

**SENATE STUDENT CAUCUS  
Minutes of Meeting****Date:** Monday, January 17, 2024**Time:** 2:32-3:21 pm**Room:** Room 209, Assumption Hall**Committee Members:** Natalie Atkin (Chair), Dora Cavallo-Medved, Ehab Elsaid, Sarah Glassford, Shae Harasym, Ghallia Hashem, Sean Horton, Shetina Jones, Ruth Kuras, Bianca Lenarduzzi, Michael Macdonald, Lauren Pupulin, Suki Randawa (co-Chair), Walter Rischke, Brahmjot Singh.**Absent:** Sherry Morrell, Donna Patterson.**In Attendance:** Ray Darling; Danny Anger (Associate University Secretary).**1 Approval of Agenda****MOTION: That the agenda be approved.**W. Rischke/S. Randawa  
**CARRIED****2 Minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2023.****MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2023, be approved.**W. Rischke/D. Cavallo-Medved  
**CARRIED****3 Business arising from the minutes.**

NOTED:

- Food insecurity was discussed at Senate and acknowledged as a pressing issue among students. The VPPEI was commended for the comprehensive approach to mitigating food insecurity, including the implementation of new initiatives aimed at providing students with better access to nutritious food options. Efforts to increase awareness and participation in existing food assistance programs are also being pursued, highlighting the importance of addressing this issue holistically to so that no student is left hungry.

**4 Outstanding business**

Nothing to report.

**Items for Information****5 Reports/New Business****5.1 UWinsite Discussion**

NOTED:

- The Registrar discussed challenges faced by students due to the limitations of the current student information system, especially during course registration periods. There was an in-depth conversation about the technical difficulties that have been impeding the process and the steps being taken to address these issues.
- Updates on server migration will provide a more robust system capable of handling the high demand periods and improving overall functionality for students.

AGREED:

- There is a need for improved system functionality and for possibly re-evaluating enrolment prioritization to ensure fairness and efficiency.

## 5.2 Report of the Student Co-Chair

NOTED:

- The University is taking a multifaceted approach to enhancing student well-being on campus. The discussion highlighted the success of mental health training programs for staff, aimed at better supporting student needs.
- The positive impact on student stress levels of changes to exam practices by some instructors was well-received, alongside the effectiveness of wellness programs in improving student mental health outcomes. Such initiatives are important in creating a supportive and accommodating academic environment.

## 5.3 Report on Student Affairs and Life on Campus

*(see document SC240117-5.3 for more details.)*

### Student Experience

NOTED:

- The Office of Student Experience (OSE) provided an in-depth report regarding student affairs and life on campus, most notably the efforts surrounding Mental Health and Wellness on Campus.
- Caucus discussed ongoing efforts to enhance student programming and create more opportunities for student engagement, particularly for those who commute. There was an acknowledgment of the challenges in balancing academic and social life, with a focus on innovative solutions to foster a sense of community and belonging among students.
- The need for more vibrant nightlife and social spaces on campus was a discussion point, reflecting student desires for a more engaging campus environment.

### Ancillary Operations

NOTED:

- The Director of Ancillary Operations provided an overview of current initiatives.
- Updates on various fronts including residence staffing enhancements, increased engagement with international students, and parking system upgrades. The introduction of a new Bubble Tea outlet in the library was noted as a welcome addition to campus amenities.
- Ancillary Operations is working on developing a digital student ID system and mobile credentialing, showing a commitment to leveraging technology to improve campus access and services.

## Additional Business

### 6 Question period/Other Business

Nothing to report.

### 7 Adjournment

**MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.**

W. Rischke/D. Cavallo-Medved  
**CARRIED**