**Notes from the Student Governors & Student Society Leaders Meeting**

Wednesday 16th September 2014, 12:30pm

Simcoe Hall Boardroom

**Present:**

Ben Coleman, Student Governor--Full-Time Art/Sci

Padraigin Murphy, Student Governor--Full-Time Professional Faculties

Susan Froom, Student Governor--Part Time Students

Yolen Bollo-Kamara, UTSU President

Danielle Sandhu, APUS Executive Director

Kriya Siewrattan, APUS President

Nickie Van Lier, GSU Internal Commissioner

**1. Discussion Items for Upcoming Meetings (Three Priorities)**

The members present decided that the following three items, chosen from the list created at the last meeting, would be discussed at upcoming meetings:

1. **Student Societies Summit and Student Commons**
2. **Joint Advocacy Efforts (provincial funding for PSE, International students representation and OHIP)**
3. **Accessibility on Campus (to education, housing, signage, ramps, washrooms, AODA, part-time student bursaries, etc.)**

Further notes on this debate can be found later in this document.

**2 Upcoming Meetings of Interest**

This Body--Student Society Leaders and Student Governors

Meetings will be on Wednesdays following Governing Council Meetings. If you have not done so already, please put the following dates in your calendar, for the time of 12-1:30pm:

Nov 5, Dec 17, Mar 4, Apr 8, May 27

Governing Council Board and Committees (Cycle 1)

Agendas for these meetings can be found at <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Governing_Council/bac/gc.htm> Select the relevant board or committee from the left-hand side and click "Meeting Agendas and Reports." Agendas are released one week before the meeting.

**Monday Sept 22,** **5pm**, Simcoe Hall Council Chamber: **Business Board** (Pension, Debt, Investments, Huron-Sussex Neighborhood Plan).

**Tuesday Sept 30, 4:30pm**, Simcoe Hall Council Chamber: **University Affairs Board** (Agenda TBD, Deadline for Speaking Requests: Sept 29 at 5pm).

**Thursday Oct 2, 4:10pm**, Simcoe Hall Council Chamber: **Academic Board** (Agenda TBD).

**Wednesday Oct 8, 4:10pm**, UTM Council Chamber: **UTM Campus Council** (Agenda TBD, but definitely contains a budget presentation).

**Thursday Oct 9, 4pm**, UTSC Council Chamber: **UTSC Campus Council** (Agenda TBD, but definitely contains a budget presentation).

**Thursday Oct 30, 4:30pm**, Simcoe Hall Council Chamber: **Governing Council** (Agenda TBD, Deadline for Speaking Requests: Oct 21 at 5pm, also happens to be the same day at the UTSU AGM).

**3 Action Items**

Members expressed a desire to see the following actions:

* A request at the next University Affairs Board by a governor for a report on the state of listserv use and mailing address access for Student Societies. This would be for the purpose of fulfilling their obligations under various regulatory acts and to ensure adequate communication with their members.
* Have a meeting set up between the Student Society Leaders and the U of T President, Governing Council Chair, and VP University Relations. This meeting would help fulfil priority 2, Joint Advocacy Efforts, and would be targeted towards issues where Student Societies and the University Admin have common goals and can benefit from coordinated advocacy.
* After the above-mentioned meeting, attempt to facilitate a meeting with the Minister of the MCTU (Reza Moridi), in order to advocate for the previously identified common issues.
* Meet with Han Dong, MPP for Trinity-Spadina, with a concurrent purpose to the above.
* Nearer the end of the year, address the lack of transparency surrounding the appointment process for co-opted board and committee members.

**4 Notes from the Debate For Three Priorities**

For reference, the list created at the last meeting is as follows, along with comments on each item.

1. **Access to student emails** 
   1. In addition to the reasons for this item listed in "Action Items" this was identified as important for student union autonomy.
2. **Student representation & transparency about processes**
   1. This was a low priority to be discussed, but there was a strong desire for action on the appointment of co-opted members, as can be seen above.
3. **Student societies summit & student commons**
   1. This was immediately identified as a high priority, to be discussed before meetings where relevant items are on the agenda.
4. **International students (fees, OHIP, Governing Council rep)** 
   1. Concerns were raised about whether services for graduate students would increase in proportion to planned enrollment growth.
   2. An issue was raised about the lack of fieldwork insurance for students working abroad, but in their country of citizenship.
5. **Accessibility on campus (to education, housing, signage, ramps, washrooms, AODA, part-time student bursaries, etc.)** 
   1. This item was identified as having a broad purpose that includes food and mental health, as well as many other aspects.
   2. GSU raised concerns about University requests for GSU investment in the upkeep and accessibility renovations of their current building without also being offered an ownership stake of some kind.
6. **Joint advocacy efforts (re: provincial funding for higher education)** 
   1. GSU highlighted a recent campaign which advocated for grad student funding to allow for incomes above the poverty line.
   2. This item and D were combined, as it was felt that they were all issues of government advocacy, and that representation for international students was linked to their use as a revenue source counterbalancing chronic underfunding.
   3. A specific idea for this item was to lobby for the extension of the "30% off" grant to mature students.

**5 Some Additional Comments on Lobbying**

I (Ben) went to an incredibly dull talk on Thursday where Meric Gertler talked about City-University symbiosis. It may interest you to know that he identified the following items as personal priorities:

* Improvement of transit and transportation quality, especially in collaboration with other Toronto Universities
* Increasing student engagement in Municipal elections
* Tracking the creation of Not-For-Profit ventures at U of T in a similar way that we track the creation of U of T-related for-profit businesses now, in order to promote the creation of social good as well as profitable research spinoffs.