

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH CAMPUS COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 26 OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

June 14, 2017

To the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Council, University of Toronto Scarborough,

Your Committee reports that it met on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Arts and Administration Building, with the following members present:

Present:

Professor Elaine Khoo, Chair
Mr. Andrew C. Leung, Vice-Chair
Professor Bruce Kidd, Vice-
President and Principal
Professor William Gough, Vice-
Principal Academic and Dean
Professor Heinz-Bernhard Kraatz,
Vice-Principal, Research
Professor Syed W. Ahmed
Ms Hira Ashraf
Mr. Dean Carcone
Ms Monica Cheng*
Professor Chris Cochrane*
Dr. Curtis Cole
Ms Jacqueline Deane
Professor Tarun Dewan
Professor David J. Fleet
Ms Gautami Gupta
Dr. Alen Hadzovic
Professor John A. Hannigan
Professor Clare Hasenkampf
Ms Katie Konstantopoulos
Professor Hugh Laurence
Ms Brenda Librecz
Dr. Matthias Niemeier*
Dr. Tayyab Rashid*
Dr. Mahinda Samarakoon
Professor Mark A. Schmuckler

Dr. Zohreh Shahbazi
Ms Gobika Sithamparanathan
Professor Andre Sorensen

Non-Voting Assessors:

Ms Annette Knott

Secretariat:

Ms Kathy Fellowes
Ms Rena Prashad

Absent:

Mr. Conor Anderson
Professor George B. Arhonditsis
Professor Sandra Bamford
Professor Christine Bolus-Reichert
Professor William Bowen
Professor Shelley Brunt
Professor Leslie Chan
Professor Li Chen
Ms Agatha Cheng
Professor George Cree
Professor Neal Dolan
Mr. George Fadel
Professor Benj Hellie
Professor Mark Hunter
Professor Alexander Irving
Ms Whitney Kemble
Professor Philip Kremer

Absent cont.

Professor Patricia Landolt
 Dr. Janelle C. LeBoutillier
 Professor Andrew C. Mason
 Dr. Karen McCrindle
 Dr. Jennifer McKelvie
 Ms Victoria Owen

Mr. Desmond Pouyat
 Professor Pascal Riendeau
 Professor Larry Sawchuck
 Dr. Jayeeta Sharma
 Professor Mary T. Silcox
 Professor Grace Skogstad
 * Telephone Participants

In attendance:

Mr. Colin Bested, Student Presenter, Flourish Project
 Ms Laura Boyko, Assistant Dean, Health, Wellness, Physical Activity, Recreation & Sport
 Professor Marc Cadotte, Associate Chair for Research and Graduate Affairs, Department of Biological Sciences
 Professor Connie Guberman, Department of Historical and Cultural Studies
 Ms Ruth Loudon, Career Counsellor, Academic Advising & Career Centre
 Mr. Ary Maharaj, Presenter, Flourish Project
 Mr. Abdullah Mamun, Student Presenter, Flourish Project
 Ms Amina Shabeen, Student Presenter, Flourish Project
 Dr. Sheryl Stevenson, Lecturer and Writing Specialist, Centre for Teaching and Learning

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the final meeting of the governance year, and introduced the members who participated in the meeting by teleconference.

With members' agreement, the Chair made a motion, pursuant to *By-law Number 2, Section #52¹*, to change the order of the agenda. All members were in favour.

She shared reflections on what the Committee had accomplished together and thanked the members for their commitment, engagement, diligence, and thoughtfulness throughout the past year. She offered best wishes to the members whose terms were ending and to the graduating student members. She also thanked the Vice-Chair, Assessors, and the Secretariat staff for their commitment to the work of the Committee over the past year.

She advised members that they would be receiving an online Committee evaluation survey to complete and she encouraged members to share their feedback.

¹ [By-Law Number 2, section #52](#)

2. Minor Undergraduate Curricular Modifications

Professor Mark Schmuckler, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate, reported that ten new courses were being proposed out-of-cycle by several undergraduate academic units to be offered in the 2017-18 academic year. He further explained that the proposed new courses would be taught by new or existing faculty members, and did not require additional budgetary resources.

On motion duly made, seconded, and carried.

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED,

THAT the minor modifications to undergraduate programs, submitted by UTSC undergraduate academic units, as described in Undergraduate Minor Curriculum Modifications for Approval, Report 5, dated May 19, 2017, and recommended by the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean, Professor William Gough, be approved effective June 14, 2017 for the academic year 2017-18.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED,

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and that the item requiring approval (item 4) be approved.

3. Minor Undergraduate Curricular Modifications

4. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report Number 25- Tuesday, April 25, 2017

5. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

6. Date of the Next Meeting– Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 4:10 p.m.

7. Strategic Topic: The Flourish Project

The Chair invited Professor William Gough, Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean, to introduce the strategic topic². Professor Gough explained that the Flourish Project was a collaborative program including Academic Advising and Career Centre (AA&CC), AccessAbility Services, Athletics and Recreation, Health and Wellness Centre, and the Offices of the Registrar, Student Affairs and Services, and Vice-Principal, Academic and

² Presentation- Strategic Topic: The Flourish Project

Dean. He introduced Ary Maharaj, an initial participant in the project, who explained that the project focused on viewing the university as a fertile setting for students to flourish intellectually, socially, and emotionally and to translate their growth into action, habit, and purpose. The project also focused on assessing and building character strengths to enhance overall well-being that would positively impact academic performance and stress response. An essential part of the Flourish project was the Flourish Ambassador Program that actively involved student leaders.

Two student driven initiatives apart of the project were: Stories Worth Sharing and Character Strengths Through Art. Ms Hira Ashraf and Ms Amina Shabeen explained that the Stories Worth Sharing program included 24 photographic profile stories with a particular character strength. The stories were shared on social media, and Flourish was exploring the possibility of a gallery installation on campus. Mr. Colin Bested and Mr. Abdullah Mamun discussed the community based Character Strengths Through Art initiative undertaken to provide students with a creative outlet to cultivate positive thoughts and explore their strengths. Like Stories Worth Sharing, the Character Strengths Through Art program was interested in displaying the art on campus.

8. Assessors' Reports

The Chair invited Professor Gough and Professor Heinz-Bernhard Kraatz, Vice-Principal, Research, to present their reports to the Committee.

Professor Gough reported that the Master of Accounting and Finance (M.Acc.Fin) was approved by the Academic Board of the Governing Council on May 29th and was confirmed by the Executive Committee of the Governing Council on June 13th. In addition, he provided the Committee with a summary of business items, which were likely to be considered in the 2017-18 governance year. His summary included the following highlights:

- A proposed double degree specialist (i.e. BBA. and BSc.) in Quantitative Finance, with a co-op option, from the Departments of Computer and Mathematical Sciences and Management;
- A proposal to offer four certificate programs. One offering could be taken in addition to a degree program, and three offerings would be taken in-conjunction with a degree program. The proposed departments to offer the certificates were the Departments of: Anthropology, Biological Sciences, and Physical and Environmental Sciences³
- Expand the joint program offerings with the possibility of a joint program between the Food Studies program and George Brown College and the Public Law program and Seneca College; and
- Continued efforts to include Indigenous content into curriculum in a respectful, thoughtful, and accurate manner;

³ The Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences was proposing to offer two certificates.

Professor Kraatz reported that we would be on study leave from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. He introduced Professor Marc Cadotte, Associate Chair for Research and Graduate Affairs, Department of Biological Sciences, who would serve as Acting Vice-Principal, Research, during his study leave.

9. Other Business

No other business was raised.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

Presentation to UTSC Academic Affairs Committee

June 14, 2017

Presenters:

Ary Maharaj
Amina Shabeen
Hira Ashraf
Coli Bested
Abdullah Mamun



<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/flourish/>

Flourish's purpose

- The university campus is a fertile setting for students to flourish – i.e., to grow intellectually, socially and emotionally and to translate this growth into action, habit and purpose. Flourish is a UTSC program to help you learn skills that foster growth. By systematically identifying academic and character strengths, the program will help you to learn effective stress management, improve your academic performance and boost your overall well-being.



<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/flourish/>

Partners + Initiatives

At UTSC

- **Primary Partners:** Academic Advising & Career Centre, AccessAbility Services, Athletics & Recreation, Health & Wellness, Office of the Registrar
- Flourish Assessment, Strengths-based Resilience 10-week groups, Flourish Ambassadors (peer program)

Partners in the community for Strengths-based Resilience groups

- Scarborough/Rouge Hospital
- Toronto District School Board



<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/flourish/>

#StoriesWorthSharing

Flourish Narratives Project



<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/flourish/>

VIA Classification of Character Strengths and Virtues

The Character Strengths of a Flourishing Life


WISDOM	COURAGE	HUMANITY	JUSTICE	TEMPERANCE	TRANSCENDENCE
Creativity Imaginative, resourceful, inventive	Bravery Valiant, fearless, daring, taking stands for truth, for right, for justice	Love Skill, love, and desire to connect with others	Teamwork Cooperating, working cooperatively, collaborating	Forgiveness Holding grudges, being unforgiving	Appreciation of Beauty and Excellence Awe, interest, amazement
Courtesy Respectful, considerate, polite, tactful, courteous	Perseverance Persistent, resilient, sticking with what one starts	Kindness Generosity, helpfulness, caring, compassion, altruism, "niceness"	Fairness One who does not double as doublets about others	Humility Modesty, unassuming, down-to-earth, not conceited	Gratitude Appreciated for the good, appreciating beauty, feeling blessed
Self-regulation Calmness, self-control, prudence, moderation, temperance	Honesty Authenticity, integrity	Social Intelligence Empathy, social skills, ability to get along with others, connecting with others, other people IQ	Leadership Inspiring, motivating, setting an example, being a role model, being a role model	Prudence Cautious, prudent, wise, sensible	Hope Optimism, optimism, belief in a better future
Love of Learning Intellectual curiosity, eagerness to learn, thirst for knowledge	Self Vitality, self-respect, self-esteem, nothing else and fulfilled			Self-regulation Self-control, self-discipline, managing impulses & emotions	Humor Playfulness, lighthearted, fun, others appreciate it
Perspective Mindful, noticing and enjoying the big picture view				Self-regulation Self-control, self-discipline, managing impulses & emotions	Open-mindedness Broadminded, open, accepting

VIA INSTITUTE ON CHARACTER
(where the world finds strength)
www.viacharacter.org

#StoriesWorthSharing

Purpose:


- Connect with UTSC students through strength identification workshops to document their stories corresponding to each character strength
- Publish narratives widely to inspire UTSC campus community through promoting a culture of reflection



<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/flourish/>


Process of Documentation & Release

- Team of 6
- Strength Identification Workshops
- 24+ stories as photo profiles
- Social media release
- Exhibition
- Permanent installation?



<http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/flourish/>

Andilib Sajid



PERSPECTIVE

*"Through writing, I can envision myself, propped up on a stage with only one witness: myself. A blank page is what lies between dislodging knives out of wounds. Moving inwards initially allowed me to centralize my yearning, despair, and a hopes. Yet, after many years, I am teaching myself to **move through** and **be present** in midst of feeling itself. I conceive of perspective as the ability to simultaneously move inside and outside of oneself."*

Nazia Mohsin



SPIRITUALITY

"Throughout my [pilgrimage] journey I experienced so much but what stood out to me was waking up each morning to the call for prayer and seeing masses of people, bustling through the busy streets to reach the mosque in time to pray in congregation. This made me understand that the spirituality that I once thought to be something so personal, was a more collective than individualistic purpose. The first time I drank holy water, I took a pensive sip, then drained my cup as I was left with the feeling of being part of something more. That here, I was not just Nazia Mohsin, I was part of a whole community. Here, nobody was the same, but as we walked to the mosque, we all wore the same smile. We were all here for a collective purpose: to become enlightened, to strengthen our spirituality and to connect with the higher being."

Michael Duo



LEADERSHIP

"When I was a teenager and I was looking for my first job, I heard the quote, "It's not what you know, it's who you know". This quote hit me pretty hard since it became an excuse that I would use whenever I got rejected from a job. I realized that life would be difficult because my parents and I didn't have many connections. When I entered university, I had to change my mindset since I realized I wouldn't be able to make any progress in my future if I stayed stagnant. I needed to develop my network and my skills so that I would become the person that "people want to know". The first thing I did was take seriously my social life which led to me joining a ton of extracurricular and academic seminars to meet new people and learn new skills...I'm slowly making progress everyday to improve myself and pave my future. I don't think we become the people we are supposed to be by simply waiting for life to happen to us."

Stephenson



PERSEVERANCE

"As a young black woman and new immigrant in Canada, I realized there were certain odds stacked against me, but I was curious to know if there were other aspiring pre-med students who felt the same way in my community...Fast forward the story and I am the Chair of Future Black Physicians, a recognized campus group at UTSC that embodies this mandate of being a community of support for racialized students aspiring to pursue medicine. With knowledge that there are tools and resources out there to help us, our aim is to create avenues that will make these resources more accessible. What had turned out to be a personal concern of mine has grown into a community effort. This reinforces that we are never alone no matter how isolated we may feel. No man is in an island, this is why community empowerment is so important to me. The aim is to motivate and inspire each other."

Naziha Nasrin



CREATIVITY

"As a writer and poet...creativity is my strength because it helps me be boundless within my vast imagination and implement my ideas when I write stories and poems. The creative writing process differs from person to person. I feel that I'm most creative when I'm around nature listening to music. It's really a therapeutic process for me as I am able to write down my insecurities and develop characters from them and write my pieces...This strength of creativity is what helps me be myself and not follow social norms but my own instincts to create something original and unique."

Character Strengths through Art



Character Strengths through Art



Concluding Remarks

- Recommendation 2.1 from U of T's 2014 Mental Health Strategy & Framework:
 - 1. Develop and implement ongoing, sustainable **student mental health education programming**, which includes a focus on **positive mental health** and is designed to meet the specific needs of our diverse student populations. This programming is based on **best practices** and focused on developing **psychological resilience, personal skill development (including self-care practices)** and **de-stigmatizing mental health problems**.
- Created positive, strength-based narratives of UTSC students through stories and art pieces
- UTSC students were interested in the idea – UTSC as a place that can contribute to positive well-being
- What can we do to cultivate a positive environment for our students to learn and grow?



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