



**Committee on Student Services**  
**Thursday, March 29 – 10:00-12:00 PM**  
**James Admin, 302**

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**Present:** Jim Fyles (Co-Chair), Dusica Maysinger, Freddy Lee, Jemark Earle, Martine Gauthier, Lina Di Genova, JennyAnn Pura, John Mac Master, Isabelle Oke, Ian Simmie, Alyssa Wooster, Ahmer Wali, Kyla Hosie (secretary)

**Regrets:** Vera Romano, Saumeh Saeedi-Tabar, Tamara Western, Césarée Morier-Gxoyiya, Isabella Anderson

Meeting called to order 10:06

### **1. Approval of Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda.

### **2. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2018 meeting**

L. Di Genova asked whether we are still giving out money for innovation fund projects that have not started? In terms of the Experiential Learning App, M. Gauthier will meet with CaPS Director to discuss funding.

### **3. Senate Reports**

- 2016/17 Senate Report was circulated for members to understand how the CSS annual report is included in the Senate Report

### **4. CSS Terms of Reference**

- Discussion ensued regarding the proposed CSS terms of reference. Members noted the changes in student composition and representation from elected vs non-elected students.
- J. Pura noted that students go through appointment boards and it is up to the appointment board to decide who sits on what. There is an online appointment system with a short transition period.
- There are two students on CSS who do not represent a group/association/etc.
- Members commented on the value of student representation and that it is important to have someone who does not necessarily work for Student Services, to allow an outside student perspective.
- J. Fyles noted that we can do a better job of getting people up to speed. Can send annual report to members who can then hand it down to their next person.
- Change to “six broadly represented...” was to give more flexibility in terms of who can come on board.
- Student rep from Mac – does it matter if it is undergrad or grad? Members did not think it mattered.
- Members commented that it may be useful to add some wording around six undergrad students to make it more equivalent to faculty. Action item.
- Jim will re-word document and will circulate in a couple of weeks. Want to get it to Senate Nominations Committee.



## 5. Advisory Board Reports

### CaPS

- issues regarding needs assessment, collaboration with TLS
- noted the low student engagement
- should re-visit the idea of advisory boards. A conversation next fall should happen in regards to services advisory boards.
- identified need to communicate more broadly

### Counselling

- implementation of stepped care model
- need for communications strategy
- Discussion ensued regarding “EmpowerMe” (24/7 access to Counselling, in many languages, available by phone, email or in-person).
  - Pilot project initiated by SSMU in September 2017 and PGSS adopted in December 2017. Unsure if SSMU/PGSS will continue to offer it. Cost is \$4.20/annually per student. How can students be more aware of this supplemental service? EmpowerMe is focused on short-term. Discussion regarding consent and disclosure of information is important. Offered to all grad/undergrad students (including international students) – students do not need to be a part of health plan. Need to have a discussion on how we want to structure this. If we are going to offer it, should offer it to everyone. Continuing Studies students are another piece. M. Gauthier commented that it may be possible to incorporate it into our collaborative care model and promote it more. M. Gauthier will meet with VP Finance regarding EmpowerMe. Next semester, Health/Counselling Services should have EmpowerMe information on their website. It is currently on the student association websites. J. Fyles commented that it is important to get this information out to academic advisors, student affairs offices, etc. SSMU representatives commented that they only have EmpowerMe until August 31, 2018. Don’t want to guarantee that it will be a continued service. It is also possible to link EmpowerMe to Therapy-assisted Online (initiative in Counselling).

### ISS

- involved in various initiatives and projects

### Health

- highlighted increase in number of physicians
- student survey
- discussion regarding access
- F. Lee commented that the feedback from students attending this advisory board is that it only met once a year, and students would like to meet once a semester. The advisory board seemed unstructured. ToR dictate that AB should meet a minimum of 3 times per year. We can communicate this to Health Services.

### MORSL

- generating safer spaces
- religious literacy



- ongoing concern about prayer space
- discussions regarding budget
- M. Gauthier commented that MORSL's new Director wants to expand MORSL beyond being a space for tea and cookies (which is important for students to have a safe space) and into the university. Goal is to bring religious and spiritual life out to the students, not just a location for students to come to. More outreach. Big part of their budget is casual – want to employee students to do communications and outreach, event management. Coming up with a new mandate for MORSL – trying to bring MORSL into the wellness wheel.

## SSAO

- Members commented on the wide range of activities
- A. Wali commented that he appreciated the objectives and goals for upcoming year.
- M. Gauthier commented that we traditionally think of scholarships as recruitment but it is moving into domain of trying to attract and maintain diverse students (ie. students who may not be able to afford to come to McGill). Moving into retention realm.
- J. Mac Master commented that he appreciates Cara's (Director of SSAO) work. Many of his students say they cannot use SSAO because before they tap in, they have to take the maximum of government loans. If they take government loans, they cannot work as a musician because they have to repay they student loans. This creates a hurdle, and he isn't sure how to advise a student facing this issue. M. Gauthier commented that it is probably a ministry regulation; therefore, we do not have control over it. Cara is always trying to look for options for students.

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

### Health and Wellness Report

- 3 main recommendations: 1) develop better system around student support system for student's mental health; 2) special advisor to the Provost to examine report and decide what we need to tackle first to address campus health and wellness and; 3) create committee (Provost didn't want to create office that just gets mired down by politics, bureaucracy and policies) with main stakeholders (S2, HR, TLS, etc.).
- Provost wants to move on all three recommendations. First focus is student mental health, put forth 13 million dollar proposal over six years, expanding support for student mental health. This entails forming the Rossy Student Wellness Hub (combining Health, Counselling and Psychiatric into a hub with multiple access points). Included in hub is mapping project (working with Dept of Geography, who be responsible for keeping it updated); combining it with a mapping project from OSD. The mapping project will be housed on the new website. Unsure of who will be designing the website, may bring in a consultant.
- Another piece is the health promotion hub. Awareness, prevention and early intervention are very important. Healthy McGill, new associate director of health and wellness promotion, manager of peer support, curriculum developer and trainer (who will develop programming - suicide prevention, mental health 101, etc. with the experts) will all be part of the hub. Also attached to health promotion are ten embedded wellness advisors (embedded in faculties and services) – better support students where they live and learn. All faculties will have one (except Medicine because they have their own wellness office). This is a pilot project.
- A lot of work to do – doing needs assessments with faculties because every faculty has a different student population.



- A. Wali asked if the embedded wellness advisors were always under health promo hub? M. Gauthier indicated that yes, as S2 wants them attached to the hub. They have to be attached to collaborative care model, training and curriculum information. A challenge is finding space to house the advisors.
- I. Simmie asked if the recent ministry budget will affect S2. L. Di Genova commented that there is a new finance grid applied in Quebec Universities as of May 1. This may change allocation of funding for students/S2. Provost said is that it can't disadvantage McGill as we have already been disadvantaged a lot.
- A. Wali question re: hiring of various positions. M. Gauthier commented that S2 is in the process of hiring Director of Communications. Coming up soon is the posting for the Associate Director of Health Promotion and Project Manager for processes and procedures for Hub

## 7. Annual Report

What do members want to include in report?

- Mandate of CSS – expand, stay the same, etc.
- Highlight achievements/what was done in order to meet requirements (ie. regarding audit). This ties into the report that we put in last year. In 16/17, student mentioned they wanted expanded services around student health and wellness. This is a key part of 17/18.
- SLL review – how does CSS need to change based on outcome of SLL review?
- Summary of innovation fund reports/outcomes.
- Funding model of S2?
- Overhead getting reinvested in mental health
  - Note: Overhead fee will still be applied to revenues that are not student fees in Student Services (as it is in Athletics). S2 brings in very little money in terms of sales. Will only be around 1K that S2 will give back to McGill. They are a lot of costs associated with supporting S2, beyond building costs. Administrative costs – we are not getting charged this anymore.
- Mention nee referendum next year (spring)

The Annual Report should go to first CSS meeting of the 2018/19 year.

## 8. Other business

- Members are invited to attend the Student Wellness Action Plan (SWAP) meetings on April 12 and April 17.

Meeting adjourned 11:29 PM

## Action items

- M. Gauthier to meet with CaPS Director to discuss EXL App funding – K. Hosie/M. Gauthier
- Distribute H and W Report to CSS – K. Hosie
- Advisory Board discussion on next year's agenda – K. Hosie
- M. Gauthier will meet with VP Finance regarding EmpowerMe – K. Hosie
- Health/Counselling Services should have EmpowerMe information on their website (if it continues to get funded)