



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING PACKAGE
Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto
(APUS)

April 23, 2021
5:30pm
Meeting #8
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Board of Directors' Meeting #8

Dear Directors of the Board,

The following package includes all the relevant documents in anticipation of the next APUS Board of Directors' Meeting to be held on **April 23 at 5:30 pm** online via Zoom.

Included in this package:

- I. Agenda (page 3)
- II. Minutes Package (page 4-8)
- III. APUS Revised Operating Budget 2020-2021 (attached in PDF)

Please feel free to forward any question or concerns via email to me directly.

Sincerely,

Jaime Kearns
President
Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto (APUS)
Local 97 of the Canadian Federation of Students
president@apus.ca

I. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions and Access Needs

3. Land Acknowledgement

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION Moved: Marashi Seconded: Wong

Be it resolved that the meeting agenda for Board of Directors meeting #8 be adopted as presented.

5. Approval of Minutes

MOTION Moved: Coggon Seconded: Kearns

Be it resolved that the minutes' package be approved as presented.

- a. Board of Directors Meeting #7 – April 9, 2021

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Executive Updates

8. APUS Revised Operating Budget 2020-2021

MOTION Moved: Froom Seconded: Kearns

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors approve the Revised Operating Budget 2020-2021, as proposed in the addendum; and

Be it further resolved that the Board cause a copy of the Revised Operating Budget 2020-2021 to be sent to the General Meeting for confirmation.

9. Items for consideration by 2021-2022 Board of Directors

10. Adjournment

a) Board of Directors Meeting #7 Minutes – April 9, 2021

In attendance: Dianne Acuna, Annie Antonenko, Jennifer Coggon, Shanti Dhoré, Susan Froom, Jaime Kearns, Samuel Wong

Speaker: Nadia Kanani

Staff: Julian Oliveira

I. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Call to order at 5:46 p.m.

2. Introductions and Access Needs

Kanani facilitates introductions and notes that a break will happen at 6:30 p.m. Everyone shares their name, pronouns, position, and access needs.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Kanani reads the land acknowledgement written by Kearns.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION Moved: Wong Seconded: Kearns

Be it resolved that the meeting agenda for Board of Directors meeting #7 be adopted as presented.

The motion carries.

5. Approval of Minutes

MOTION Moved: Coggon Seconded: Kearns

Be it resolved that the minutes' package be approved as presented.

b. Board of Directors Meeting #6 – February 26, 2021

The motion carries.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7. Executive Updates

Kearns provides updates from the President portfolio. Kearns begins by noting that APUS just had its final drumming session for the Winter 2021 semester. Kearns then states that over the last couple weeks she has attended Executive Committee meetings and an Office of the Vice-Provost, Students (OVPS) meeting. At OVPS, the Executive Committee spoke about mental health, specifically in

regards to the University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy (UMLAP). The administration has provided an extension for UMLAP feedback into Fall 2021. Kearns also attended the appeal for the Student Choice Initiative (SCI) and attended a Council of Athletics and Recreation (CAR) meeting.

Coggon notes that Kearns made some very good points about UMLAP at OVPS around the importance of consulting with First Nations House.

Kearns says she pushed for Indigenous feedback around UMLAP to address the community's historic trauma. Kearns also asked OVPS about whether they will be able to help student unions with the hybrid opening, providing material as plexiglass protection. OVPS noted they will look into it.

Froom provides updates from the VP Internal portfolio. At the end of March, Froom attended a CFS executive committee meeting along with Kearns and Wong. Froom reiterates that the Student Choice Initiative appeal hearing took place a couple weeks ago. The SCI was a proclamation that the provincial government put out allowing students to opt out of incidental fees. It was initially ruled illegal by the Divisional Court and now is being appealed. Froom thinks that the CFS lawyers did really well in representing student unions. She adds that a written decision most likely will be released in two months time. Froom also will chair the final Council of Student Services (COSS) meeting of the year on April 13 in her capacity as chair. Next year COSS will be chaired by a University of Toronto Student Union (UTSU) executive. COSS will be electing the new chair at the upcoming meeting and deal with any outstanding issues. APUS went above and beyond at COSS this year, especially around space allocation related to the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) and The Centre for Women and Trans People (CWTP). At the Community Liaison Committee (CLC), Froom notes that a problem was raised around the rent bank for students facing difficulty paying their rent. There seems to be an issue with students who have OSAP qualifying for the resource. City Councillor Mike Layton will be raising the matter to the city. Froom also notes that there is also a possibility for parts of Devonshire to become exclusive for pedestrians as a new residence building is going up. Froom has pushed for more green space in this area.

Wong provides updates from the VP External portfolio. Wong went to the Ontario CFS Executive Committee. Unfortunately, they did not reach quorum, but CFS did encourage all attendees to go to the SCI Appeal Day of Action. Other than that, Wong has been attending the Racialized and Indigenous Student Experience Summit (RISE) planning meetings. It is an event that CFS holds that focuses on conversations around racialized student experiences. For example, there is one about taking down the patriarchy, another on sexism in organizing spaces, and more. Wong will be working on developing questions around the anti-Asian violence discussion for the summit. Wong is also in discussions with Hart House about the new Indigenous archery club. Hart House is ordering new equipment so it is exciting.

Kearns suggests Wong send the RISE agenda out to folks to get more participants. Currently there are 70 participants and it will take place in two weeks. If students register now they may be able to get a care package.

Coggon provides updates from the VP Events & Outreach portfolio. She notes the research she has done around mental health on campus and shares that she has been attending Student Mental Advocacy & Resource Team (SMART) meetings about general mental health advocacy work at U of T. Coggon notes that she has been doing research and getting feedback on the implementation of involuntary leaves and the Stepped Care model at other institutions. She has also done research on Navi, which is the bot that helps students navigate mental health resources. Coggon notes that

Oliveira also attended an My SSP orientation to see where the My SSP program is at. Coggon asks if anyone has feedback on any of these mental health platforms as this is a really great time to provide it. The Executive Committee found that Navi wasn't great at racialized queries so the administration is now working on that. Coggon notes that Froom and Kearns already spoke about the SCI appeal, however, Coggon has background documents if people are interested to learn more. In the meeting with OVPS, Micah Stickel said that \$9.1 million in grants had been given out to students in relation to COVID-19. There are supposed to be 3 vaccine centres, one on each campus, but they are relying on the provincial vaccine plan for reopening. Coggon learned from OVPS about the [Scarborough Charter](#), a national agreement by more than 60 Canadian colleges and universities that is meant to dismantle anti-Black racism and foster Black inclusion. Regarding Fall 2021 plans, the administration's plan A is to have most people back in class, whereas plan B at present is a hybrid. Coggon then reminds folks to complete the UTILE housing survey. The data collected will be aggregated from provincial and federal data. Coggon also reminds folks about the spring origami event with UTFOLD and APUS' stretch class.

Acuna asks whether the mental health research done by SMART is through the university.

Coggon responds no, and that anyone can join.

Antonenko asks for a list of committees and the general dates and times they meet so Board members can get more involved where APUS needs to be present. She asks if the list could also include committees where there may already be APUS representatives, but that also have space for observers. It would help inform people about what is going on and allow for an opportunity for people to participate.

Kearns says that last year she did create a list of all the committees APUS has seats on, including how often they meet. APUS usually decides on who will sit on these committees in the summer and the committees begin to meet in the fall. The Executive Committee will be sending that list out in the summer.

Froom adds that this is something APUS does on an annual basis, and that APUS has been advocating for APUS members to have seats on these committees. This will be a discussion to have with the new Board and the new Executive Committee. Froom says that APUS definitely tries to get Board members on these committees, and if not the Executive Committee reaches out to interested part-time students.

Antonenko asks if APUS is using Mail Chimp for the purpose of student engagement data.

Froom responds that this is a long-term struggle. Until recently, APUS did not have the right to have access to member emails. Right now it is not APUS that sends out the APUS email, it goes out through the University. APUS does not communicate directly with our members as APUS does not have direct access to member emails. This is why, once APUS is in-person again and tabling, emails can be directly collected from interested part-time students for specific opportunities, like volunteering, equity based initiatives, and more. There are two lists, the university provided list, and one for students that voluntarily provide us their email. Even for attending Annual General Meetings (AGMs), there are huge confidentiality issues. The other thing to note is that the list APUS has is only for the current members in a particular term. So anyone who is a part-time student, but not taking summer courses, cannot be communicated with during the summer.

8. APUS Health & Dental Plan Fees 2021-2022

MOTION Moved: Froom Seconded: Kearns

Be it resolved that APUS Dental Insurance Plan Fee be increased by _____ percent from \$60.24 to \$_____ commencing Sept. 1, 2021.*

Be it resolved that APUS Health Insurance Plan fee be increased by _____ percent from \$72.19 to \$_____ commencing Sept. 1, 2021.*

**Please note as per the referenda for the APUS Health and Dental Plan fees, and Article 3.03 (d) of the APUS Bylaws, the Board may approve up to a maximum 10% increase for each plan fee annually.*

Froom reminds the Board that APUS Dental and Health fees are collected as two separate fees in order to meet APUS' bylaws and for the purposes of collecting them through the university. Froom notes that in the referendum that originally established APUS' Health and Dental Insurance Plan and in APUS' bylaws, the Board has the jurisdiction to approve increases up to a maximum of 10% annually. Froom notes that the Board has two motions before them. One pertaining to Dental, another pertaining to Health. As far as the Dental fee goes, APUS is now collecting \$60.24 twice a year to cover the Dental fee for 12 months. Froom recommends that the Board keep the fee as it is. Froom notes that APUS did a survey on member desires back in the 2018-2019 year and people wanted more dental coverage. APUS was able to increase dental coverage from \$600 to \$700, and APUS also was able to reduce copay from 35% to 30%. In the last year, the dental usage has mainly stayed the same though. Therefore, Froom's recommendation is that the fee collected stays as is. Froom thinks APUS' members are quite pleased with that. There is no need to raise the fee.

Antonenko asks about how Green Shield raises the premiums.

Froom says the premiums change based on what the usage was in the previous year. So for example, if people use a lot in a particular year, the next year the premiums will go up. The reality is that Green Shield is charging \$59.16 twice a year. However, it is also likely that the demand for dental coverage will go up again once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. It would be imprudent to decrease APUS' dental coverages because it will just go up. When there is an overage of funds, it is set aside to cover Health and Dental Fee changes in future years.

On Coggon's prompt, Froom notes that there is a co-pay of 30% for the dental coverage, but that if a student goes to a dentist with the Dentist Network, they will cover the 30%, so in effect it is full coverage.

The motion now reads: **Be it resolved that APUS Dental Insurance Plan Fee be increased by 0 percent from \$60.24 to \$60.24 commencing Sept. 1, 2021.***

There are no questions. Kanani calls the vote. Everyone is in favour.

Vote Carries.

Kanani prompts Froom about the second part of the motion.

Froom is recommending APUS have an increase of 5% for Health Fees, meaning it will go up to \$75.80. This will not cover the entirety of what the Green Shield increase will be. In the past, going back to the 2018-2019 survey, besides dental coverage, students wanted more mental health coverage. In the past, APUS didn't have any mental health coverage other than a very small amount. APUS bumped it up in 2019 - 2020, resulting in coverage for \$125 per visit up to 20 visits. This raised the premium cost. Last year, and Froom suggests this is due to COVID-19, the demand for mental health coverage went up 425%. Therefore, Froom is proposing a 5% increase. Even with the increase, APUS will still partially subsidize the premium difference. This subsidy will be in part from the Dental Fee difference, but also from money held in reserve to deal with exceptional years. Froom expects the demand for mental health will go up, but not as much as the 10% that the Board could choose to vote for. Froom acknowledges that the Board would be gambling on the fact that the 425% increase in demand came out of people being exceptionally stressed because of COVID-19. If that is not the case, then next year APUS will definitely have to vote for a 10% increase, however she is hoping that won't be the case.

Coggon asks if there has been any feedback from students.

Oliveira responds that the COVID-19 survey released by APUS in the fall has been the primary source of feedback received.

Froom adds that APUS will have a better understanding about student feedback when Toronto is not in a lockdown.

Antonenko asks for the percentage of students who have not opted out and have made a claim.

Oliveira notes that Green Shield Canada has not provided that data to APUS, but that they can inquire for the future. What they do know is that mental health coverage claims have gone up 425%.

Kearns adds that APUS also provides optional coverage for family care and dependents, so the percentage of claims made would not be an accurate depiction of the number of APUS members making single claims.

Kanani asks if there are any other questions. There are none.

The motion now reads: **Be it resolved that APUS Health Insurance Plan fee be increased by 5 percent from \$72.19 to \$ 75.80 commencing Sept. 1, 2021.***

Kanani calls the vote. Everyone is in favour.

The vote carries.

9. Adjournment

Coggon moves. Wong seconds. Everyone is in favour.

The vote carries.

The Board meeting adjourns officially at 7:09 p.m.