assessment tool prior to entering the CAW centre.
- Parking Services is currently not charging for parking on campus and will continue to be free for the Winter 2021 semester. Students are encouraged to park in student lots and faculty and staff are encouraged to park in their designated lots. In the coming week(s), a number of parking lots will be closed to reduce snow removal costs; barriers will be used to block off those entrances.
- The Bookstore has been operational since March and is working using an online ordering system. The University has moved curbside pickup to the lower level of the CAW centre. International and out-of-town students can order books online and have them delivered to their home (shipping costs are significant). Local students are encouraged to use the curbside pick-up option. A plan has been approved by the Pandemic Planning Committee to open the Bookstore for limited hours from 10 am – 2 pm, Monday to Friday and will likely occur the week of November 16th. The Bookstore will allow 10 customers into the store and will be restricted from entering the courseware section.
- Food Services are currently closed with the exception of providing meals for students living in Alumni Hall. Food is being prepared in Vanier Hall and then the food is shipped to The Brew. Students can receive meals from 8:30 am – 9:30 pm, seven days a week. Starbucks in Toldo has been closed due to a limited number of customers.
- Renovations in the CAW centre, specifically the seating area is close to completion. The changes to the seating area have been well-received across campus. A Starbucks has been built behind the information desk and is near completion.

Additional Business

6 Question period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

B. Furneaux / M. Abdulaziz
CARRIED