

Report of the President

Ben Coleman | October 2015 | president@utsu.ca

Health and Wellness “Integration”

Over August, UofT Health and Wellness “integrated” the Health and Wellness Center (i.e. the clinic) with Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS). The changes in this integration now mean that the reception for both services has merged into the second floor reception that was previously only for the clinic. There are also some organizational changes on the back end that will have the psychologists and psychiatrists at CAPS work more closely with the doctors from the clinic, in order to have a more integrated delivery of care. Lastly, the intake procedures for students with mental health challenges has changed so that all intakes are in-person and comprehensive, ensuring that any physical health issues are not overlooked.

On September 5, the Executive sent a letter to the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students, raising concerns that students had brought forward that the merger had been poorly communicated and that some resources that students rely on to book appointments and renew prescriptions had been changed without notice. In addition, the Executive stressed that

a rationale should be given for the change which clearly demonstrated the feedback from students that had been considered prior and how the service changes would help students.

On September 21, we brought up the same concerns at the Council on Student Services (COSS) to see what progress had been made, and received a letter later in the day from Janine Robb, Executive Director of Health and Wellness. Health and Wellness has said that they will be trying to clearly communicate the change to students and that the new phone service and reception will improve students’ access to scheduling appointments and prescription refills. To date, the Health and Wellness website has been updated with a page entitled “Where did CAPS go?” with FAQs to help students find the resources they are used to.

On October 8, Vere-Marie Khan and I met with Janine Robb and had a tour of the new integrated facilities. Some of the changes seem promising, and we have arranged to meet again with Health and Wellness in a couple of months to discuss how the change has progressed. In the meantime, if you hear any complaints or feedback from students about the new “integrated” service, please pass them along to Vere-Marie Khan, VP University Affairs so that we can bring them up with Health and Wellness.

Meetings with Central Administration

So far, we have had a couple of preliminary meetings with the central University Administration:

September 16, with the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students (Prof. Sandy Welsh)

Discussion included:

- Recent threats of sexual and gender-based violence and the University’s response. The Vice-Provost was receptive to criticisms that the response had been too vague for any non-male or sociology students to adequately take action to feel safe.

- CAPS/Health and Wellness Merger
- Emergency aid for International students

October 5, with the Vice-President and Provost (Prof. Cheryl Regehr, Provostial Undergraduate Student Advisory Group)

Discussion included:

- Extent of consultations planned for the Sexual Violence Advisory Committee report
- Recap of the University's response to online threats.

Student Commons

The project planning report for the Student Commons has been finalized and the Architect selection process has begun. The selection committee is mostly staffed by leads from various university planning departments and has two voting UTSU representatives, myself and Vita Carlino, UTSU Clubs and Service Groups Coordinator. In addition, there are two observer seats which have been reserved for an additional UTSU representative (staff or executive director) and a representative from Students for Barrier-Free Access (SBA).

All submissions from architects will be due by November 30, and the selection committee should have made the decision within 1-2 weeks after that.

For more information on the progress of the Student Commons or to see the finalized project planning report, please email Ben Coleman at president@utsu.ca.

Proxy System

Due to the UTSU now operating under the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA), there were a number of changes made to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) proxy system in order to ensure regulatory compliance. Specifically, the existing proxy system was changed with as few changes as possible to ensure compliance with section 74. (2) (d) of the CNCA regulations.

To comply with requests to make the process more accessible to students, the form was later put online and made available in a screen-readable format.

For our upcoming Special General Meeting (SGM), we will be implementing an online proxy system through our existing online elections provider, Simply Voting. This will help make our proxy system easier for members to use, and will reduce the large amount of resources that are spent using a paper-based system with manual verification. It will also give us more flexibility to work with students to improve access to the system for students with disabilities.

For questions about the proxy system, please email Tka Pinnock, at executivedirector@utsu.ca.

Legal Claim

We have received notice from our counsel that all parties in the legal claim approved at the last board meeting have received service of process. In line with our statement to media about the

claim (viewable at utsu.ca/media-room) counsel has reached out to parties' representatives to begin preliminary discussions about potential resolutions.

Annual Report

At our AGM, we released the UTSU Annual Report as is required under our Bylaws. Thanks to the efforts of our staff, especially our new Executive Director, the Annual Report gives more of an overview of the corporation, and has improved information on our budget and operations. The executive will be looking into changing the timing of the Annual Report so that it is better aligned with the term of office of the UTSU in the future.

For questions about the annual report, email Ben Coleman at president@utsu.ca.