**Meeting w/ Karen Young – Seeking advice on OPF**

**What motivated you to start a mental health magazine at UTSC?**

* Don’t start anything without doing research – introspecting
* Important because – craved community – experiences to offer – being in psychology can be an isolating student experience (MCQ) – psychology and health studies – interdisplinary connections around mental health – curriculum doesn’t meet demand for interdisciplinary perspective – made possible with extra curricular activity – possible to get conversation going – UTSC campus – buildings designed for interdisciplinary conversation – UTSC is a unique space for this – HW and SW – underappreciated aspect of UTSC – potential for interdisciplinary connection
* McGill – UBC – scattered campus – UTSC is unique in that respect
* Series of research experience, understanding strength of campus, potential for this conversation, skill set – privileged to pay for education, time to dedicate towards this

**Other than the content and the idea, what do you think made your project so unique and so successful even today?**

**Did taking on a project like this feel overwhelming at first? What was your first step?**

**Did you seek any funding for the project? If you did, from where? What was the money used for?**

* Hub – one-time funding
* Student Life – funding for clubs
* SCSU – CCR – process of being registered – need to submit a constitution – agree to these things – bank account – created a lot more labour (funding officers to be there to open an account – have an administrative officer you handles SCSU – there are deadlines – sit down conversation with SCSU to figure out key deadlines – evacuating lockers) – recommends that you have a financial person on your team – role is just for communicating and figuring out administrative logistics – for CCR – you need a faculty person who can validate the hours to put into it – communication process – one time semester meeting to validate progress – mentor you’re meeting with – working plan of all the tasks that need to get done to get the forum going – making executive decisions – how will you communicate – clear history of your documents –
* SCSU – only heard back a month later – rely on reimbursements – not guaranteed – tapping into academic sources – DSL
* Bank account – etransfer – BMO
* Principals Office, Deans Office, Research Office – top 3 administrator office – the thing with funding – don’t fund you unless you show promise – following through on impact that you seek
* Got funding from the alumane office – close relationship with CAO at UTSC – interacts with safety/ operations – building community connections between Scarborough and UTSC
* Finding creative ways to make most of opportunities that exist on campus
* Centre for Teaching and Learning – Service Learning Course – those students love volunteering – network – passionate people who have capacity to work together
* Strength – have respected people on campus supporting it – who would buy into the idea – work creatively with how those people are positioned with what they have – revive something for scratch – think practically about what you have and see what you have from there – having mentors in grounding you in whats most realistic
* Focus on a practical framework that can easily grow itself – design of the framework – momentum can far exceed ability to grow – clear process of how its going to run and how its going to work
* Framework working with youth and students – defining workload very simply – make it so that each person can play their own part – make it really easy for each person to play their own part – better chance for project sustaining itself
* Minds Matter – build strong relationship with faculty members at UTSC – they’ll be there for a while – if you can ally – defining outcome, define skills that you need, where you can find those skills on campus, figuring out people you need to recruit 🡪 how to make an institution on campus
* For the magazine – design skills, editors, (never opened it for comments), recruiting writers based on ideas they want to write about, all your submissions are people you’ve never met – pros and cons – topic as sensitive as mental health – focusing on building relationships and building skill sets – what kind of content you’re considering – forum – interdisciplinary – challenge will be figuring out how people will be open to sharing their ideas – monthly cafes where people can talk and meet up (10,000 coffees – match students from UTSC campus) – finding different ways for people to engage in their way –
* What people can do realistically without sacrificing GPA – articulating a reward for the team – potluck – in Robarts – media commons – screening rooms where you can watch movies

**Did you yourself have any graphic/ coding/ communication/ design skills? If not, what did your core team look like?**

**What did the day-day, week-week, month-month planning look like? How did you manage this kind of project with all your other work and commitments?**

* Defining semesterly goals are – academics come first – time you have with your team that you can work with – before and after reading week – availability – holidays and in between semesters – work with the rhythm of your academic stresses – COMMUNICATION – following up with people – define working policies – agreement – how often do you want to respond to emails – follow up with a phone call – tasks on trello – hold each other accountable – week to week following up with people on certain tasks – in person component to asking questions and connecting with each other – working on tasks together – talk to each other if you have any feedback – have in person option for people in case they want it – if people wanted to join team – fill out exhaustive list (needs, contact, requirement, people have access to each others contact information) – prioritize – policies of documentation really clear

**Did you have a succession plan in place? Do you still play a role in the magazine today?**

* Succession plan – not in place – after a while you need to take a break for yourself – for the time being – volunteer lead – a lot of labour – don’t know where its going to go or if its going to sustain itself – and that’s okay – it could be a one time thing and that could be successful – the fact that it even happened –
* Part of me stripped away – so many different ways to define success – your GPA isn’t everything – what you do with your learning – connections you make at school – not perpetuated in UTSC – in order for me to part from it, I’ve accepted the fact that not everyone expresses themselves/ mental through a magazine – important to recognize – project you’re working towards – not an idea that can solve everything – limits of project – part my identity from the work that I do – set boundaries – really hard to separate work from work that I’m doing – personal ideas that are very specific to me

**When you were a student at UTSC, did you find that open access and the practices associated with that were rarely talked about or even, in some circumstances, considered taboo?**

**Why do you think open access is important, especially for UofT?**

**As a student, what opinions would you have on OPF and what would you hope that it would accomplish? What gap would you like to see it fill?**

**What do you think would make OPF thrive within UTSC, and eventually, beyond?**

**Is there any other advice you have for me as a student?**

* Figuring out next steps – graduated 2 years ago – needed a break – exhausted from schooling – undergrad – marathon – energy that you have during the day – introvert – socializing – reflexive about who I socialize with and how long – regret not using AAC services more – really good relationship with doctor – health is foundation for everything else
* What support I need to get what I want – personal – project management professional certification – 4-500 hours of project management with an undergrad degree – perk of 750 off at any continued education course – P&T

**What kind of work are you doing now and how did the projects you did at UTSC help you?**

**Other:**

* Why not tumblr, why not medium.com? – Is there an existing readership that would exist for these things – promote conversation and a forum – challenging the idea of having a website – what is the purpose of having a separate website – online sexual health magazine – Nuance – online platform for academics – theconversation.com/ca – academic rigour – with Flare – critical race, culture, society and arts –
* Funding – the Hub – more flexible than other funding sources – academic travel fund – support and feedback to create an application to go to open con conference -