

**STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE OF SENATE**

October 24, 2018

Minutes of the Student Success Committee of Senate held in TRUSU Boardroom

Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops, B.C., commencing at 2:00 p.m.

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| **ATTENDANCE:** | |
| **Chair** | Chris Adam (Interim) |
| **Recorder** | Nicola Forbes |
| **Attendees** | Tanvir Alam, Aria Appleton, Michael Bluhm, John Churchley, Dorys Crespin-Mueller, Judy Duchscher, Nasif Ekbal Ridoy, Samira Keivanpour, Paola Lopez, Anthea Mafasitera, Tina Matthew (representing Paul Michel), Arlene Olynyk, Alison Dunn (representing Don Poirier), Dipesh Prema, Marie Aimee Uwaimana Rutayirsire, Julia Wells |
| **Regrets** | Raqhav Arora, Kathy Gaynor, Carolyn Ives |
| **Absent** | Catherine Dishke-Hondzel, Archie Gupta |

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| **HEADING** | **ITEM / DISCUSSION** | **ACTION** |
| **CALL TO ORDER** | The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm |  |
| **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** | Motion to adopt the agenda;  M. Bluhm, Seconded by D. Crespin-Mueller  Motion seconded & Adopted. |  |
| **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** | None |  |
| **INTRODUCTIONS** | C. Adam started a round of introductions from all attendees.  C. Adam also gave a quick overview of the TRUSU Student Caucus and its role of giving students a means of sharing what is happening on campus. |  |
| **NEW BUSINESS** | 1. Overview of the role of the committee   Chris noted that there previously was a committee at TRU called the Student Engagement Committee. Approximately 4 years ago it fell into non-activity as there was no Chair.  C. Adam gave an overview of the University’s accreditation process as some context for the purpose of restarting this committee. The University is seeking accreditation from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and has identified four core themes, of which three already had active committees for activities to be reported to Senate:   * Student Success * Research (Research Committee) * Sustainability (Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee) * Intercultural Understanding (International Affairs Committee & First Nations Aboriginal Affairs Committee)   C. Adam gave an overview of the responsibilities of the committee as outlined in the Terms of Reference, which were recently revised and approved by Senate.  C. Adam answered a question regarding the Sharepoint site location and gave a quick demonstration on how to navigate to the site.   1. NWCCU Accreditation (Chris)   M. Bluhm spoke about the accreditation process and The University is approximately 4 years into a 7 year process which requires the Institution and the Commission to have back and forth conversations and reporting on the University establishing goals and establishing what TRU’s Institutional mission is, self-assessing on the goals and what is being done to achieve these goals and fulfill the mission.  M. Bluhm spoke about the ‘Student Success Objectives Model – with indicators’ document (to be shared on Sharepoint) and Student Success being one of the core themes. The core theme team wanted to articulate ‘What do we mean by Student Success’ and ‘What are the components of Student Success that we have control over or influence on and how do we approach these’.  The team articulated three objectives and outcomes. The objective is “TRU will provide…’ and the outcome is “TRU Students will access…”. The indicators will show if this has been successful - various surveys (NSSE – *National Survey of Student Engagement* and CUSC – *Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium*) and also enrollment data.  C. Adam spoke about the core theme team asking themselves what success looks like. Three different things were decided on for objectives:  1. Access to a flexible, open education.  2. Experience and engagement within the program, both inside and outside the classroom – used the definition of Student Engagement from what was then the Centre for Student Engagement and Learning Innovation.  3. Students leaving university and engaging in civic life, getting employment etc.  D. Crespin-Mueller gave an overview of the typical surveys used for collecting data for Student Success/Student Engagement.  NSSE (*National Survey of Student Engagement)* is aninternationally known tool for measuring student engagement via ten indicators based on student behavior and their interaction with the institution i.e. how long they spend doing certain activities, do they work on campus, do they study on campus, connections with faculty etc.  The institution participates in this survey every three years. There is a core set of questions plus a couple of extra modules; one is for Advising – the team saw this as an important measure for student satisfaction for their ease of access to study and programs.  CUSC *(Canadian University Survey Consortium)* looks more at usage and satisfaction of services.  M. Bluhm gave an overview of the enrollment data that is used as a measure for student success. It’s a reflection of how many students access what we provide, and how many stay.   * Overall conversion rate – e.g. if 100 students apply, 50 receive an offer and accept it that equals a 50% conversion rate. Gives an indicator of student interest in the University’s programs/courses. * Retention – how many students arrived on day 1, and how many came back (from September one year, to September the next year).     C. Adam advised that at the start the team had thirty different indicators and had to reduce it down to a smaller number.  C. Adam explained how the people who administer NSSE looked at schools who did well on the survey and identified what they call HIPs *(High Impact Practices e.g. participating in study abroad, internships, co-op, capstone projects, undergraduate research, learning communities, extra-curricular involvement etc.)* that engage students. Enrollment and participation in these HIPs is included when looking at NSSE results. The team decided to not look at grades as an indicator.  Additional indicator/NSSE module relate to:   * Civic engagement. *E.g.* *I feel equipped to participate in a community meeting. I feel prepared to vote in an election.* * Graduates employment outcomes from student outcomes survey results – percentage of graduate students who are employed and are using what they learned in their studies.   Question from committee member: *What is the difference between co-curricular vs curricular?*  Answer from C. Adam: *Curricular is within the curriculum of the program/the course framework. Co-curricular is e.g. club involvement, sitting on a committee, being a tutor – not receiving credit for it.*  M. Bluhm reiterated that the objectives and indicators are not carved in stone. Each year they are re-evaluated and can be adjusted.  J. Churchley commented that it can be easy to get mired in data and reports - student success is part of University’s strategic plan; it is important because it is.   1. Election of Chair – C. Adam advised that in the past Chairship has been for a 2 year term. Faculty or other member can put forward their name, or be nominated by someone else. Thoughts to be brought to the next committee meeting. | N. Forbes to follow-up with an email to the Committee with a link to the Student Success Sharepoint site. |
| **OTHER BUSINESS** | None |  |

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| **NEXT MEETING** | November 28, 2018 at 2:00pm  Location: TRUSU Boardroom |  |
| **ADJOURNMENT** | Motion to adjourn the meeting;  C. Adam, seconded by D. Crespin-Mueller at 2:53pm |  |