

Innis College Council

Student Affairs Board

Thursday 11 April at 10:30 am

Innis College, Room 313, East Wing

Minutes

Present: Donald Boere (assessor), Jannie Chien, Andrew Choi, Dianthi Fernando, Lucas Granger, Didier Ha, Charlie Keil, Stephanie Kroone, Daniel Li, Brandon Liu, Steve Masse, Tony Pi, Daniela Pirraglia, Ashlee Redmond, Ben Weststrate, Paxton Wong, Nancy Zhao

Regrets: Elspeth Arbow, Denise Gray (assessor), Joyce Hahn (assessor), Ethan Kim, Annie Liu, Joanne Uyede

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2019

[Click here to view Minutes](#)

A motion to approve the minutes was moved (Pirraglia), seconded (Li), and carried.

2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None reported.

3. ICSS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brandon Liu, ICSS President, reported:

- ICSS elections took place and there was a 40% increase in turnout from last year.
- Innis Bang took place and was a success.
- The Orientation Coordinators have been selected and they are Paul Kaita, Michelle Zhang.
- Liu has had his transition meeting with Nancy Zhao, the incoming ICSS President.
- The ICSS is planning to reach out to incoming first years through mailing lists and a video to encourage them not to opt out of the ICSS fee.

Principal Keil asked if there would be different prices for students who had opted in and those who

had not. Liu responded that it would be an ongoing discussion for next year's executive to discuss—there are upsides and downsides. Kroone expressed that it would be unfair for students who did not opt in to receive a subsidized rate.

Boere mentioned that U of T IT is in the process of building the system for opting in to fees. Masse raised the issue of whether that information is shareable to student groups, especially for groups who constitutionally define membership based on fee payment. Ha suggested the possibility of getting a scanner to scan T-Cards and having a digital list. Boere suggested he reach out to Josh Haass.

Redmond asked if the ICSS intends to narrow membership to just fee-paying members. Liu responded that the ICSS would be playing wait and see. It depends on how many people opt in. The ICSS' annual general meeting is taking place in the winter semester so there is time to figure it out and make that decision later.

Masse reminded members that students opt out of fees for various legitimate reasons, not just because they do not want to participate or see no value in the organization.

Granger raised concerns about whether non-paying students can run in elections. Kroone expressed her opposition to barring non-paying students from running. Redmond noted that the ICSS is not allowed to fund bursaries.

Redmond asked Liu if anything had come out of the St. George Roundtable. Liu said that the Roundtable had tried classifying fees as either essential or non-essential, but had given up on the issue due to a lack of clarity and information provided by the government. He also noted that the Roundtable has not met in a while. Liu also noted the limited capacities of the Roundtable, saying that it "did not do much" and is "more of a support group for the presidents."

Weststrate noted that the ICSS held a mental health forum on March 29th and that Annie Liu would be presenting about the forum to the full council.

4. IRC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Daniel Li, IRC President, reported:

- The IRC election has concluded. The results are as follows:
 - President – Josie Meza-Silva
 - Vice-President – Claire Hsiung
 - Secretary – Janet Cho
 - Treasurer – Becky Mai

- Social Convener – Shivani Baldeo
- The IRC has also given out its annual awards to the following recipients:
 - Tim Worgan Award – Evelyn Kodis
 - President's Choice Award – Josh Staynor and Jeremy Sharapov
 - Cinnamon Bun Award – Janet Cho
 - Residence Emerging Leader – Mukti Patel
- The IRC has been looking into getting its own vending machine. There have been issues with expiry dates and the vending machine taking people's money without giving them any snacks.

Principal Keil asked Li about the St. George-Sussex crosswalk petition. Li said that the petition will be mostly on hold over the summer since the main organizers will be in separate locations over the summer. Li will be doing more research over the summer. Granger reported that Mike Layton has raised the possibility of installing crossing lights.

5. OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE REPORT

Steve Masse, Dean of Students, reported:

- ICSS Levy Referendum – The referendum held by the ICSS in support of the College expansion project was successful. Congratulations to the ICSS and our student ambassadors! My team will continue to work alongside the ICSS as the referendum results progress through governance in the coming months. The request will be tabled at the next University Affairs Board meeting on April 29. In the meantime, Charlie, Joyce, Brandon, and I are developing a memorandum of understanding to govern how these student fees will be collected and managed beginning in the Fall term.
- Mental Health Forums – Student forums were held by the ICSS on March 21 and 29 to discuss mental health reform at U of T. I attended both discussions and was heartened by the concern and thoughtfulness conveyed by many of the participants. I have contacted the organizers of the forum and we are in the midst of scheduling an opportunity to discuss their priorities more fully. I am confident that working together, we will be able to advance shared priorities with respect to additional mental health training for students, staff, and faculty, a peer support program, and increasing awareness of mental health resources both on and off campus.

- Orientation – The Orientation MOU between the College and ICSS was reviewed with the OCs and ICSS earlier this year. Although the agreement worked well, a few minor changes were made to further streamline and improve how we work together. One change of note is the establishment of an Orientation Board – an advisory group composed of the President and Executive Vice-President of the ICSS, the President of the IRC, the Principal, and a number of staff from representative areas at the College including the OSL, the Registrar’s office, Library and so on. It is our shared hope that this will improve communication across the College and help identify additional opportunities for collaboration. I am also happy to share that this year’s Orientation Coordinators are Michelle Zhang and Paul Kaita and we very much look forward to working with them over the coming months.
- Pre-Arrival Orientation Program in Shanghai – In the last couple of months, Charlie and I have had preliminary discussions about the development of a pre-arrival orientation program for Chinese international students that would take place abroad in Shanghai. Next week, we will be hosting a focus group to gather feedback from students about the information and preparation they wish they had received prior to beginning their studies at U of T.
- Student Choice Initiative & Student Society Fees – The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has recently released the Ancillary Fee Guidelines that outline the classification framework defining essential versus non-essential ancillary fees. The Office of the Vice-Provost Students continues to lead discussions about the classification framework and impacts to the fees collected by U of T student societies. Tomorrow, a tri-campus meeting of Deans and Directors is taking place with the OVPS and I hope to have more concrete information to share afterward.

Principal Keil noted that their partner in China was a private entrepreneur. The goal of this program would be to have Chinese international students more open to engage with the Innis community upon arriving at U of T.

Granger expressed concerns about maintaining a 24-hour front desk if the residence were to remain open over the break. Masse responded that there was not yet a specific solution in mind, but was confident that with the right incentives a solution could be found.

Li thanked Masse for coming up with the idea of the residence forums.

6. RESIDENCE LIFE REPORT

Steve Masse, Dean of Students, reported:

- Residence Forums – This year, my team and I introduced and held three residence forums for students to bring forth new ideas, suggestions, and concerns about facilities, programs and policies at the residence. As a result of student feedback, we have made changes to our guest policy, improvements to the quality and availability of cleaning equipment, and, after a review of waste management by the Environmental Committee, have begun to contemplate ways to expand and enhance our waste reduction efforts. Students reported that they appreciated the opportunity to have these discussions so we will be looking to continue these discussions next year as well.
- Residence & the Winter Break – In our continued efforts to improve the international student experience at the College, I have asked my team to explore the feasibility of keeping the residence open during the winter break. There are a number of financial, structural, and human resource challenges associated with doing so, but I am committed to examining each of them to determine if/how they can be overcome. I expect to be able to report back on my findings in the fall.

7. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE REPORT

Boere asked for feedback on the First Year Foundations (FYF) web page sent prior to the meeting. Li suggested that Innis FYF courses be differentiated more clearly from other first-year seminars. Principal Keil asked Boere if there was an assumption that students would be asking the Registrar's Office about this. Boere said no, and that the Office would be sending many emails to incoming students about FYF.

Principal Keil noted that website redesign has been a priority for him and that he has expressed to the CAO that it is an action item for the upcoming year. There was discussion about upcoming student consultations about the website.

Wrobel suggested that website avoid negative words like "never." Wrobel also wanted it be made clear to incoming students that FYF courses are half-year courses, not just "half courses."

Masse asked if there could be more details about how Innis College would be able to support these students (e.g., library resources).

Redmond suggested that it should be emphasized in the title of the page that these courses are specifically at Innis College.

8. RECRUITMENT, ADMISSIONS, AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (RAAC) REPORT

RAAC will meet in early May to decide awards.

9. STUDENT SERVICE COMMITTEE (SSC) REPORT

Weststrate said he will update SAB members who were not present at the SSC meeting.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Principal Keil asked whether the upcoming consultation on the new build should be held in the morning or afternoon. Student members expressed that the afternoon would be preferable.

11. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to adjourn was moved (Zhao), seconded (Ha), and carried.