



SENATE STUDENT CAUCUS
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 23, 2022

Time: 2:32-4:08am

Room: Room 203, Anthony P. Toldo Health Education Centre

Committee Members: Laila Albalkhi (co-Chair), Dave Andrews (Chair), Dora Cavallo-Medved, Sarah Glassford, Jennifer Johrendt, Muthukeerhana Kaliappan, Ruth Kuras, Phebe Lam, Bianca Lenarduzzi, Donna Patterson, Christine Vanderkooy, Andrew Ward.

Absent: Ehab Elsaid (regrets), Alice Nelson (regrets), Lauren Pupulin (regrets), Jody Ralph (regrets), Michael Rossi (Regrets), Hussein Samhat (regrets).

In Attendance: Alicia Charlebois; Danny Anger (Senate Governance Officer), Renée Wintermute (University Secretary)

Formal Business

1 Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved.

J. Johrendt/S. Glassford
CARRIED

2 Minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2022

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2022, be approved.

S. Glassford/P. Lam
CARRIED

3 Business arising from the minutes

NOTED:

- Members were reminded that there is a large demand for non-perishable food items at the Food Pantry on campus. Members are encouraged to reach out to their networks to help populate the pantry.

4 Outstanding business

Nothing to report.

Items for Information

5 Reports/New Business

5.1 Report of the Student Co-Chair

NOTED:

- Members were provided an update from the Student Co-Chair on events/accomplishments on campus and the Co-Chair's plan to the end of the school year.
- The Chair and Co-Chair have met with student body leaders on campus and have worked to resolve issues.

- The UWSA has provided the Student Co-Chair space in their office to host office hours which will be available in January 2023.
- Members of the Students Experience Office met with the Co-Chair to help brainstorm ways to increase visibility of SSC and to help promote SSC services on campus. SSC will launch a 'Did you Know' campaign prior to Fall 2022 exams, as well as promote the Anonymous Feedback Form.
- In response to a question raised regarding how the graduate students' issues and needs are being addressed, it was noted that there is a GSS Student Advocate but that the Co-Chair is willing to meet with GSS to discuss any issues that they are experiencing.

5.2 SET Task Force: Update

(See documents SC221123-5.2 and SC221123-5.2a for more details.)

NOTED:

- The SET Task Force provided an in-depth report regarding its activities and requested feedback from SSC members on the long list of preliminary questions.
- In response to a question raised regarding the correlation between low SET scores and the complexity of the course and responses from students who are performing better in these courses can be weighted more heavily, it was noted that it is difficult to link the responses to performance; however there are questions relating to attendance. Additionally, scores should be assessed in the context of factors such as whether the course is required, the complexity of the material being taught, gender and race of instructor, etc.
- In response to a question regarding student representation on the SET Task Force, it was noted that consultation was provided by the UWSA, and the Task Force is open to having student membership. Additionally, the Task Force would like to have an individual on the Task Force who can represent Sessional Lecturers.
- It was noted that the sections identifying the Faculty and Year of Study need to be further considered. The Faculty of Law and Faculty of Education should be removed from the year of study list because they are listed in the "Your Faculty" section and it could be confusing to students to determine their year of study (1st year law or 5th year undergraduate). Additionally, it noted that under the section Year of Study there should be an option for Course-Based Master's or PhD or Research-Based Master's or PhD.
- In response to a question raised regarding how SETs are used for professors who are tenured, it was noted tenured professors are to undergo a performance review by the Head of the Department per Bylaw 22. It was noted that serious concerns would surface through formal complaints rather than SETs.
- It was noted that the University should consider using the term Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPTs) or Student Feedback on Teaching rather than Student Evaluations of Teaching.
- SETs should be used to inform and improve teaching practice. They should not be viewed as punitive and bylaw 23 states that they should not be the sole source of teaching evaluation. Consideration should be given to including clearer language about Council establishing reasonable weight to SETs in renewal, tenure and promotion criteria.
- Beyond the completion of the form, students want to see engagement in change efforts and material changes to courses based on their feedback.

AGREED:

- For greater clarity, the section on 'lecture ability/enthusiasm' should be changed to 'lecturer ability/enthusiasm'.
- In the section on Accessibility/Approachability, consider changing question 5 to "the instructor was responsive to questions sent through email or their preferred or noted form of contact" since instructors may ask students to contact them via MS Teams or other platform, rather than email.
- Questions that would imply or require knowledge of how other students felt, should be changed to first person.
- While they may not be perfect, members noted SETs (or SPTs) are the only formal, reliable feedback tool for students relating to faculty teaching and should be retained in some form.

5.3 Report on Student Affairs and Life on Campus

(See document SC221123-5.3 for more details.)

NOTED:

- The Office of Student Experience (OSE) provided an in-depth report regarding student affairs and life on campus, including ongoing and upcoming initiatives, events, and challenges.

Additional Business

6 Question period/Other Business

Safety Concerns at 300 Ouellette Avenue

(See document SC221123-6.0 for more details.)

AGREED:

- The Associate Vice-President, Operations will be invited to the next meeting to discuss safety concerns raised by students.

7 Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.

A. Ward / D. Patterson
CARRIED