

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 206 OF
THE UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS BOARD

April 30, 2018

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto

Your Board reports that it met on Monday, April 30, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Andrew Szende, Chair
Catherine Riddell, Vice-Chair
Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students
Steven R. Bailey
Amanda Harvey-Sanchez
John F. Monahan
David Newman
Mark Lautens
Joseph Leydon
Julian Oliveira
Larry Whatmore

Non-Voting Assessors:

Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs,
University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)
Desmond Pouyat, Dean of Student Affairs,
University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)

Regrets:

Vikram Chadalawada
Jiayi Chen
Aidan Fishman
Avrum Gotlieb
Ira Jacobs
Normand Labrie
Zhenglin Liu
Pingki Mazumder
Mama Adobea Nii Owoo
Cristina Peter
Mark Henry Rowswell
Eric Schwenger
Samra Zafar
Robert Zhi Cheng Xu

Secretariat:

David Walders, Secretary

In Attendance:

Tyler Biswurm, Vice-President, Operations-Elect

Caitlin Campisi, Association of Part-Time Students (APUS)

Nathan Chan, former UAB member

Jennifer Coggan, APUS

Jack Denton, Editor-in Chief-Elect, *The Varsity Newspaper*

Mike Lesage, Coordinator, Student Policy Initiatives

Jacob Lorinc, Editor-in-Chief, *The Varsity* newspaper

Mathias Memmel, University of Toronto Students' Union

Terry McQuaid, Executive Director, Personal Safety, High Risk, Sexual Violence Support and Prevention

Shivani Nathoo, Vice-President, Professional Faculties, UTSU

Ben Poynton, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Officer

Daman Singh, Vice-President, Operations, UTSU

ITEMS 1c and 4 ARE REPORTED FOR APPROVAL AND ALL OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

1. Student Societies: Requests for Fee Increases

Professor Welsh provided an overview of the request for fee increases from student societies. She noted that changes in Student Society fees were subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*, the *Handbook for Student Societies*, and the societies' own constitutions and/or by-laws. In general, all requests for student society fee increases needed to be supported by constitutional and fair processes within student societies. In turn, the administration relied on the assurances of the officers of societies that proper procedures had been used. Increases that were greater than the cost of living needed to be supported by referendum. Other increases needed to be supported by a previous referendum approving the concept of annual increases by the cost of living or an explicit inflation factor.

(a) University of Toronto Mississauga

The requests for Student Society fee increases from the University of Toronto Mississauga were received for information.

(b) University of Toronto Scarborough

The request for Student Society fee increases from the University of Toronto Scarborough were received for information.

(c) University of Toronto, St. George

At the outset, Professor Welsh noted that the referendum questions pertaining to the Architecture and Visual Studies Student Union as originally submitted did not include a paragraph indicating that the fees would require another referendum to continue after 4 years. The documentation was

updated in advance of the meeting to reflect the correct referendum question including the requirement for referenda to continue the fee.

Turning to the request for fee increases, Professor Welsh noted that when dealing with a Student Society request for a fee change, the Society's own constitution, by-laws, and policies set the standard for an acceptable referendum result. Some Society constitutions established a minimum voter turnout in order to consider a referendum result to be valid. The University had not established additional criteria with respect to valid referendum voter turnout. Professor Welsh also noted that no complaints had been received by the administration with respect to the fee increase requests.

The Office of the Vice-Provost, Students had begun work to overhaul the University's voting website (voting.utoronto.ca website) to serve as a more robust tool for engagement. The Office was also undertaking a review of other University requirements with respect to fee increases as well as conducting an environmental scan of Student Societies constitutions and by-laws regarding minimum voter turnout. Finally, work was being conducted in concert with several tri-campus student bodies, staff, and faculty with respect to the upcoming Provincial, Municipal, and Federal elections to determine the most effective steps that could be taken to foster democratic participation.

Mr. Jacob Lorinc, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Varsity* newspaper was then invited to address the Board. He stressed the importance of the proposed fee increase for the continued success of the newspaper, adding that the current proposal would allow the *Varsity* to extend membership to graduate students and meet the new Provincial minimum wage requirement. He described the efforts that were made to raise awareness regarding the referendum for the proposed fee increase and to encourage voting. He acknowledged that more work needed to be done to increase voter turnout in referenda and expressed a desire to continue to work with the University to that end.

Mr. Daman Singh, Vice-President of Operations at UTSU then addressed the Board, expressing support for the proposed increase in fees for the *Varsity*. He expressed concern, however, with the low voter turnout in the referendum and the impact this low turnout had on democratic processes. He noted that UTSU remained supportive of the *Policy on Open, Accessible and Democratic Autonomous Student Organizations*, but suggested that the *Policy* be amended to require that fee increases be approved by a minimum of 5% of members for each fee. He also suggested that voting be made available on students' personal electronic devices for all referenda concerning fee increases for student societies.

Professor Welsh confirmed that her office would continue to work with Student Societies to increase voter turnout in referenda.

A member proposed a motion that the Student Society fee increases be considered as individual questions, rather than a singular motion.

THE MOTION FAILED

On motion duly made, seconded and carried

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT beginning in the fall 2018 session, the **Architecture and Visual Studies Student Union** fee be increased as follows:

- (a) the establishment of \$5.00 per fall and winter sessions in the Clubs Levy portion of the fee (\$2.50 part-time); and
- (b) the establishment of \$1.00 per fall and winter sessions in the Shift Magazine Levy portion of the fee.

THAT beginning in the fall 2018 session, the **Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students** fee be increased as follows:

- (a) an increase of \$0.07 per session in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)/CFS-Ontario portion of the fee;
- (b) an increase of \$5.97 per fall and winter sessions in the Accident & Prescription Drug Insurance Plan portion of the fee; and
- (c) an increase of \$4.98 per fall and winter sessions in the Dental Plan portion of the fee.

THAT beginning in the fall 2018 session, the **Engineering Society** fee be increased as follows:

- (a) an increase of \$0.38 per fall and winter sessions in the Society portion of the fee (\$0.36 part-time);
- (b) an increase of \$50.00 per fall and winter sessions in the *Skule Endowment Fund* portion of the fee (\$25.00 part-time); and
- (c) The continuation of the *Skule Nite* portion of the fee through 2018-19.

THAT beginning in the fall 2018 session, the **University College Literary and Athletic Society** fee be increased as follows:

- (a) an increase of \$0.16 per fall and winter sessions in the Society portion of the fee (\$0.05 part-time).

THAT beginning in the fall 2018 session, the **University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union** fee be increased as follows:

- (a) an increase of \$0.01 per sessions in the Bikechain portion of the fee (\$0.01 part-time);
- (b) an increase of \$0.13 per sessions in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)/CFS-Ontario portion of the fee (\$0.07 part-time);
- (c) an increase of \$0.04 per fall and winter sessions in the OPIRG portion of the fee (\$0.02 part-time);
- (d) an increase of \$0.01 per sessions in the Sexual Education Centre portion of the fee (\$0.01 part-time);
- (e) an increase of \$3.40 per fall and winter sessions in the Dental Plan portion of the fee (full- and part-time); and
- (f) an increase of \$18.39 per fall and winter sessions in the Supplementary Health Coverage portion of the fee (full- and part-time).

THAT beginning in the fall 2018 session, the **University of Toronto Students' Union** (UTSU, legally the Students' Administrative Council) fees be increased as follows:

- (a) an increase of \$0.28 per session in the society portion of the fee;
- (b) an increase of \$0.12 per session in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)/CFS-Ontario portion of the fee;
- (c) an increase of \$0.05 per session in the Downtown Legal Services portion of the fee for full-time undergraduate students on the St. George Campus;
- (d) an increase of \$0.02 per session in the Downtown Legal Services portion of the fee for full-time undergraduate students on the UTM Campus;
- (e) an increase of \$0.01 per session in the Student Refugee Program portion of the fee;
- (f) an increase of \$8.84 per fall and winter sessions in the Accident & Prescription Drug Plan portion of the fee; and
- (g) an increase of \$7.39 per fall and winter sessions in the Dental Plan portion of the fee;
- (h) for full-time undergraduates on the St. George Campus only, an increase of \$0.01 per session in the Bikechain portion of the fee;
- (i) for full-time undergraduates on the St. George Campus only, an increase of \$4.01 per session in the Student Commons Capital Levy portion of the fee; and
- (j) for full-time undergraduates on the St. George Campus only, the establishment of \$6.50 per session in the Student Commons Operating Levy portion of the fee.

THAT beginning in the fall 2018 session, the **Varsity Publications Inc.** society fee be increased as follows:

- (a) an increase of \$0.80 per session in the society portion of the fee (undergraduate); and
- (b) the establishment of \$0.80 per session in the society portion of the fee (graduate).

2. Student Societies: Report on Financial Statements and Internal Auditor's Opinion

Professor Welsh explained that each year, a number of Student Societies received compulsory non-academic incidental fees. These fees were charged to students and collected on behalf of the organizations by the University. Fee-receiving Student Societies were required to submit financial statements audited by a licensed accountant or seek exemption from the audit requirement. Fees were withheld from organizations that failed to submit statements until such time as the statements were received in good order. The Student Life offices on each campus worked with such organizations to ensure that proper statements were received.

As in previous years, a small number of societies did not submit their financial statements or receive an audit exemption. At present, 13 (or 30%) of Student Societies had audits outstanding or were pending an audit exemption. All outstanding 2015-16 audit reports had been received, with the exception of the Undergraduate Pharmacy Society. That society had been in touch with the Office of the Vice-Provost Students to request assistance owing to extenuating circumstances, and that Office continued to assist them in compliance with the *Policy*.

3. University's Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Annual Report

Mr. Poynton offered a presentation, appended [here](#), which covered the following main points:

- All Standards as part of the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (the Regulation) were now in effect for the University. A review of the Employment Standards and well as the Information and Communications Standards was being finalized and new Standards were being developed in the areas of Education and Healthcare
- Reviews of Standards as well as the development of new Standards were the subject of highly consultative processes and focused on areas for improvement.
- There were four specific areas that related to the AODA and that the AODA Office would be focused on in the coming year:
 - Focus on the built environment. The University was not only meeting its legislative requirements, but had taken steps to exceed these requirements to promote increase access. Planned renovations at Hart House and University College were good examples of this.
 - Increase accessible communications, with a focus on web-based communications.
 - Enhance accessible service delivery. This would include clarifying processes for members of the community who are both students and employees.
 - Pedagogy, with a focus on creating more accessible course design and delivery.

In reply to a members question concerning legislative requirements for accessibility in buildings, Mr. Poynton confirmed that the recent changes to the Provincial building code applied only to new or substantially renovated spaces. Human Resources and Equity continued to work with Facilities and Services at the University to enhance access to campus buildings.

The Chair thanked Mr. Poynton for his presentation.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report Number 205, March 6, 2018

The Report of the Previous Meeting was approved.

5. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting: May 24, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

The Chair confirmed the date of the next meeting was May 24, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

7. Report of the Senior Assessor

Professor Welsh addressed the following topics in her Report:

Van Attack in North York

The entire University community had been shaken by the horrific van attack on April 23rd, which claimed the life of a U of T student. She, along with other members of the senior administration, had attended the vigil to remember the victims. She noted that it was a time to mourn the loss of life but also to come together as a university community.

Tri-Campus Review

At the end of March, the President and Provost announced a Tri-Campus Review entitled “One University, Three Campuses”. The tri-campus review would be guided by a steering committee and would be built on five pillars, each with its own working group. Each working group would have tri-campus representation, would develop principles to guide future decision-making and would propose changes to policy and procedure as appropriate.

The five pillars consisted of:

1. Academic Planning and Academic Change, which will discuss questions related to new/changed programs and units, reviews, and academic planning;
2. Graduate Units, which will discuss questions related to graduate faculty membership, searches, graduate chairs and graduate units;
3. Student Services, which will discuss questions related to University-wide and campus-specific responsibilities for student services, and international student experience;
4. Administrative Structure, which will discuss questions relating to campus leadership, administrative responsibilities, and reporting lines;
5. Budget Relationships, which will proceed as part of the Budget Model Review and discuss questions related to budget, costs, and planning.

The review was planned to take place throughout 2018 and into 2019. Further details would be released on the project website.

University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy

The revised University-Mandated Leave Policy was posted on the student consultation website (<https://consultations.students.utoronto.ca>). The revised *Policy* amplified the intent and application of policy and was responsive to concerns raised. The revisions reinforced that the application of the *Policy* remained subject to the duty to accommodate up to the point of undue hardship and clarified that the *Policy* first provided for the review and deployment of additional resources to assist the student, ideally with the result that a Leave of Absence would not be required.

Code of Student Conduct

The administration would be introducing changes to the *Code of Student Conduct*. The changes would be administrative only to clarify the intersection of the *Code* and the *Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment*. Additionally, there were some minor edits to update titles and office names.

8. Other Business

A member inquired as to how the consultation process on the *University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy* was being advertised and what the timing might be for next steps. Professor Welsh replied that the consultation process was being widely advertised in various fora and Professor Welsh would be available to meet with groups should they wish.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

April 30, 2018