

**ANNUAL
REPORT OF
THE
STUDENT AFFAIRS AND UNIVERSITY LIFE
COUNCIL FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020**

**Presented at the
799th Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
November 12, 2020**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

**Amer Ahmed
Allison Butler
Carol Barr
Seth Cable
Qian-Yong Chen
Marcy Clark
Alexandrina Deschamps
Rachel Ellis
Julia Fox
Peter Graham
Laura Hancock
Yashika Issrani
Ruth Jennison
John F. Kennedy
Ezekiel Kimball
Erin Lamoureux
Adam Lechowicz
Sara Littlecrow Russell
Rachel Mordecai
MJ Peterson
Jordana Rosenberg
Ofer Sharone
Tamar Stollman
Annette Vadnais, Chair**

Members: Faculty Representatives: Amer Ahmed (TEFD), Allison Butler (Communication/SBS), Seth Cable (Linguistics), Qian-Yong Chen (Math), Alexandrina Deschamps (WGSS), Peter Graham (Philosophy), Ezekiel Kimball, (Education), Erin Lamoureux (Nursing), Rachel Mordecai (English), Jordana Rosenberg (English), Ofer Sharone (Sociology), Annette Vadnais (Libraries), MJ Peterson (Faculty Senate Secretary or designee)

Student Representatives: Rachel Ellis, Julia Fox, Yashika Issrani, Adam Lechowicz, Tamar Stollman (Undergraduate Students); Laura Hancock (Graduate Student)

Administration Representatives: Carol Barr (Provost or designee), Nancy Buffone (Vice Chancellor for University Relations), Marcy Roe Clark (Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life or designee)

Summary of Council Responsibilities: The Student Affairs and University Life Council provides advice to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life (and other members of the administration as appropriate) and provides formal recommendations to the Faculty Senate regarding motions related to: (i) residence hall policies; (ii) disciplinary policies; (iii) placement and recruitment policies; (iv) legal rights of members of the University community; (v) matters relating to picketing and free speech; and (vi) other matters related to the non-academic experiences of students.

Issues discussed included:

- Reviewed council charge and made changes that were approved by the council and will be brought forward to the Faculty Senate for review and approval in Fall 2020. Changes made were to add another graduate student representative, updated membership to reflect title changes, and removal of letter c.
- Graduate Student Housing Rebuild. The council spent time discussing the plans to demolish Graduate Student Housing (Lincoln and North Village Apartments). There was much concern by graduate students about this plan. There was confusion about why graduate students did not hear about the plan sooner and were not included in the process. Council members were also concerned about the plan, the timing, and the costs for students.
- Census and voting in 2020. An undergrad student representative from SGA prepared a presentation to the council and spoke about census and voting for 2020. They showed why students should participate in the census and how federal funds are allocated. They highlighted census facts and misconceptions. They also addressed the concerns some students may have about filling out the census. They listed all of the SGA initiatives they had planned to encourage students to fill out the census and vote.
- Increasing cost of college for students. As a council we have concerns about the rising costs of college for students. This is a large concern for students and members of the council, we plan to continue our conversation as a council on this topic in Fall 2020.
- COVID19. The pandemic started in the middle of our Spring 2020 meeting schedule. We discussed as a council our concern for students as they transitioned into remote learning after spring break. Members were concerned about thier student's health and wellbeing. Some of the things mentioned was the diffuculty for families to support them financially, missing the structure of in person classes, workload, etc. To help students, the Bursar's Office would not be putting any holds on any students' records due to failure to pay.

- **COVID19 and Graduate Students.** A survey from GSS was distributed to graduate students. From the results it highlighted some of the issues faced by graduate students.

Some lost their hourly positions that were not protected by the graduate union contracts. They were worried about larger workloads due to their TA work, and having to move classes to remote. A big issue highlighted was communication to the entire graduate student community. Many heard from their departments, but some were getting either wrong or no information.

- **Commencement 2020.** We discussed the plan for commencement 2020 as it did not look like a physical celebration would be possible. The council talked about the desire of campus to celebrate the class of 2020 and discussed different plans. We also brought up some of the concerns and logistics that needed to be worked out, depending on the different possible scenarios. In the senior survey OAPA added two questions about a future commencement.

**Respectfully submitted,
Annette Vadnais
Chair, Student Affairs and University Life Council**