

## **Student Affairs Committee (SAC) Report**

### **1. MEETING DATES IN 2022-2023**

The **Student Affairs** Committee met 3 times in 2023-2024.

**2023:** October 12<sup>th</sup>

**2024:** Jan 11<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup>

### **2. COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Composition**

##### **a. Voting Members:**

- i) Chair: Dean of Students
- ii) Registrar
- iii) Two (2) Academic Staff members, appointed by the Dean, Academic Programs
- iv) Three (3) Student Association representatives, appointed by the Students' Association
- v) Director, Learning and Instructional Services or designate
- vi) Director, Student Services & Wellness
- vii) Manager, Indigenous Initiatives

##### **b. Non-Voting Members:**

- i) Studio manager
- ii) Secretary, General Faculties Council

#### **Membership**

- Dr. Pablo Ortiz-Hernández, Committee Chair and Dean of Students
- Arif Ansari, Registrar
- Ghada Alatrash, Academic Staff Member
- Karl Geist, Academic Staff Member
- Michelle Housley, Associate Dean, Learning Innovation Resources
- Morgan Calenso, Students' Association Representative
- Quynn Covey, Students' Association Representative
- Juli Song, Students' Association Representative
- Kimberly Brocanier, Director, Student Services & Wellness
- Tara Niscak, Studio Manager
- Cherie Tutt, Secretary, General Faculties Council

#### **Meeting Resource**

- Colleen MacKell, ORAA Meeting Resource

### **3. ITEMS RECOMMENDED**

#### **SAC Governance Documents: Review of the Student Affairs Committee Terms of Reference (Oct. 2023)**

The Committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and reviewed a historical list of items that have moved through the Committee since its inception and overlapping authorities with other GFC Standing Committees. The Committee learned that it is being proposed the Terms of Reference be updated to shift the responsibility of the Committee and allow for more discussion of issues relating to student experience/success. The Committee discussed its membership and made recommendation to add a student from the MFA program and a resource member from facilities.

*Motion: That the Student Affairs Committee (SAC) recommend that the Steering Committee recommend that the General Faculties Council approve the revisions to the SAC Terms of Reference, with the requested amendments.*

### **4. ITEMS DISCUSSED/INFORMATION**

#### **New Student Orientation (Oct. 2023)**

The Committee received an overview of the Fall 2023 New Student Orientation. Learning that there were more than 350 registrations and attendees, and that engagement has improved from prior years.

#### **Open House (Oct. 2023)**

The Committee learned that the University's Open House will take place on October 28<sup>th</sup> and is an opportunity for prospective students to come and visit campus and explore educational opportunities. The morning will have activities hosted online and in-person including information sessions, and a panel discussion. The afternoon will see the Main Mall open for attendees to participate in campus tours, the Open Market, SAIT Residence tours, and more.

#### **Accessibility Services (Oct. 2023)**

The Committee learned that Accessibility Services are being accessed more than ever for students requiring academic accommodations. This year to date there has been a 57.89% increase in the number of accommodations: 114 students last year compared to 179 students this year. It was noted that this reveals students' needs but shows that they are comfortable asking for assistance, which is encouraging.

#### **Indigenous Pathways (Oct. 2023)**

It was reported to the Committee that the Indigenous Pathways document will be presented at the Board of Governors meeting in October and the General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting in November. The Indigenous Pathways for AUArts is a step towards truth and reconciliation. The document will not be static and is intended to evolve and be reassessed over time to determine the success of the pathway. This pathway was created with the help of the Elders Council and Indigenous students.

**Meeting Schedule (Oct. 2023)**

The Committee discussed the future meeting times. The goal is to reduce the schedule to respect the time of committee members. It was agreed that meetings will take place in mid-October, late November, early/mid-February, late March, and May.

**Lodgepole Centre Updates: Indigenous Pathways, Indigenous Student Mentorship Program (Jan. 2024)**

The Committee received an update that the Indigenous Pathways development is finished and there will be a community event on March 13 to launch it, including the unveiling of the new land acknowledgement. Other initiatives in the Lodgepole Centre include relaunching the Indigenous student mentorship program, a temporary gallery, and land-based yoga.

**Student Community Pantry Report/Students' Association Update (Jan. 2024)**

It was reported that the Food Pantry is going well, and the Students' Association is continuing to explore launching the food pantry refrigerator. Other initiatives include a book giveaway, hide and seek, free breakfasts, a dance party and Show+Sale. The Committee discussed the idea of having a food drive, and that it might be good to associate the timing of a drive with the next Gallery Crawl. The Committee also discussed the winter clothing drive and demand.

**Student Accommodation and Accessibility (Jan. 2024)**

The Committee received a report on the number of registered disability numbers in the accommodate system, noting the continuing upward trend from Fall to Winter term is consistent across post-secondaries. The Committee discussed challenges and barriers to accessing services, that seeing a spike in services can be viewed as positive in demonstrating that students are feeling comfortable disclosing and utilizing the service, and complexity with the needs of the student, with many students have layers of assistance needed.

**Multifaith Room (Mar. 2024)**

It was reported that a temporary Multi-Faith room is now open for students on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, until the permanent space in the learning commons opens. This space is available for students, staff, and faculty for quiet reflection, meditation, and prayer. It contains large area rugs, cushions, two writing areas and two Bluetooth speakers that are available for use.

**UPASS Update (Mar. 2024)**

The Committee learned that the contract with UPass ended years ago and has since been extended on a year-by-year basis. Negotiations are ongoing for next year and no major changes are anticipated with Fall 2024 rates remaining the same and increases in 2025.

**New Student Conduct Policies and Procedures (Mar. 2024)**

The Committee learned that the current Student Conduct Policies and Procedures are difficult to navigate and hard to understand and have both academic and content in the same document. Under the New Student Conduct Policies and Procedures, academic conduct and non-academic conduct will be split into two separate policy suites. The Committee then reviewed both the new Student Academic Integrity Policy and Academic Misconduct Procedure and the Student Conduct Policy and Non-Academic Misconduct Procedure. The Committee suggested updates to language to further improve clarity and discussed how these documents would interact with other incident reporting and policy. It was agreed that the intersections would be further examined to ensure clarity of process for the community.

**Submitted by:** Dr. Pablo Ortiz-Hernández, Chair  
Student Affairs Committee