

## COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SERVICES

Minutes of the meeting held on March 20, 2015, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Brown Student Services Building, Room 5001

**Present:** G. Brown, C. Buddle (co-chair), E. Cawley, J. Ghoshdastidar, L. Lach, I. Liu, J. Luker, B. Lungu, D. Maysinger, M. McCulloch (secretary), J. Micallef, C. Rourke (co-chair), I. Simmie, D. Snyder (for M. Grobin), E. Sobat

**Regrets:** L. Di Genova, K. Ibrahim, J. Janzen, M. Rouleau

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The fifth meeting of the Committee on Student Services (CSS) for the 2014-15 academic year was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated.

### 3. Approval of Minutes – 20 February 2015

The Minutes were approved as circulated.

### 4. Business Arising

#### a) Medical Notes

Carry forward.

#### b) Selection Committee for EDSS recruitment update

The Committee requested that the Selection Committee for the recruitment of the new Executive Director, Services for Students, be a parity committee and be more than only advisory to the Deputy Provost, Student Life and Learning (DP-SLL). The co-chairs met with Ollivier Dyens, DP-SLL, and it was explained that similarly to the recruitment of Deans and Directors across the University, due to confidentiality issues, the Selection Committee must remain advisory however, it was agreed to add an additional student on the Selection Committee. The three student representatives are Erin Sobat, Elizabeth Cawley, and Chloe Rourke.

#### c) Distribution of OSD funds

In the previous years, the government provided some funding, approximately \$90,000, directly to the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD). In 2014-15, the government decided in order to help universities increase support to students with mental health disabilities the direct transfer to OSD was withdrawn and added to a larger pool of money, approximately \$7 million, for all Quebec Universities. Approximately \$1.2 million was allocated to McGill and as per the Provost, these funds were unrestricted and can be used throughout the University. The government is presently reviewing the parameters associated with these funds.

The co-chairs met with the Ollivier Dyens, Deputy Provost, Student Life and Learning (DP-SLL) to discuss these transfers and he confirmed that the proper transfers were done. The concern for Student Services is the increased funds to better support students with disabilities will not come directly to OSD which had been the hope previously. It was also stressed to the DP-SLL that OSD is currently struggling to meet even the minimum requirements. The DP-SLL guaranteed that the minimum requirements will be met.

To assist with the lack of additional funding, Jana suggested that perhaps if Enrolment Services received a portion of the new monies transferred, more OSD invigilation could be transferred back to Enrolment Services. Enrolment Services has agreed that invigilation should be done within their service but do not currently have the resources to support this.

It was asked why the Student Service fees are paying for OSD when it is a legal obligation of the University, and whether there is a process to request removal from OSD from under the Student Services umbrella.

The Committee agreed they would like to have an additional CSS meeting organized before the summer where the DP-SLL will be available to attend.

## **5. New Business**

### **a) Budget Overview**

This year, the budget exercise was completed differently than in previous years to reflect the actual expenses. The draft budget was submitted to DP-SLL with a \$1.5 million deficit and is currently being reviewed. The higher deficit is due to some discrepancies in last year's budget, e.g., Counselling Services was approved for \$250,000 in 2014-15 to reduce wait-times but their budget only reflects \$95,000 in their casual budget. It was suggested to Idun that a visual historical document, including student fees, contributions from the government, and contributions from Central to Student Services would be helpful in further understanding.

### **b) Sexual Assault Policy**

The proposed *Sexual Assault Policy of McGill University*, <http://sexualassaultpolicyatmcgill.com/sap%20final.pdf>, was circulated prior to meeting for review. The work group is currently looking for endorsements from various groups and committees within the McGill community before submitting the draft policy as information to Senate in April, and for approval in May or early fall. It was suggested to change some wording around confidentiality. A revised policy will be circulated prior to the April meeting for endorsement.

## **6. Executive Director's Report**

Jana advised the Committee of two central contributions that will not be transferred this year, a \$112,000 contribution to Campus Life and Engagement for Orientation, as well as the University matching funds for the SSMU bursaries.

It was also mentioned that Tanja Beck has been appointed Interim Director in the Office for Students with Disabilities and Elizabeth Cawley-Fiset has been hired as the Mental Health Strategy Development Consultant.

## **7. Other Business**

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.