

Implementation Committee Meeting – Fall 2020
Tuesday October 27, 2020

Present: Ryan Flannagan, Dr. Mohsan Beg, Dr. Phebe Lam, Dr. Onawa Labelle, Kerri Zold, Aman Cameron, Jesse Scott, Herman Daya, Austin Roth, Mikayla Bornais, Sandra Ondrack, Paige Coyne, Amal Jammali, Dr. Anouchka Plumb, Jermeka Castello, Alice Grgicak-Mannion, Sarah Hébert, Dana Seguin

Regrets: Dr. Renu Sharma-Persaud, Dr. Sarah Woodruff, Shelby Lacey, Chris Baillargeon, Victor Sam, Donna Patterson, Alana Sabelli, Janice Mcadam, Ashley Vodarek

Key Documents for Discussion

- Meeting notes from last meeting June 19, 2020
- Mental Health Initiative Fund Proposal Projects
- Student Mental Health Strategy Tracking Documents

1. Welcome by the Co-Chairs/Introductions

2. Confirmation of Agenda

- No items added to the agenda.
 - Motion to move: Onawa
 - Second: Jesse

3. Review/Approval of June 19, 2020 Meeting Notes

- June 19th meeting minutes approved.
 - Motion to move: Jesse
 - Second: Amal

4. Confirmation and Questions Regarding the Mental Health Initiative Fund Projects

- Projects that have been approved by the sub-committee:
 - **Crafting for a Cure Wellness Paint**
 - Anouchka asked if this event was a one-time event or a recurring event. She asked whether the project would be reoccurring without incurring any additional costs.
 - Ryan shared that this was a one-time virtual paint event, but it could possibly be reoccurring in the future. The organizers could apply again next year for funding if they choose to do so.
 - Motion to move: Onawa
 - Second: Sandra
 - **Dedicated Black Counsellor to Support Black Law Students**
 - Ryan stated that this initiative is a pilot project – a new position in the Faculty of Law. The sub-committee was supportive of it.
 - Sandra had some concerns about funding positions or personnel on campus. She felt as though funds should be primarily allocated towards

projects and mental health initiatives rather than positions on campus. Ryan stated that the strategy fund can only provide funding for positions on a one-time basis. Ryan emphasized that Sandra's concerns have been brought up before and noted that funding personnel, if they did this more often, would end up eating away at a lot of the funding. Ryan suggested we come back to this point for further discussion.

- Mohsan inquired about the salary/hourly rate for the position and requested funds. Ryan explained that the requested funding was just a contribution, not the entire salary. Kerri stated that based on the math the hourly rate works out to be approximately \$60/hour. Mohsan expressed concerns about the rate of pay stating that it is higher than comparable positions on campus. This could potentially have implications in his office. Ryan explained that the rate of pay is outside the scope of this committee but acknowledged his concerns. Ryan stated that the subcommittee was strongly in favour of this proposal and they were not looking for additional details, but if the committee-at-large would like to obtain more details regarding this position that can be considered. Sandra agreed that it is an important position with the Faculty of Law, but also agreed that the committee should request more information to protect the funding committee's integrity. Kerri stated that the position was only temporary at 8 hours per week and that might be a factor in a higher rate of pay. Anouchka suggested to move it forward with a request for additional information. Ryan proposed that, even though the salary is not a concern of this committee, he can follow up with the Faculty of Law regarding the hourly rate and ask them to consider wage equity.
 - Motion for the project to be approved for partial funding with the stipulation that there will be further communication between the Office of Student Experience and the Faculty of Law.
 - Motion to move: Kerri
 - Second: Phebe
- **BCN Yearly Mental Health Initiative**
- No questions/concerns brought forward by members of the committee.
 - Motion to move: Paige
 - Second: Jermeka
- **Canadian Mental Health Association Awareness Fundraiser**
- Ryan noted that although the proposal lacked clarity, the application was very modest in its request for funding. Dana confirmed that she had followed up with the applicants regarding the questions/concerns posed by the sub-committee. The sub-committee requested more details regarding the budget, the event schedule, and how the care packages would be delivered. Due to the modest amount of requested funds, the sub-committee felt that it was reasonable and noted their desire to help facilitate some grass roots efforts from students.
 - Alice inquired about donations/donors. Ryan shared that the group will be putting together care packages to be distributed to individuals who make a donation. There will also be a raffle in addition to the care packages. Alice asked how the group planned on recognizing the donors.

Aman noted that the group has a large social media base and that they would be thanking donors via social media.

- Ryan added that the sub-committee was also encouraging the applicants to increase their requested funding to further support this project. The sub-committee agreed to fund up to \$400.
 - Motion to move: Alice
 - Second: Aman

○ **FAHSSome+U Leading a Flourished Life**

- Phebe left the meeting temporarily due to her connection with this initiative.
- Ryan stated that the sub-committee felt this was a very strong proposal.
- No additional questions/concerns from committee members.
 - Motion to move: Onawa
 - Second: Sandra

○ **Mental Health Wellness Survey**

- Dana provided committee members with additional information regarding this initiative. One main concern was that the applicants were going to be using an external survey. Dana read their email reply and reason for having an external group create the survey. However, since submitting the initial application, the group has been made aware of an existing internal survey that is available to them and approved by the Dean.
- Ryan suggested not approving the application at this time, allowing the sub-committee time to discuss the response from the applicants. Ryan will follow up with the committee-at-large via email.
 - Motion not to move forward until we have additional information

○ **Occupational Stress Management Workshop**

- Ryan shared that the sub-committee had some questions regarding their training capacity. Dana clarified that there is a limit of 100 students per session. They do not have the capacity to take on more student at this time.
 - Motion to move: Amal
 - Second: Aman

○ **Odette Virtual Tea Party**

- Ryan explained that the contribution was for care packages/ mailing costs. Odette commerce society is contributing majority of the funds.
 - Motion to move: Alice
 - Second: Kerri

5. Review of 2020-2023 Mental Health Strategy Recommendations and Proposed Actions

- Ryan suggested the committee focus on “new activities.” Will be concentrating a lot of efforts in the next two years on the recommendations that were selected.

- Ryan shared that it has been a struggle to focus on these recommendations this year due to COVID-19. Have not made as much progress as we would have liked on the strategies, but we are committed to making this happen.
- Ryan provided an overview of each recommendation:
 - **Overview of Recommendation 9 provided.**
 - Ryan explained this recommendation as a “one stop shop wellness center.” Currently have the architectural drawings for the 2nd floor of CAW center. Have already secured 600K (1.8M total). Would love to have a stand alone building but as it stands this is the only location that is central and could work for us.
 - Mohsan shared his concerns that a lot of money is being poured into this initiative. However, with the current plans, it only meets the University’s needs today and doesn’t leave any room for growth. Not sure this is being taken seriously.
 - Sandra agreed with Mohsan and asked if there was any investigation about expanding a wellness concept into the LSRC building. She noted that the lower level of the St. Dennis Center has a large, unoccupied space that could be used. She also noted that using this space could provide more integrated care for students.
 - Mohsan agreed that the LSRC building has potential but one concern was that it was not central enough.
 - **Overview of Recommendation 12 and 13 provided.**
 - Ryan explained that this pertains to the information that we are providing to incoming students. Specifically, the tools and strategies needed to build up resiliency in their academic careers.
 - Paige noted that majority of her dissertation so far has been in knowledge translation and community-based research. She reinforced the need to translate knowledge in way that resonates with students. Important to have someone who is skilled in this area working on this.
 - **Overview of Recommendation 19 provided.**
 - No questions brought forward by committee members.
 - **Overview of Recommendation 20 and 25 provided.**
 - Kerri asked for clarification regarding student staff. She inquired if ignite students would be considered for this training. Ryan clarified that they would consider involving some ignite roles, but not all. Need to identify which positions would be considered.
 - Herman explained that students empowering students is very important and that the University needs to provide students with the tools and resources in order to support one another effectively.
 - Austin agreed with Herman and shared that a lot of the students in volunteer positions in the GSS do not have much, if any, knowledge about mental health and wellness. Austin suggested that all three student unions could sit down and discuss how to implement this type of training.
 - Re: recommendation 25 - Ryan suggested the need for more conversation surrounding this recommendation – goes beyond peer support.

6. Round Table/Check-In – How are we doing as a community?

- Sandra shared that the rec center is open and has a steady flow of students coming in to exercise and relieve stress. She also noted that the new Lancer Center is on target for 2022.
- Herman expressed that students have been faced with new challenges this semester due to virtual learning.
- Amal noted that our international students feel like they are missing out on their university experience. It is important that, as the University works toward reopening its doors, we make up for that lost time.
- Jermeka shared that, based off online learning, she's been hearing how difficult it has been for students. Students don't know who to talk to or how to address their professors - they are frustrated. She also highlighted the need for support for Black students on campus.
- Mohsan shared links and information regarding the Student Drop-in Support Group "Covid Care Conversations" as well as an "LGBTQ+ Support Group." He also noted the increase in stress due to COVID-19 among our students. The Student Counselling Center has been seeing challenges with people tired of being online, even if it is for support. He noted that both the Student Counselling Center and the Student Health Center are both open/available and remain busy even with less people on campus. Anouchka asked if these services have been posted online/in the daily news. Aman requested that the information be shared on various UWin social media accounts as well as the SMHS Fund recipients so they can include these resources in their care packages. Sarah noted that this information has been shared in the Office of Student Experience newsletter and on the Office of Student Experience social media accounts and will continue to be promoted.
- Paige expressed the need to be flexible and understanding of student circumstances. Ryan echoed that this is very important and that there has been conversation with the Deans to be compassionate and supportive.
- Phebe added that the Senate Student Caucus has created a live feedback form that students can submit to anonymously. Has been promoted on Facebook and will be released in the daily news soon.

7. Next two meetings?

- To be scheduled for February/March 2021
- Motion to adjourn: Approved