



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTSC Campus Council

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President and Provost
CONTACT INFO: 416-978-2122, cheryl.regehr@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: January 21, 2020 for January 28, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Final Report of the Student Mental Health Task Force and Administrative Response

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.6, Matters for information, the UTSC Campus Council “receives, annually from its assessors, reports on matters within its areas of responsibility, including statements of current issues, opportunities and problems, and recommendations for changes in policies, plans or priorities that would address such issues.” Campus and Student Services are within the UTSC Campus Council’s areas of responsibility.

Under Section 5 of its Terms of Reference, the University Affairs Board is responsible for oversight of University-wide student services and student services offered on the St. George campus, as well as policy concerning multi-campus student services and oversight of the operation of such policies.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. University Affairs Board [for information] (January 27, 2020)
2. **UTSC Campus Council [for information] January 28, 2020)**
3. UTM Campus Council [for information] (January 29, 2020)
4. Academic Board [for information] (January 30, 2020)
5. Executive Committee [for information] (February 12, 2020)
6. Governing Council [for information] (February 27, 2020)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Issues of student mental health were discussed in various governance meetings throughout Spring and Fall 2019. The Governing Council approved the *University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy* in June 2018. The University adopted a Mental Health Framework in 2014, which was presented to governance for information at that time.

HIGHLIGHTS:

In a [letter to students, faculty, and staff on March 28](#), President Gertler announced that the University would implement a four-part plan of action on student mental health and wellness: 1) convene a Presidential and Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health; 2) utilize the Undergraduate Student Educational Experience (USEE) Expert Panel and School of Graduate Studies (SGS) consultations on student experience as a foundation for enhancing the culture of support for students; 3) engage with our partners in the health system in the Toronto region to better serve students with mental illness; and 4) redouble efforts to impress upon the provincial government the need to provide significantly more resources for university student mental health.

In accordance with the President's letter, the Presidential & Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health was convened. The Task Force built upon the progress underway on the priorities identified in the [Student Mental Health Framework](#). The full mandate of the Task Force was outlined in its [Terms of Reference](#).

The [Final Report of the Presidential & Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health](#) (PDF) was submitted to the President and Provost in December 2019, and was released on January 15, 2020 along with an [Administrative Response](#) (PDF) from the President and Provost.

The Response accepts all of the Task Force's recommendations and announces a new partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), whose expertise will help guide the implementation of recommendations. The Response describes the steps to be taken, now and over the medium and longer term, to act fully on all of the Task Force's recommendations. Members of the community are invited to check the Implementation section of the [Provost's website](#) for progress updates going forward.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no direct implications for the University's operating budget at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- [Final Report of the Presidential & Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health](#) (PDF)
- [Administrative Response](#) (PDF)
- PowerPoint slides



Student Mental Health

Presidential and Provostial Task Force Report
and Administrative Response



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AGENDA

Task Force & Recommendations

Joshua Barker
Sandy Welsh

U of T's Administrative Response to the Task Force's Final Report

Cheryl Regehr



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A plan of action: four elements

1. Task Force on Student Mental Health
2. Expert Panel on Undergraduate Student Experience
3. Strengthen partnerships in the health system
4. Government advocacy

“The **success** and **wellbeing** of our students – mental and physical – is the University’s **highest priority**. Students are at the **heart of our mission** as an academic institution.”

*- President Meric Gertler
(March 28, 2019)*



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Final Report and Recommendations

Joshua Barker
Sandy Welsh

Presidential & Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health



Task Force Membership

Chair

Trevor Young, Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

Students

Egag Egag, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work

Jayson Jeyakanthan, UTM

Corey McAuliffe, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Aurora Nowicki, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering

Faculty

Chloe Hamza, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

William Ju, Faculty of Arts & Science

Ruth Ross, Faculty of Medicine

Administrative Staff

Elsie Obeng-Kingsley, UTSC

Melinda Scott, University College

Sherry Yuan Hunter, UTM

Assessors

Joshua Barker, Vice-Provost, Graduate Research & Education and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies

Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students

Consultations

Phase 1

In-person
focus groups

Listening
sessions

Online
feedback

Student-led
events

Phase 2

In-person
focus groups

Listening
sessions

Online
feedback

Student-led
events

Phase 3

Draft summary
of themes

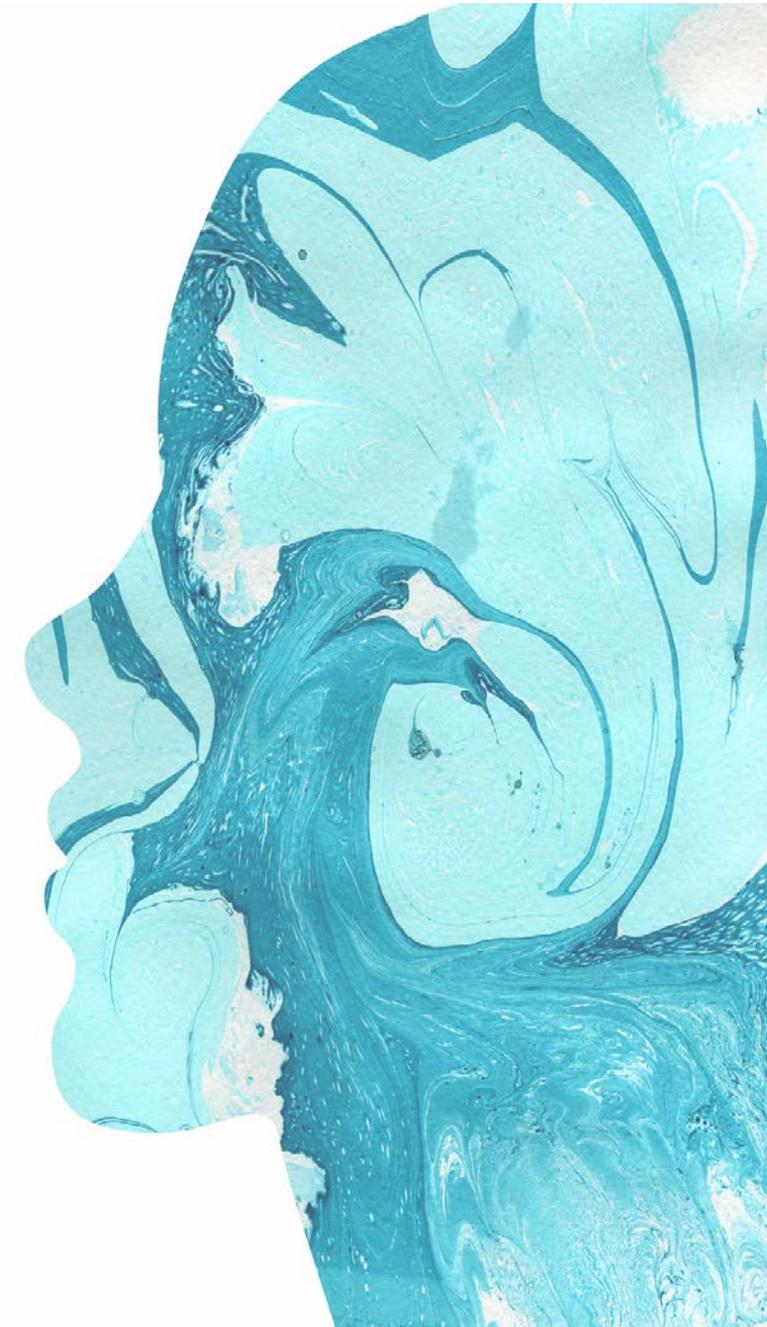
“This is what we
heard: did we
miss anything?”

Online
feedback

Pop-up booths



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Task Force Final Report

1. Services

2. Coordination

3. Partnerships

4. Space

5. Culture / Other

21

Recommendations
Overall



Task Force & Recommendations

Sandy Welsh
Joshua Barker

Mandate Areas and Recommendations



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1. Services

- Simplify **pathways to care**
- Develop comprehensive strategy on **mental health literacy**
- Increase **mental health promotion**
- Increase access to **timely mental health care**
- Expand **diversity** of service providers
- Enhance **tri-campus coordination** for crisis response



2. Coordination

- Provide more **integrated and coordinated care**
- Establish tri-campus **Clinical Director** role
- Facilitate **early access** to care for students who need mental health resources



3. Partnerships

- Strengthen **diverse community** partnerships
- **Increase programs** that bring community resources to U of T
- Improve transitions to **community resources**



4. Space

- **Increase access** to functional and therapeutic space for mental health services and programs
- Create **more non-academic spaces** for students



5. Culture / Other

- Build a **culture of caring**
- **Review** academic policies and processes
- Advocate for **consistent and equitable coverage**
- Improve **understanding of UMLAP**
- Develop transparent **protocol** for tragic events
- Establish a **wellness advisory board**
- Create a **research initiative** on student mental health



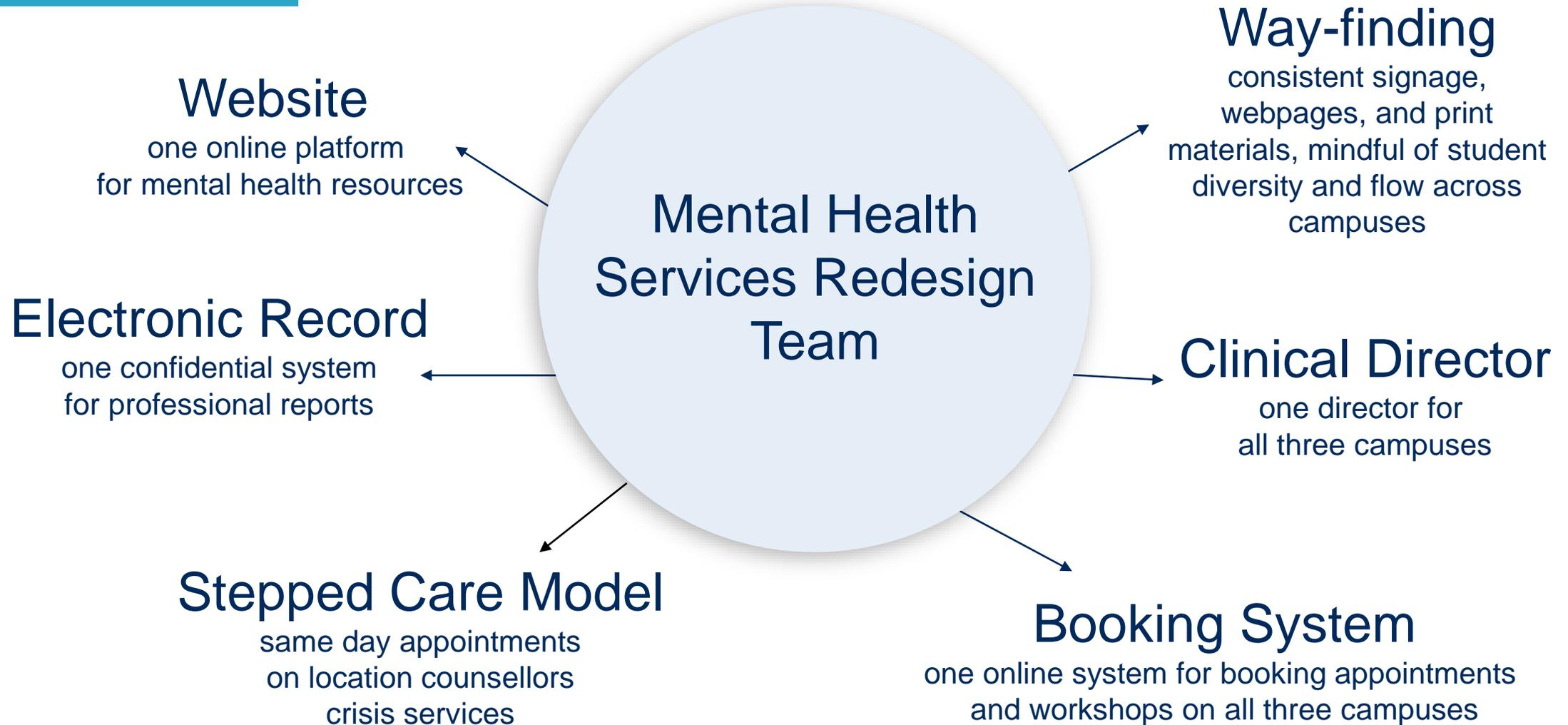


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Administrative Response to Task Force's Final Report

Cheryl Regehr



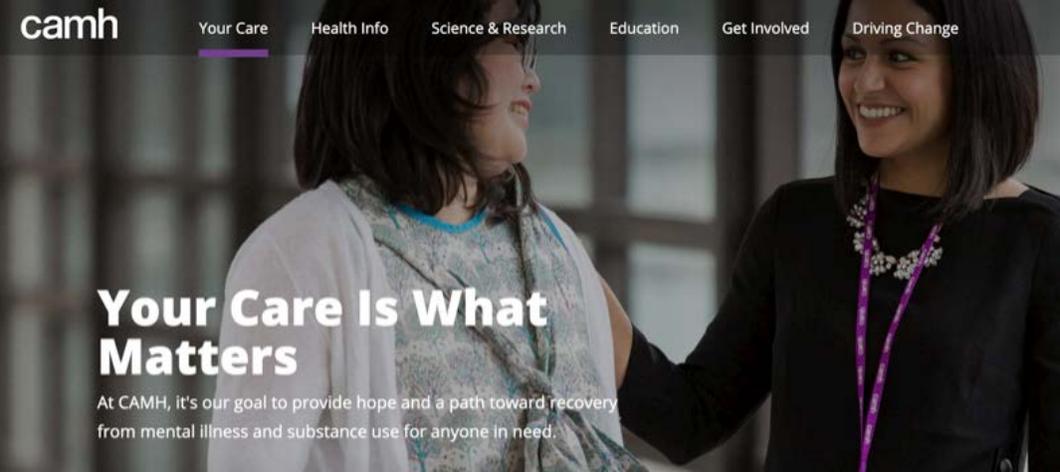


- Create integrated care pathways for students between campus-based services and CAMH
- Will likely expand to include more partnerships through TAHSN and other agencies

A new collaboration with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) will help achieve the goals identified by the Task Force.

Admin Response
Partnership

- Become a world leader in training the mental health clinicians of tomorrow
 - Internships
 - Group supervision
 - Curriculum innovation



A new collaboration with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) will help achieve the goals identified by the Task Force.

- Establish a new research initiative between U of T, CAMH, and others
- Clinical and research experts from multiple disciplines
 - Roundtable in January
 - Workshop in February
 - Connaught Fund



Admin Response
Spaces



Admin Response

Culture (Undergrad)



Implementing a New Vision for
Undergraduate Student Experience



Healthy Labs Initiative

Centre for Graduate Mentorship and
Supervision

Standing Advisory Body on
Graduate Student Mental Health



Admin Response

Other

Communications

- UMLAP
- Tragic incidents
- Mental health promotion and literacy

Fundraising and Advocacy

Mental Health and Wellness Advisory Board

Ongoing Updates



“Education and research are both **collaborative endeavours...**
Therefore, the way we relate to one another – not just **intellectually** but also **personally** and **socially** – is **fundamental** to our individual and collective **success.**”

*- Administrative Response to
the Final Report*



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Thank You