FOR INFORMATION

TO: Campus Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs
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PRESENTER: 
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 21, 2020 for April 28, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:


JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.9 of the Campus Affairs Committee Terms of Reference states:

The Committee receives annually, from the appropriate administrators, reports on services within its areas of responsibility, including but not limited to campus police and campus organizations. These reports are submitted to the University Affairs Board for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Campus Affairs Committee [For Information] (April 28, 2020)
2. University Affairs Board [For information] (May 21, 2020)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The annual report was provided for information to the Campus Affairs Committee and the University Affairs Board on May 2, 2019 and May 23, 2019, respectively.

HIGHLIGHTS:

An organization seeking campus or university recognition must submit an annual application and constitution to the UTM Centre for Student Engagement. As of April 1, 2020, for the 2019-2020 academic year there were 138 groups (95 renewing, 43 new) recognized; none were refused. In addition, UTM recognizes 17 academic societies associated with academic departments, and 10 affiliated organizations that offer services to students who subsidize them (such as student governments and student-run media, whose membership is automatic based on students’ registration.)
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:
There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:
For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:
MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the UTM Campus Affairs Committee

From: Mark Overton

Date: April 28, 2020

Subject: UTM Recognized Campus Groups, 2019/20

The size and diversity of the student community at the University of Toronto Mississauga campus provides an extraordinary number of opportunities for students to participate in a vast array of activities undertaken by campus organizations. Participation in these groups forms an integral part of the student experience. Campus groups contribute in a variety of ways to the educational, intellectual, recreational, social and cultural life of the University community. For many students, involvement in voluntary campus organizations is not only a traditional part of campus life; it forms a significant component of their learning while at the University.

Many recognized campus organizations engage in co-curricular activities that enrich the participation of their members in their own academic programs. Involvement in a campus organization can also provide significant learning opportunities for students with respect to leadership, civic and community engagement, and organizational capacity. Since many campus organizations address the complex issues of the world around us, engagement in a campus group can often provide important opportunities to be exposed to different ideas and perspectives. This helps the University provide meaningful opportunities for debate and dissent, and fosters the development of students’ understanding of difference. Finally, participation in campus groups provides one means by which students integrate and engage with small communities within the University of Toronto.

The Centre for Student Engagement (CSE) leads the campus recognition process and offers services and support to student organizations throughout the year. With recognition support, table and room bookings assistance, and special funding initiatives, CSE has seen the number of students taking advantage of the services grow. This has created a dynamic, lively, and thriving community of students learning and building community inside and outside the classroom.

In March of 2019, CSE began offering recognized student organizations with access to the CSE Library which includes fun and interactive games for team-building, cash boxes, and board games which can be loaned out to executive members. Student organizations will receive training on these new benefits in
September as we continue expanding the services and benefits offered to UTM recognized student organizations.

Over the coming year, CSE will work closely with the other two campuses to provide feedback for a new Ulife online platform. Work has already begun on gathering needs of the different campus partners, and we look forward to continuing these discussions.

In accordance with the University’s Policy on Recognition of Campus Groups, this is a report on administrative decisions to grant, deny or withdraw recognition for groups based on the University of Toronto Mississauga campus in this academic year. The campus groups listed below have been granted recognition until September 30, 2020.

All groups that have been granted recognition for the 2019/20 academic year are listed in this memorandum.

Recognition of campus groups by the University provides a number of benefits and opportunities:

1. the right to use the name of the University in the name of the group and in conjunction with group activities;
2. listings in select University directories as a University recognized campus group;
3. access to book tables in academic spaces; book rooms without charge (with the exception of some spaces, like atriums, which may come at a cost); booking tables in certain buildings/atriums; and access to borrow items (board games, cash boxes, and leadership sessions) from the CSE Library.
4. verification letters confirming recognition status (sometimes required by banks and other external organizations); and
5. access to other University services and resources made available from time to time.

An organization seeking recognition must submit an annual application to the Centre for Student Engagement using the Ulife platform along with a copy of group’s constitution. The constitution outlines the group’s purpose, objectives and procedures. It addresses organizational structure, membership, meetings, the election or appointment of members in leadership positions, amendments to the constitution, and rules of conduct. A commitment to democracy and accountability to members should also be reflected.

Full membership in a recognized campus group (including eligibility to vote and serve in a leadership position) must be open to any member of the University community (including all students, staff, faculty and alumni) from any division. While discriminatory membership practices are not allowed, it is acknowledged that certain groups could well be homogeneous in nature without being discriminatory. Status as non-voting members may be extended to interested persons from outside the University.

Groups seeking recognition by the University must be genuine campus organizations and generally non-profit in nature. A recognized campus group cannot be controlled by any external body. However, many organizations are affiliated with provincial, national or international bodies and other external groups.
Under the terms of the *Policy*, the University will not attempt to censor, control or interfere with any group on the basis of its philosophy, beliefs, interests or opinions expressed unless and until these lead to activities which are illegal or which infringe the rights and freedoms of others within the community. By the same token, recognition as a campus group implies neither endorsement of a group’s beliefs or philosophy, nor the assumption of legal liability for the group’s activities.

Please note that pursuant to the *Policy*, the recognition of groups which draw their membership from only one academic division is delegated to the governance body of that division.

It is important to note that there are hundreds of additional clubs, many athletics and recreation activities, Hart House clubs and committees, as well as recognized campus groups based on other campuses which, while not listed here, add significantly to the educational, intellectual, recreational, social and cultural life of the U of T community. In addition, many students are involved in student governments, college and faculty student societies, course unions, and departmental student associations.

**Recognition Granted**

As of April 1, 2020, recognition has been granted by the Centre for Student Engagement to the following organizations for this academic year. More information about these organizations is available on-line at [ulife.utoronto.ca](http://ulife.utoronto.ca) and at the Centre for Student Engagement website:

- Accounting Association
- Afghan Students’ Association
- Against Dragons
- Ahlulbayt Students’ Association
- Albanian Society of University of Toronto Mississauga
- Amnesty International University of Toronto Mississauga
- Animal Rights Club
- Asian Culture Association
- Asian Gaming Association
- Association of Palestinian Students
- Bangladeshi Students’ Association
- Baptist Student Ministries UTM
- Because I am a Girl
- Believer’s Love World UTM
- Boss Women UTM
- Business and Economics Pride Alliance
- Canadian Asian Student Society
- Cancer Awareness Network at UTM
- Caribbean Connections UTM
- CHANNEL 6ix
- Chinese Music Club
- Chinese Undergraduate Association
- Christian Students at U of T
- Christian Unity Association
- Cinema Studies Association
- Club for Mental Health Advocacy
- Cobra Muay Thai Club
- Creatives For a Change
- DECA UTM
- Developer Student Club
- Digital Enterprise Management Association
- Edhi Foundation Awareness Club
- Enactus University of Toronto Mississauga
- ENLIGHTED
- Equity UTM
- Erindale Hong Kong Students’ Association
- Erindale Punjabi Association
- eSports
- Everyday Is Homeless Day Campaign
- Fitness Improvement Team
- Free the Children at UTM
- Gospel Choir
- Habitat for Humanity UTM
- Harmonix Music Club
- Hindu Student Council
- Horror Club
- International Cantonese Union
- International Law and Human Rights Club
- Intersectionality
- J. Tuzo Wilson Geology Club
- Jack.org UTM
- Japanese Network
- Karaoke Club
- K-BANG
- Korean Christian Fellowship
- Language Exchange at UTM
Recognition Denied

As of April 1, 2020, there have not been any groups that have been denied recognition.

Recognition Statistics for the Centre for Student Engagement
(as of April 1, 2020)

Summary of the applications for recognition received this year:

Total number of applications: 138
Recognition granted: 138
Recognition denied: 0
Recognition withdrawn: 0
Applications terminated: 0
Applications withdrawn by group: 0
Applications under review: 0
Applications from new groups: 43
Applications from groups seeking renewal of recognition: 95

Membership Data:

Cumulative total of U of T members in all UTM recognized campus groups: 13,108
Average number of U of T members per UTM group: 89
Number of UTM groups with fewer than 20 U of T members: 53
Number of UTM groups with 20 to 100 U of T members: 59
Number of UTM groups with greater than 100 Members: 35

1 Some groups that changed their club name or other minor changes to the club may be reflected in this number.
2 Membership figures are supplied by the groups at the time of application and are not verified. U of T membership numbers include all U of T community members (i.e., student, staff, faculty, and alumni). Student membership numbers are not reportedly separately.
Other Campus Student Organizations

UTM has additional student organizations that are not required to renew each year. The organizations are academic in nature, uniting students within a specific program or field of study. Though these groups do not fall within the purview of the Policy on Recognition of Campus Groups, they are student run with collaboration between the academic department and the elected student leaders.

The Undergraduate Commerce Society (UCS) and the Student Management Association (SMA) held a referendum amongst the membership. Members voted to merge the two groups, with the new group named IMI Business Association (IBA). The change in the number of academic societies is reflected below.

All students are represented by each of the academic societies, depending on their program of study. The list of all academic societies are listed below:

- Department of Visual Studies Student Society
- English & Drama Students Society
- Erindale Biology Society
- Erindale Society of Chemical & Physical Sciences
- Forensics Society
- Historical Studies Society at UTM
- IMI Business Association
- ICCIT Council
- Mathematical and Computational Sciences Society (MCSS)
- MMPA Course Union
- Philosophy Academic Society
- Political Science & Pre-Law Association (PSLA)
- Psychology Association of Undergrad Students at Erindale (PAUSE)
- Sociology & Criminology Society (SCS)
- Student Association of Geography and Environment (SAGE)
- Undergraduate Economics Council (UEC)
- UTM Anthropology Society

Total number of Academic Societies: 17
Recognized UTM Affiliates

UTM affiliates are groups, subsidized by students, which offer a campus service. Many students participate actively or passively with many of the services during their studies at UTM. Though these groups do not fall within the purview of the *Policy on Recognition of Groups*, they do offer a vital service to students and the broader UTM community. Members, staff, and volunteers of these organizations are students (though some professional staff are hired within the organizations as well).

The list of UTM affiliates are listed below:

- Sexual Education & Peer Support Centre
- Erindale College Special Response Team (ECSpeRT)
- Women’s Centre
- CFRE Radio 91.9FM
- Medical Society
- UTM Association of Graduate Students (UTMAGS)
- The Medium
- UTM Athletic Council (UTMAC)
- UTM Residence Council (UTMRC)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)

Total number of Recognized UTM affiliates: 10