

MINUTES

May 17, 2021

3:00 – 5:00 PM

Present: Phil Warsaba, Chair, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President, Students
Brian Nichols, Academic Staff Member - Arts
Cynthia Gallop, Academic Staff Member - Teaching and Learning
Denise Chenger, Academic Staff Member - Business and Communication Studies
Marty Clark, Academic Staff Member - Health, Community and Education
Melanie Rathburn, Academic Staff Member - Science and Technology
Michelle LoGullo, MRSA President, Ex Officio
Sara Sharun, Academic Staff Member - University Library
Steve Kootenay-Jobin, Iniskim Centre Representative
Yasmin Ahmed, Student Representative
Joseph Nguyen, Student Representative
Geri Lynn Gouglas, Registrar (Registrarial Designate)
Rebecca Bowman, Designate for Executive Director, Development (Resource)
Angela Spinner, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Sarah Micho, Student Representative
Meagan Bowler, Deans' Council Representative
Patricia Pardo, Student Affairs Representative

1.0 Approval of the Agenda for May 17, 2021

Moved by Michelle/Steve

THAT the Student Affairs Committee approve the May 17, 2021 agenda as distributed.

Carried.

2.0 Approval of the Student Affairs Committee Minutes for April 19, 2021 [attachment]

Moved by Marty/Sara

THAT the Student Affairs Committee approve the April 19, 2021 minutes as distributed.

Carried.

3.0 Business Arising from the Student Affairs Committee Minutes of April 19, 2021

3.1 Administration of the Agnes Cooke Bursary in Nursing [attachment]

The Chair reminded the committee that the criteria for this award includes a preference for the award to be disbursed to a Black student. The Registrar and her team in Student Awards and Financial Aid have contacted other institutions to gain insight into the administration of this type of award.

The Registrar stated that information pertaining to race is not currently being collected in the awards system and the awards application would need to be modified in order to comply with the approved award criteria. The Chair noted that any information collected

about race would need to be exclusively used for awards and not be stored in other related systems.

The Registrar reviewed the document submitted to the committee on how other PSIs were managing awards with race criteria.

The committee was in favour of the manner in which McMaster collects information about racialized populations. It was noted that McMaster's process is aligned with Statistics Canada terminology. It was also recognized that whatever listing is developed for MRU would need to be reviewed annually for changes.

The Chair recommended that the awards application be modified to mirror the McMaster question set for the 2022/23 application cycle. The committee requested that self-identified Indigenous be moved to the top of the listing and that a category for non-Canadian indigenous students also be created.

3.2 Application Fee for Indigenous students

At this time, the current process for application fees will not be changed, as students have been applying since last fall.

The current process for an Indigenous student who is unable to pay the application fee is to complete a paper application and for the waiving of the fee to be granted on an exceptional basis. Because applications to MRU are tied to APAS, waiving the application fee for entire groups of students would require all eligible students to submit paper applications. This would be a labour intensive process that would not be advantageous for most students. Ongoing discussions of fee waiver would need to consider existing electronic systems in order for the proposed solutions to be feasible. In addition, waiving the fee for a large number of students would inevitably require increases to the application fee for all other students.

The representative from Iniskim views the current application process as a potential barrier for some students. A recommended option would be to consider engaging with a donor to fund the application fee. Other potential barriers identified include receipt of transcripts from Indigenous schools and deposits for registration and tuition. The Chair noted that these are all related issues but that solutions would need to be considered for the component parts. The Chair will meet with the Iniskim representative as well as the Director of the Iniskim Centre to determine if there are procedural changes that could be explored by this committee.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Draft of Annual Report 2020/2021 [attachment]

There were no adjustments to the draft report that were recommended.

4.2 Review Student Affairs Committee Charter [attachment]

At this time, the committee is not in a position to put a formal recommendation forward for changes by May 19. However, the Chair would like to propose that GFC formally delegate specific responsibilities to this committee by GFC. Other charter items to explore more fully in the new academic year include:

- Editorial corrections to titles.
- Explicit identification of policies that relate to this committee's operations.
- Further definition of the "student experience" and the inclusion of associated responsibilities.

5.0 Adjournment

The Chair thanked members for the work they have put into the first year of this committee and for their commitment to student-centredness.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.