

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 184 OF
THE UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS BOARD

November 6, 2014

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto

Your Board reports that it met on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Mr. Andrew Szende, Chair
Ms Alexandra Harris, Vice-Chair
Professor Jill L. Matus, Vice-Provost,
Students & First-Entry Divisions
Ms Lucy Fromowitz, Assistant Vice-
President, Student Life
Ms Alexis Archbold
Mr. Ben Coleman
Mr. David Reid Dobell
Ms Katie Dunlop
Ms Susan Froom
Ms Sue Graham-Nutter (Chair, Campus
Affairs Committee, UTSC)
Professor Ira Jacobs
Dr. Joseph Leydon
Mr. Craig Maniscalco
Ms Yerusha Nuh
Ms Rita O'Brien

Mr. Mark Henry Rowsell*
Mr. Anamjit Singh Sivia
Professor Elizabeth Smyth
Professor Salvatore M. Spadafora
Ms Cheryl Ziegler-Davison

Non-Voting Assessors:

Mr. Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs,
University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)
Ms Meredith Strong, Director, Office of the
Vice-Provost, Students and Student Policy
Advisor
Mr. Desmond Pouyat, Dean of Student Affairs,
University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)

Secretariat:

Mr. Patrick McNeill, Acting Secretary

*via conference call (*Open Session*)

Regrets:

Mr. Marc Arnold
Ms Arlene Clement
Mr. Andrew Girgis

Mr. Gary D. Goldberg
Professor Janice Gross Stein

In Attendance:

Mr. Harvey Botting, Member of the
Governing Council

Ms Lisa Chambers, Director, Centre for
Community Partnerships

Mr. Garvin De Four, Assistant
Ombudsperson, Office of the University
Ombudsperson

Professor Joan Foley, Ombudsperson, Office
of the University Ombudsperson

Mr. Michael Kobayashi, Executive Chef,
University College Residences

Mr. David Newman, Assistant Director, Office
of Student Life

Ms Janine Robb, Executive Director, Health and
Wellness

ITEMS 7 AND 8 ARE PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL AND ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

1. Academic Presentation: Report of the Provostial Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health – Professor Jill Matus, Vice-Provost, Students and First-Entry Divisions

Professor Matus provided a detailed presentation on the Report of the Provostial Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health. She indicated that she was pleased to advise that the Provost had accepted the Report and its recommendations. This was the first opportunity to publically present its findings and describe next steps.

Her presentation addressed the following points:

- The Advisory Committee was established in the Fall 2013. The members were drawn from senior leadership, Deans, Vice-Deans, faculty experts, staff, professional experts, and students;
- Like other Universities across North America, the University of Toronto had seen an increase in students with mental health concerns in its health, residence, accessibility and counselling services;
- Faculty and staff would continue to strengthen their awareness and knowledge of mental health needs through training opportunities in order to respond in the most appropriate manner to support the students' identified needs;
- The mandate and role of the Provostial Committee included making recommendations to the Provost around policies, procedures and resources in support of a university-wide coordinated approach to assisting students with mental health needs and around the promotion of practices to support mental health;
- The Committee began its work by articulating the principles upon which the University's commitment to support students with mental health needs were based, as well as the principles underlying support for the University staff and faculty in their interactions with students;
- The work of the Committee was supported by four working groups (Education, Training, Awareness & Anti-stigma; Inclusive Curriculum & Pedagogy; Mental Health Services & Programs; and, Mental Health Policies & Procedures);
- The work of these groups was informed by student focus groups. 250 students participated in 32 focus groups;

- More than 50 University of Toronto community members served on the committee and working groups.
- The Committee undertook an environment scan, extensive literature research, and a benchmark survey on program and service usage;
- The Report adopted the definition of mental health as articulated by the Government of Canada in 2006;
- The Strategy emphasized in the Report was a “systems approach” in which the entire University had a role to play in fostering a healthy learning environment;
- There were 22 recommendations in the Report around a university-wide coordinated approach to supporting students with mental health needs and promoting practices to support mental health;
- Next steps included an awareness and broad messaging campaign (website launched: *mentalhealth.utoronto.ca*);
- Also would include the development of an implementation strategy and planning by working groups; assessment/metrics to measure progress (develop performance indicators); education and training programs; communication strategy, including the roadmap of services; and metrics to report progress annually.

There were questions and requests for clarification from members on the following topics: services for recent graduates, second entry and professional program students; protection of student privacy; role and training of front line staff; the need to address drug and alcohol use issues; and, the speed of implementation of recommendations.

Professor Matus and Ms Lucy Fromowitz, Assistant Vice-President, Student Life responded as follows:

Services for recent graduates, second entry and professional program students:

- Recent graduates had access to the career centre for 2 years post-graduation;
- Career Centre staff were trained by the Health and Wellness Services to help identify mental health issues associated with securing employment;
- The Report and its recommendations, apply to all students, including second entry and professional program students.

Protection of student privacy:

- Protecting student privacy would continue be a top priority and disclosure would only be permitted with the student’s signed consent;
- Students do not need a medical diagnosis to visit a counselor or psychologist.

Role and training of front line staff:

- Student Life staff played an important role to help students navigate the environment, including issues around housing, food, security, child support and other needs.

Addressing drug and alcohol use issues:

- UofT is engaged with the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) to develop a comprehensive strategy to address drug and alcohol abuse and related issues, which are common among all Ontario universities.

Implementation of recommendations:

- Implementation of recommendations would be a staged process; with some being implemented as quickly as possible, such as an awareness campaign on the availability of current services and support; and, others longer-term;
- The website would continue to evolve using best practices including the use of info graphics;
- The Vice-Provost's Office would work with student governments and other groups to continue the conversation and obtain feedback on the recommendations and their implementation;
- Performance indicators were being developed and would be posted;
- The Working Groups would be asked to assist with the implementation strategy;
- The Provostial Advisory Committee would be asked to act as an oversight committee.

Members congratulated the Vice-Provost and her Office, as well as members of the Provostial Committee, for their quick turnaround, detailed and timely recommendations, and laudable work.

The Chair thanked Professor Matus for her presentation.

2. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report Number 183, September 30, 2014

Report number 183, from the meeting of September 30, 2014, was approved.

3. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the report of the previous meeting.

4. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

5. Report of the Senior Assessor

Listserv System:

In response to previous queries from student governors and student leaders, Professor Matus reported that the listserv system technology was in place and her office would be finalizing the Terms of Use.

The Term of Use would include the following:

- the various associated policies including the *Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology*;
- how to establish who had access to the system and how that access was created and changed; and,
- details on the schedule for the updates of data into the system.

The technology would allow for email communications to students from student societies; and was devised to protect confidential student information which would not be available to users. Students would be able to opt out of the listserv should they wish not to receive messages from their respective member student society. The Terms of Use would be shared with student societies the week of November 10, 2014.

Inter-campus bus transportation services:

Professor Matus provided an update on inter-campus bus transportation services launched between the UTSC and St. George campus. A survey of all students, faculty and staff members at both campuses had recently been undertaken by the Vice-Provost's Office. Of the over 5,000 respondents, there were many creative suggestions, but all agreed that transportation services should be improved, and most felt this should be done without an increase in cost to student users. Her office would be releasing a short report.

A related pilot project to improve access by students between UTSC and St. George campuses had been implemented and would continue to be monitored. UTSC was working with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) on the pilot project.

Professor Matus also clarified that UTM students do pay for their inter-campus bus services as part of their student ancillary fees.

6. Other Business

One member asked questions related to the Provost's response to the Student Societies Summit, in particular, to the status of by-law violations and outstanding grievances, as well as the process around use of referendums

Professor Matus noted that it takes time to work through complaints related to student election processes as they raise complex issues and all parties involved need to be heard, but that the response to the UTSU complaint was forthcoming. She clarified that the role of the Provost was to ensure that student societies functioned accordingly under the current *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*. The student society's internal grievance process had to be exhausted first before the Vice-Provost would become involved.

In response to a question about whether the administration would hold a referendum of St. George students so they could have their own student union, Professor Matus stated that a student referendum was the responsibility of the students themselves and not the University. The Office of the Vice-Provost, Students would be available for advice on the process. The autonomy of student societies was respected and the broad-based student committees or unions were, right from the U of T Act, envisaged as a means to represent the voice of the students to the Administration and indeed the Governing Council. If students wished to organize themselves in different ways than currently existed, they needed to make their voices heard.

The Vice-Provost invited the member to meet with members of her Office to address the more specific issues that were raised.

Pursuant to section 33(ii) of By-Law Number 2, consideration of items 7

and 8 took place in camera.

THE COMMITTEE MOVED *IN CAMERA*.

7. Appointment: Service Ancillaries Review Group (SARG), 2014-15

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Service Ancillaries Review Group for 2014-15:

Ms Arlene Clement (administrative staff)
Mr. Ben Coleman (student)
Ms Katie Dunlop (student)

8. Appointment: Striking Committee – University Affairs Board, 2014-15

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the following individuals be appointed to the Striking Committee of the University Affairs Board for 2014-15:

Mr. Andrew Szende (Chair, *ex officio*)
Mr. Mark Rowswell (Lieutenant Governor in Council appointee)
Mr. Gary Goldberg (alumni)
Professor Elizabeth Smyth (teaching staff)
Ms Cheryl Ziegler (administrative staff)
Ms Alexandra Harris (student)

The meeting moved into Open Session

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Acting Secretary

Chair

Friday, November 7, 2014