

## TGSA Referendum Town Hall Minutes

**Date:** January 12, 2017

**Time and Place:** 5 – 6:56 pm in Emmanuel College (Room 119).

**Hosts:** TGSA Referendum Committee

**Moderator:** Trent Voth

**Secretary:** Carla Marcoccia

**Guests:** Student Services Representatives (AVP, Hart House, KPE)

### 1) Agenda and Information

#### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Why we're voting
3. What we are NOT voting on
4. What services we ARE voting on
5. Cost
6. Q&A – either for guests from the U of T or for the Referendum Committee
7. No representative presentation
8. Yes representative presentation
9. Clarification of voting process
10. Q&A – Round Two
11. Thanks & Adjournment

#### Q&A Protocol

- There is a limit of two questions, per person, on any one given issue
- Precedence will be given to participants who have not yet spoken
- Questions are to be directed to the panel
- The moderator is empowered to redirect or halt discussion at any time

### 2) Q&A Round One: 5:20 pm – 5:35 pm

#### 1. Question (Becca): 5:20 pm

How would fees work if you take summer courses?

**Answer (Lucy):** Summer is part time status and fees; any session you are enrolled in you pay fees. If you are registered in the summer but not taking any courses you have access to Student Life services without fees and can take an optional pro-rated health membership at Hart House or at KPE.

#### 2. Question (Michael): 5:23 pm

The discounted rate at Hart House is not longer applicable. Can non-conjoint students from other schools (i.e. TST colleges) receive a discount at U of T?

**Answer (John):** He will look into this; he has not dealt with this before and will have a look at it.

**3. Question (Becca): 5:25 pm**

Clarification on conjoint students.

**Answer:** Conjoint is UofT and the College they are registered in.

**4. Question (Becca) 5:25 pm**

Impact on UHIP fees?

**Answer:** International students pay UHIP. Every student pays the same student fee; this referendum has no impact on UHIP.

**5. Question (Matthew): 5:26 pm**

What are the fees and eligibility for grad students with regards to athletics?

**Answer:** Grad students can and do play on varsity teams, if they are full time students. CIS sports have limits with regards to certain years of eligibility. This is not a category in fees.

**6. Question (Matthew): 5:28 pm**

Are services paid entirely through fees or do they receive funding from colleges?

**Answer (Lucy):** Auxiliary services for UofT students are paid for 100% by fees; some aspects of an office's portfolio are not covered by student fees (e.g. in the Aboriginal house a recruiting officer is not funded by fees because they are not a student facing).

Athletics: student fees covered/ fundraising.

Hart House: the budget is unique at UofT for Hart House, under 1/2 the budget generated is from external memberships (48%).

**7. Question (Robyn): 5:32 pm**

Clarification for athletics, if you played in undergraduate varsity for four years are you eligible to play in a second undergraduate program?

**Answer:** As long as you haven't surpassed your eligibility in that sport, yes.

**8. Question (Michael): 5:33 pm**

Are federated colleges not paying for auxiliary fees?

**Answer:** the 265 conjoint students are the only students who carry the UofT student status without paying auxiliary fees (TST advanced degree students). Fees and services are 100% in or out.

**9. Question (Becca): 5:35 pm**

Can Trinity students use the multi-faith center (MFC)?

**Answer:** The MFC is 100% auxiliary fees. Chaplains who participate in MFC participate through auxiliary fees when they have sponsored events they host. Students must pay.

**10. Question (Matthew) 5:37 pm**

If the Chaplain employed by Trinity is supporting programs (monetarily) are TGSA students eligible to attend such events if they are held at MFC?

**Answer:** If the chaplain is hosting and spending personal funds on an event that is their prerogative. If an event is hosted through the MFC then it is paid for by auxiliary fees. The chaplain's money isn't transferred. MFC is 100% student fee supported and run on an honor system: access if you pay student fees.

**11. Question (Becca): 5:40 pm**

How does it work when there is federated institution partnering, for example, counseling at Trinity is funded by a donation.

**Answer:** Fees go through the clinic because of shared care model. Wellness counselors are supported by doctors and refer students who need higher-level care not available in the clinic. Note: ambiguities on both sides.

**12. Question (Emma): 5:45 pm**

If voted yes, when do the fees and access to services start?

**Answer (Lucy):** Access to services would begin May 1, 2017. TGSA students would see their first fees charged in September 2017.

**3) No Representative Presentation (Matthew Bowman): 5:46 pm**

Under the old system part time students after course work was complete would pay less, under the new system full time students pay all fees that you may not be able to access.

TGSA hasn't investigated enough (access to health center, aboriginal student services), undergraduate and graduate accessibility to sports.

On paper, representation for UTSU: would it effectively represent grad students?

There is no mechanism to voice increases except for undergraduate UTSU reps.

Paying fees would contribute to the escalating cost of graduate student fees; education is less affordable.

We do not have the same access to funds and admin doesn't want to talk about it.

With regards to health clinic: haven't investigated enough about access to the health clinic.

Time line is rushed to go forward.

Questions remain, such as the MFC (partially paid for by Colleges, no access).

Concerned to say yes with the lasting implications of paying fees without investigating avenues to get what you want without paying fees.

**4) Yes Representative presentation (Robyn Boere): 5:53 pm**

Enjoyed having access to athletic spaces and theatres throughout her undergraduate and graduate programs, she has had to change her routine without access to student facilities.

3 areas: Hart House, athletics and student life.

Access to (to name a few): intermural, drop in fitness classes (which are expensive in the city at gyms), women only athletic classes and swimming pools, athletic spaces, 3 pools, personal training at a reduced price, 2 tracks....

Student life is not just athletics, there is massage Mondays at Hart house, chess club, debate teams, academic space, Hart House, art classes, photography classes, career

center, first nations center, job access, academic success center, housing services, MFC, and the family learning center.

With regards to residency on campus, it is required and the career center and mental health help is available online services.

There is student representation: it is student run and student chair.

This allows equal access for all students, it opens up thousands of dollars per year of services and you save on access fees (for example, Hart House is \$800/year for a membership, student fee is less than that with full access to student services).

Allows colleagues to access what they might need and can't afford otherwise.

## **5) Q&A Round Two: 6:10 pm – 6:55 pm**

### **1. Question (Emma): 6:10 pm**

How can we get the word out?

**Answer (Allison):** brief announcements at classes and social media as long as the information is factually accurate and not abusive.

### **2. Comment (Michael): 6:12 pm**

Commented on the town halls format, the arguments as being very well done. He hopes to present them at Wycliffe's lunch series where both Matthew and Robyn can come in and say their parts.

### **3. Suggestion (Fiona): 6:13 pm**

Create a video of the For and Against arguments and post it on social media for awareness.

### **4. Question (Becca): 6:13 pm**

Have we received any answers with regards to Schedule B?

**Answer (Allison):** Majority of the board believes there is sufficient evidence to move forward.

Becca commented the website was updated after the approval letter and Schedule B wasn't fixed/changed. Worried that if conjoint students are voting but are not Schedule B students they should not vote and if they do they will have to vote again. Allison responded that it can be sent in to be ratified.

Becca also questioned who is allowed to vote after the fact? How does it address the issue?

Michael commented that if the vote is for all conjoint students- disenfranchised are non-conjoint, then it would make sense they will not receive the benefits. Make people vote.

Fiona commented that the voting process takes place online and only conjoint students vote on acorn so if they can login they are seen as conjoint students.

Becca is worried that MOA doesn't say conjoint students.

Matthew commented on the MOA eligibility.

Becca is concerned if TGSA is to advocate for students how does that work with the mandate?

Allison commented that TGSA advocates for the needs of students and operates on wider campus; there is a grassroots demand for services.

Matthew asked to refer to the constitution.

Michael noted there is a constitution and policy and procedure because it is difficult to change the construction so there is more added to the policy and procedures. Robyn also mentioned the province's requirements. Becca asked about changing policy. Allison noted it is possible, but not this term.

**5. Question (Matthew): 6:30 pm**

Trinity is the exception, but why TGSA and not individual Colleges?

**Answer (Michael):** Colleges do not decide the fees, TST is central.

Becca is concerned with the process of TST wary of the language not being explicit.

Michael noted grad students did pay fees, but they opted out.

Matthew said he spoke with David and in the past students only paid tuition fees and the money was dispersed accordingly. He also noted you can't opt out of fees; UofT would have to agree for students to stop paying fees, there is no legal protection once fees are paid.

Robyn commented on minutiae, do not do minutia it enables us to do so. The referendum is trying to do both.

Beca asked if UofT could address this? Are students double paying any way?

Michael noted students are also not paying on certain things, for example the career center gives presentations at his college.

Matthew is worried we are giving money for clarity.

**6. Question (Becca): 6:44 pm**

Why did Hart House stop giving discounts?

Michael commented that it couldn't be reasonable to suggest members will get a better deal.

Matthew noted the change of language in the UofT MOA.

**7. Question (Becca): 6:51 pm**

What do students want from the fees?

**Answer (Allison and Robyn):** generally, students are seeking resources for mental health services on campus, center for international students ad career services.

Athletics, community fees as solidarity with the university.

**8. Comment (Michael): 6:55 pm**

Thanked everyone for the experience.

**6) Adjournment: 6:56 pm**