



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 170
Sunday, February 25, 2018 at 5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH111

Called to Order at 5:02pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present: Anas, Anbalagan, Aoki, Arbess, Arnold, Deshpande, D'Souza, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Ibe, Lao, Lee, McNally, Nwamadi, Obaidullah, Ochocinski, Raez-Villaneuva, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Senthillmohan, Shin, Sooriyakumaran, Stott, Webb, Zhang

Absent Excused:

Absent Ahmed, Chestney, Fama, McGill, Patel, Szeliga, Vlatkovic

Late Risi, Yun

Others Present: Brandon Malamis (Observer), Pranali Raval (PSL Assistant Director), Victoria Wong (Observer), Jasmine Bhatti (MSU Member), Anna Goshua (Observer), Aamna Abdullah (Observer), Divya Jain (Observer), Karina Nabieva (Observer), Kamini Persaud (AVP Internal Governance), Miranda Clayton (incoming QSCC Coordinator), Zach Rudge (MSU Member), Steffi Arkilander (MSU Member), Haley Greene (MSU Member), Zienab Khawaja (Observer), Geneva Neal (Observer), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)

Chair Helen Zeng

TERRITORY RECOGNITION

- The SRA would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe territories through the 'Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty'.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Ibe, **seconded** by Deshpande that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Florean, **seconded** by Stott to amend the agenda and add 'Delegation from PSL' to Delegation from the Floor.

- Florean stated that the service would like to share their thoughts on the upcoming motion.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Sabra Salim, **seconded** by Deshpande to amend the agenda and add 'Letter from Previous PSL Volunteer' to Delegation from the Floor.

- Sabra Salim stated that she received the letter from a previous volunteer, and that they would like for this to be read out to everyone.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Vote to Adopt Agenda

Moved by Ibe, **seconded** by Deshpande that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

Passes Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The Chair went over how the meeting would work for the observers in the back. The Chair asked that everyone please sign the Observer's List.

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

Set Parameters

Moved by Ibe, **seconded** by Stott to set parameters for the Delegation from the Floor #1 to be 30 minutes for presentation, and 15 minutes for questions.

Passes Unanimously

1. Peer Support Line – Preethi Anbalagan and Kristina Epifano presented (presentation attached)

- Anbalagan and Epifano over the presentation with the Assembly.

Questions

- Florean asked where students would go if they didn't identify with any existing peer supports. Anbalagan responded that they would receive generalized peer support with SHEC. She explained that the TRRA put together training so that all services know what to do.
- Pranali Raval ceded to Brandon Malamis. Malamis asked what was being done to support those in the other services that currently exist. Anbalagan responded that currently the challenge with PSL is that volunteers work late hours, and their communication is only through telephone or chat. She stated that the only support those volunteers can get are one on ones with the Director or Assistant Director. Anbalagan explained that with the other peer support services there are already policies in place and experiences within the community.
- Sabra Salim stated that with PSL people were actively choosing peer support over professional. She asked if there wouldn't be a distribution of the problem if rescinded. Anbalagan responded that in the beginning the peer support was taking 15-20 minutes at a time, and then would refer to other services but now volunteers are spending hours on the phone and it has become inappropriate. She explained that they will see increases in usage but there are full-time staff who can help support.
- Raval ceded to Victoria Wong. Wong asked about transitioning in the summer, and how would they get the volunteers to come to this. Anbalagan responded that one of the recommendations was about how to best support the callers, and gradually transition them into using other services. She added that the working group will explore these issues.
- Stott asked what were the benefits of Good2Talk and McMaster having a strong relationship. Anbalagan responded that there were profound benefits. She stated that they have an events team, and are fully funded by the provincial government, and run free promotion events on campus that engages with students.
- Sutina Chou stated that some of the reasons discussed for rescinding the policy was based on the unfair burden put on the volunteer. Chou asked how would this be different than any other peer support service, as they're still faced with stresses. Anbalagan responded that there was exclusivity and uniqueness with PSL as they are an after-hours service that is anonymous. She explained that when someone walks into SHEC they find a community. Anbalagan felt that some of the burden experienced by the PSL volunteers would be more profound than other services. Epifano added that the anonymity comes into play. She explained that when a SHEC volunteer requires support they would go to their

Coordinator but are also able to discuss their challenges and reach out for support elsewhere, but PSL volunteers aren't to disclose themselves and it makes it more difficult to go to a friend and discuss it.

- Senthilmohan asked how the student ambassador program worked with Good2Talk. Anbalagan responded that it was to support and promote the helpline.
- Raval ceded to Geneva Neal. Neal stated that there seemed to be a lot of concern for people using the PSL. They asked if this was a concern brought up from volunteers themselves or hypothetical. Epifano responded that this came through the services review, and through consultation with the PTM. She explained that Director did identify the challenges, and then went to try and solve the challenges. Epifano added that there was also an internal survey done online. She explained that she would never assume information and this was all data from the service.

Set Parameters

Moved by Sabra Salim, **seconded** by Sabrin Salim to set parameters for Delegation from the Floor #2 to be 25 minutes for presentation, and 15 minutes for questions.

Passes Unanimously

2. Delegation from Peer Support Line – Pranali Raval, Victoria Wong, Brandon Malamis, Zeinab Khawaja (memo circulated and attached)

CW: discussions of suicide, and suicide ideation

- The group went over the memo that was circulated to the Assembly earlier.

Questions

- Sabrin Salim thanked everyone for coming out. She stated that she has never done ASIST training, and asked if it was enough. Khawaja responded that ASIST was very helpful getting an idea of what to do. They stated that the volunteers do scenarios in training, and there are model conversations had for them to get comfortable on the line.
- Sutina Chou asked based on their professional opinion were the issues unique to the service or symptomatic of a greater problem. Khawaja responded that it was symptomatic. They stated that the other peer supports are in person, and those services are getting the same types of conversations. Khawaja asked how could it not be stressful or a burden, but stated that the MSU wouldn't cut WGEN as it was taking a resource from a student. Khawaja reaffirmed that this was not unique to the service.
- Deshpande thanked everyone for presenting. He stated that one of the things that was mentioned, that they were all in agreement with is that PSL was not a crisis line. He asked what was the need for ASIST training which is used for suicide intervention training. Deshpande asked why was it going in that direction if it was not supposed to be a crisis line. Malamis responded that they train listeners to respond calmly in all situations, and that this was in case something happens. They stated that the ASIST training was to make sure they are as prepared as possible for their own well-being. Khawaja added that crisis lines were exclusively for suicide but they wanted the listeners to be prepared in case. They stated that they had a friend from SWHAT call the line because someone was saying they were going to kill themselves and the friend didn't know what to do.
- Arbess thanked the presenters for showing determination and commitment for the cause. He explained that all of the Assembly and the entire union could learn from this. Arbess asked for them to outline the training that goes into preparing PSL volunteers, and if they thought it was enough to deal with high risk issues such as suicide or secondary trauma. Raval responded that they prepare slides of content on how to generally provide peer support, and which skills to use. They added that there are sessions and scenarios with mock chats and calls. Raval stated that after that the volunteers then receive the two-day intervention training with ASIST.
- Ibe thanked them for their time and for coming. He explained that the reason for this conversation was the concern for students, and looking for the best way to support. Ibe stated that for the last couple of days volunteers, present and past, have reached out and given different opinions. He explained that the

majority agree that they were under pressure and wanted PSL to be rescinded. Ibe asked how do they account for those testimonials. Raval stated that was a concern to have. Raval added that they weren't a part of this decision and that they didn't know it would be rescinded until this past Wednesday. Raval explained that it was upsetting that some of the volunteers feel the way they do.

- Epifano asked for them to explain how they requested for a training executive, and how would this position be any different than the current TRRA. Khawaja responded that the position would have experience as a listener, and be known to the volunteers so that they could be comfortable disclosing items. They stated that the PSL asked for this year and it didn't happen, but if it had there would have been additional training. Khawaja felt that a training exec would help facilitate better training.

Moved by Ibe, **seconded** by Aoki to exhaust the Speaker's List.

Passes Unanimously

- Florean ceded to Ibe. Ibe stated that the PSL exec would like a crisis protocol. He explained that they have been advised that they move against crisis protocol. Wong stated that they should have had this dialogue before rescinding the operating policy, as they felt that having a crisis protocol would be crucial for dealing with everything PSL does. Khawaja stated that every service should have a crisis protocol and that taking away the helpline won't help the problem.

Moved by Sabrin Salim, **seconded** by Sabra Salim that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

- Sabrin Salim stated that the next delegation was a long letter, and everyone should have a break.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Recessed at 6:46pm
Called to Order at 6:57pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present: Anbalagan, Arbess, Arnold, Deshpande, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Ibe, McNally, Nwamadi, Obaidullah, Raez-Villaneuva, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Senthillmohan, Shin, Stott, Webb

Absent Excused:

Absent Ahmed, Chestney, Fama, McGill, Patel, Szeliga, Vlatkovic

Late Anas, Aoki, D'Souza, Lao, Lee, Ochocinski, Sooriyakumaran, Zhang

Others Present: Brandon Malamis (Observer), Pranali Raval (PSL Assistant Director), Victoria Wong (Observer), Jasmine Bhatti (MSU Member), Anna Goshua (Observer), Aamna Abdullah (Observer), Divya Jain (Observer), Karina Nabieva (Observer), Kamini Persaud (AVP Internal Governance), Miranda Clayton (incoming QSCC Coordinator), Zach Rudge (MSU Member), Steffi Arkilander (MSU Member), Haley Greene (MSU Member), Zienab Khawaja (Observer), Geneva Neal (Observer), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)

Chair Helen Zeng

Set Parameters

Moved by Sabrin Salim, **seconded** by Stott to set parameters for Delegation from the Floor #3 to be 25 minutes for presentation.

- Sabrin Salim stated that it was a statement letter, and there was no need for questions.

Vote to Set Parameters

Passes Unanimously

3. Letter from MSU Member – Sabra Salim presented (letter attached)

- Sabra Salim read the letter.

Moved by Deshpande, **seconded** by D’Souza to extend by 10 minutes.

Passes Unanimously

REPORT PERIOD

1. Arts and Science Caucus – Yun presented

- Yun summarized the report.

2. Business Caucus – McNally presented

- McNally summarized the report.

3. Engineering Caucus – Stott presented

- Stott summarized the report.

4. Internal Governance Committee – Kamini Persaud presented

- Persaud summarized the report.

5. Services Committee – Kristina Epifano presented

- Epifano summarized the report.

Questions

- Ibe commended Epifano on her work for the Services Review. He asked what has she learned from the process on what to improve. Epifano responded that there were things she was definitely learning, such as having the PTM being more a part of the entirety of the review. She explained that she has met with the PTM many times throughout the review, but they are now included in the committee meetings and there is more engagement with the PTM from the Service Committee.

6. Executive Board – report attached

7. Vice-President (Administration) – Anbalagan presented

- Anbalagan summarized the report.

INFORMATION PERIOD

- Sabrin Salim reported that they have launched the McMaster Peoples Project on Facebook, and there will be an event on Tuesday night.
- Lee announced that SRA nominations close this Tuesday.
- Deshpande asked for all the members to sign up for PolicyCon, if they haven’t already done so.

- Ibe reported that on Friday he attended the Hamilton Post Secondary Advisory Group (HPSAG), and that the Mayor of Hamilton was there as well as the MP and MPP. He stated that the spoke about transit and raised concerns from presidential platforms. Ibe reported that the SLEF process is on-going, and that some may have noticed the giant screen in MUSC and that was a result of SLEF funding from a previous year.
- Anbalagan reported that Diversity Services and SHEC PTM positions were closing tonight.
- Bertolo announced that Delegation Day was Tuesday at 3pm at City Hall.
- Sabrin Salim announced that CLAY was hiring a media design coordinator and that applications were due tonight.
- Webb announced that Campus Events applications close tonight as well.

QUESTION PERIOD

- Ibe asked what the experiences were for the student advisory committees so far. Webb responded that it was great to see what was going on with SSC more in depth, and was appreciate of what the MSU is doing more than before. Obaidullah responded that she was on the committee for SWC and it was going well. She explained that there was a disconnect between operations and students so being on the committee helped. She added that the only recommendation going forward would be for an agenda to be circulated ahead of time.
- Lee asked the President if anything came out of the HPSAG meeting. Ibe responded that the Mayor of Hamilton was having a meeting with Metrolinx that afternoon, and said that they would bring up concerns. Ibe stated that he will follow up to see what the resolution was and will report back to the Assembly.

BUSINESS

1. Approval of SRA Member Job Description

Moved by Webb, **seconded** by Lee that the Assembly approve the Student Representative Assembly Member job description, as circulated.

In Favour: 26 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Shin
Motion Passes

2. Approval of Board of Directors Job Descriptions

Moved by Deshpande, **seconded** by Sabrin Salim that the Assembly approve the following job descriptions, as circulated:

- President and Chief Executive Officer
 - Vice-President (Administration) and Chief Administrative Officer
 - Vice-President (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer
 - Vice-President (Education) and Corporate Officer
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- Deshpande stated that the majority of the job descriptions haven't been updated since 2004.
 - Webb stated that there were some grammatical inconsistencies throughout, specifically the President's.
 - Deshpande stated that they tried to change everything to be gender neutral, but they could amend to have it pass with the caveat of the changes.
 - Anbalagan asked if it could be done through administration.
 - Scott responded that it could be done.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

3. Ratification of 2017-2018 Electoral Appeal Board Members

Moved by Sabrin Salim, **seconded** by Lee that the Assembly ratify the following members of the Electoral Appeal Board: Professor Nivaldo Galleguillos, with Saad Syed and Kritika Seth as the two alternates.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Lee, **seconded** by Anbalagan that the Assembly recess for 15 minutes.

- Lee stated that the next item will be a long discussion, so they should take a quick break.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 26 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 1
Opposed: Raez-Villaneuva
Abstained: Yun
Motion Passes

Recessed at 7:56pm

Called to Order at 8:11pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present: Anbalagan, Arbess, Arnold, Deshpande, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Lao, Lee McNally, Nwamadi, Obaidullah, Ochocinski, Raez-Villaneuva, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Shin, Webb

Absent Excused:

Absent Ahmed, Chestney, Fama, McGill, Patel, Szeliga, Vlatkovic

Late Anas, Aoki, D'Souza, Ibe, Senthilmohan, Sooriyakumaran, Stott, Zhang

Others Present: Brandon Malamis (Observer), Pranali Raval (PSL Assistant Director), Victoria Wong (Observer), Jasmine Bhatti (MSU Member), Anna Goshua (Observer), Aamna Abdullah (Observer), Divya Jain (Observer), Karina Nabieva (Observer), Kamini Persaud (AVP Internal Governance), Miranda Clayton (incoming QSCC Coordinator), Zach Rudge (MSU Member), Steffi Arkilander (MSU Member), Haley Greene (MSU Member), Zienab Khawaja (Observer), Geneva Neal (Observer), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)

Chair Helen Zeng

4. Rescind OPERATING POLICY – PEER SUPPORT LINE

Moved by Anbalagan, **seconded** by Anas that the Assembly rescind OPERATING POLICY – PEER SUPPORT LINE.

CW: discussions of suicide, and suicide ideation

- Anbalagan thanked those who dedicated their time to this, and stated that conversations like this aren't easy. She hoped that everyone makes an informed decision.
- Anas added that this will be an ongoing discussion, and won't be ending today in this room.
- Sabrin Salim asked what the steps would be if the operating policy was rescinded. She asked what would happen if the SRA kept it. Sabrin Salim ceded the rest of her time to Anbalagan.
- Anbalagan responded that it would go back to the Executive Board to look into it again. She explained that the presentation and conversations show why option A might not be the most viable. Anbalagan

stated that if the policy was rescinded then they would be looking at communication and include all people involved. She added that a working group will be developed for peer support promotions.

- Lee ceded to Zeinab Khawaja. Khawaja stated that PSL was not bringing in people for crisis, and that it doesn't receive an influx of calls every day or week. They stated that the SRA's plan seemed to be moving everything to other peer supports but the issues would be the same, and that a crisis protocol wasn't being addressed. Khawaja asked if those other services would be cut too. They stated that everyone expresses suicide and crisis uniquely and that PSL can't be the perfect resource for everyone but there are many. Khawaja explained that the services was only in it's fifth year, and that there hasn't been enough time or support to grow, and that there was still room for improvement. They stated that this was too short of notice to develop any arguments, and it was inconvenient that this arose over Reading Week. Khawaja added that they felt that the PSL perspective wasn't considered, and that the survey released didn't have a section where volunteers could share their views.
- Epifano stated that a lot of assumptions were being made that she and the Committee didn't do their jobs, and didn't anyone a platform to speak on. She explained that they have been researching options for four months, and that they did give volunteers an opportunity to add information at the end of the survey. She added that it was the same for students. Epifano stated that she did everything in her power to make sure that they had more than enough information to go on to make the recommendations, and that the Committee did their due diligence and that she backs the data 100%.
- Lee stated that he will be speaking as a representative from Health Sciences. He explained that he voted for the motion in Executive Board, and supported it coming forward to the SRA. Lee stated that he received a lot of emails from his constituents, and Lao released a survey to get more input. He reported that in the survey there were 72 responses with 92% stating that they wanted to keep PSL. Lee urged everyone to think of their constituents. Lee ceded the rest of his time to Lao.
- Lao went over the results of the Health Sciences survey.
- Anbalagan stated that she understood that they were put in a position that wasn't easy, and how do they respond to their constituents. She explained that the constituents are loudest in this room and online, but that there are many who weren't sharing their opinions because of public scrutiny. She asked the Assembly to imagine the amount of scrutiny someone else could receive from opening themselves up and that the vulnerable community might not be coming forward but it doesn't mean that they weren't constituents as well.
- Sabra Salim stated that she was torn with this decision. She felt that Anbalagan and Lee touched on the points, and that the evidence was compelling. She stated that it was safe to acknowledge that they could be putting volunteers and callers in danger. Salim added that from email responses and messages to SRA Science there were countless requests to not cut the service. Salim explained that there were negative connotations of the word 'cutting' a peer support service. Salim stated that whether the Assembly chooses to rescind the operating policy or not, there needs to be more conversations about a crisis protocol. She stated that they could vote this down and look into different options, but in that time, they are putting other people at risk. Salim added that she couldn't say which way she was voting but hoped that everyone knew that peer support was important, and if they do end up rescinding the policy they are not sacrificing it.
- Pranali Raval ceded their time to Victoria Wong. Wong stated that not everyone uses PSL but that doesn't mean it wasn't useful. They stated that the Assembly can't generalize and think that finding other support that students can be okay with. Wong stated that support looks different for everyone.
- D'Souza thanked everyone who came to the meeting today. He stated that no doubt in his mind that volunteer listeners, past and present, are kind, passionate, and helpful. D'Souza wanted to point out that a large portion of the volunteers said that the training helped. He revealed that he was a peer support listener before ASIST training was implemented. D'Souza wanted to share the reality of what it was like to be a volunteer, and that when they got to shift they wondered whether there would be a call, and what would they do once they received it. He added that he had hoped that he could relate to the student and also hope it wasn't a crisis call. He explained that there was a crisis protocol in place if a caller was at risk, and that it was posted on the wall, but when that phone rings the heart pumps and the volunteer who was freaking out less was the one to answer. D'Souza stated when hearing stories, people don't think specifically to training and someone who wasn't professionally trained might be putting a life at risk.

D'Souza stated that when he thought of PSL he thought of two things, that he was happy the MSU has this but what if a student who was in crisis seriously needed support and may take risk to themselves or others. He asked the Assembly if call PSL would help those students, and he said his mind tells him no, amongst interactions with others. D'Souza felt that students could get the help and support they need, but not through PSL, and that the SAP and Good2Talk have trained professionals.

- Florean thanked the PSL executive who came out to speak. She wanted to point out that she met up with the AVP Services about why this was brought forward, and one of the things that was said stuck. PSL is an amazing service and they can see it by how many are showing up, but if something does become a crisis it is not a student's responsibility to handle this. She added that while it hasn't happened, it can, and that's where she was hesitant about this. Florean asked Epifano how many people reached out about suicide in September, and the number was four. Florean stated that it wasn't that much but Epifano had pointed out to her that it only took one person and that just because they have a system in place doesn't mean the students on the link should be taking responsibility. Florean explained that she was a lifeguard, and had years of training but that every time she looked at the pool she was terrified because she had to be on 100% of the time. She explained that they have to take care of student volunteers and provide a good service.
- Sabrin Salim explained that she was torn as there were arguments on both sides of the table. Salim stated that she wanted to tell a story that is relatable. She explained that recently she and her sister took their G2 driving test, and unfortunately, her sister did not pass. Salim stated that the instructor told her that she was an excellent driver but made a mistake, and that while there were a number of things that she did, it only took one wrong move. Salim explained that that was the concern with PSL, and while it was a great line, and that people were going for support, it takes a single situation for it to go bad. Salim explained that she didn't want to take it away but logically the evidence was saying otherwise. She asked if it would be possible to give a pilot year where they heavily promoted Good2Talk. Salim ceded the rest of her time to Anbalagan.
- Anbalagan stated that the pilot idea was interesting, but that it only takes one mistake and if they give it another year and if there was a crisis call that went wrong, how do they answer to that.
- Obaidullah ceded her time to Steffi Arkilander. Arkilander stated that they know from talking to their friends that using other services like the SWC takes a long time, and if something doesn't work out with the counsellors what then. They explained that they have friends who reach out to PSL because the student couldn't talk to a counsellor. Arkilander stated that if they do option B they would have to look at promoting Good2Talk better, and would like to see how promoting that would benefit mental health.
- Shin stated that it was important to bring up the fact that this was happening over Reading Week, and that there wasn't much access to information. She explained that she didn't think that this was representative of students.
- Anbalagan ceded to Miranda Clayton. Clayton stated that PSL started at the end of her second year as a pilot, and operated two days a week. She explained that this was life before peer support services, and there was no where to go. Clayton stated that everyone was so lucky to have this rich amount of resources on and off campus, and that she wished she had Good2Talk in her first year. She explained that she would like to see this possibly have an option of staying open and revisiting it in a year.
- Raval ceded their time to Zeinab Khawaja. Khawaja stated that she was tired of hearing of students being liabilities and not having the mental capacity to make decisions. They explained that this matters to a lot of people, and that student volunteers work on crisis lines throughout Ontario. Khawaja stated that they don't see why the MSU can't have it without proper training and protocol. They explained that it was important to not make generalizations and give the volunteers more training and practise, and that not all volunteers feel intense panic when the phone rings. Khawaja stated that this was the nature of the work though. They asked what happens if the person who may be in crisis didn't want to talk to a professional because of past experiences.
- Sabra Salim stated that she thought that they were valid statements, but that they would all agree that peer support was important, and that the MSU wasn't removing it just choosing a different avenue to be more safe and better equipped. She explained that calls that become crisis calls could be directed to crisis management, but they don't know where it ends up because of confidentiality and because of that they don't know if the student did hurt themselves.

- Deshpande stated that when making their decision to please keep in mind that the MSU has a services committee and they put in a lot of time and research into this. He stated that members saying the decision was rushed was false, as this was a four-month long process. Deshpande reminded everyone that the standing committee do the background work and helps make the final decision, and that they should be trusting the research that has gone into this.
- Arnold stated that she wanted to speak of her only experience of calling into PSL. She explained that it wasn't her in crisis, but a friend. Arnold stated that she was only in first year, but didn't know who to call so she called a friend who recommended PSL. She explained that it was mistake because it wasn't a crisis line, but it was heavily advertised during Welcome Week and some have mistaken it as such. Arnold stated that thankfully nothing happened but a lot of time was wasted by not being referred to someone else who would help her or her friend. She added that the situation ended with her feeling that no one could support her and didn't know of any other hotline.
- Webb asked the Vice-President (Administration) about the idea of a probation year, and was wondering if this was an option. Webb ceded the rest of her time to Anbalagan.
- Anbalagan responded that in her position she has access to knowledge that she cannot contractually reveal. She explained that previous coordinators were in the same position. Anbalagan stated that due to this information that if there is even one more year the MSU is running the risk of one person calling PSL who is in crisis, and it wasn't about the MSU's liability. It was more about the liability of the life being in a student's hands.

Moved by Arbess, **seconded** by Stott to Call to Question

Vote to Call to Question

In Favour: 7 Opposed: 19 Abstentions: 0

Opposed: Ibe, Anbalagan, Deshpande, D'Souza, Shin, Gardner, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Obaidullah, Anas, Senthillmohan, Yun, Nwamadi, Lao, Lee, Ochocinski, Florean, Webb, Hackett

Motion Fails

Back to Main Motion

Moved by Anbalagan, **seconded** by Anas that the Assembly rescind OPERATING POLICY – PEER SUPPORT LINE.

- Bertolo stated that she was speaking on behalf of friends, and a concerned MSU member. She stated that they all have friends they're worried about and no one knows if they will every get a phone call. Bertolo explained that while she hasn't used PSL, she has spoke to someone who has and they were in favour of rescinding the policy. Bertolo stated that the student didn't think it was fair to put something like this on student volunteers, and that they tried to help a friend who was in a crisis situation but what if they had someone who couldn't handle the situation. Bertolo added that this friend when speaking to PSL numerous numbers could predict what they would end up saying, and the student found that talking to Good2Talk was better.
- Lee stated that he would be in favour of a probation year.
- Ibe stated that he didn't think people had enough knowledge of the crisis case management office. He explained that this is staffed by trained social workers and also hire student volunteers to help, and was established three years ago. Ibe stated that they have reached a state of conversation about their experiences with the service, and all should be respected and held in high regard, but they are in a position to make a decision. Ibe stated that he would be voting in favour of rescinding the policy. He explained that this debate was two years overdue, and it only happened this year after a robust service review. He added that if there are ever issues with EFRT and WGEN then it would be caught by the services committee.
- Obaidullah stated that one of the concerns in passing this over to an external organization was that they would be missing out on the data collection of student needs. She asked how would they get the data collected. Obaidullah ceded the rest of her time to Epifano.
- Epifano responded that they would be able to get the breakdown of data from SAP.

- D'Souza stated that in the memo it was stated that there were over 21 calls in the first four months of school of those who were thinking of suicide or had suicide ideation. He stated that if they expand it over eight months then that's 42 calls. D'Souza stated that he spoke about the situation of being a volunteer and not sure if being able to handle it, and that Jack wrote a letter about his experience, and Arnold spoke first-hand about her experience. He explained that these were not one-offs. He asked the Assembly if they were comfortable with 42 crisis situations happening to students, he stated that he wasn't and would be voting to rescind the policy.
- Raval apologized for the negative experiences with PSL, and understood that was the nature of support and not one single service was best for everyone. They stated that a lot of people have positive experiences with PSL, and that there was a key difference between peer support and PSL and that was the other services aren't anonymous. Raval stated that it was about having as many unique services as they could and looking into improving them. They added that something to also consider was that not everyone was a part of the decision-making process.

Moved by Anbalagan, **seconded** by Ibe that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

- Anbalagan stated that the conversation was getting loaded, but a break was needed.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 17 Opposed: 8 Abstentions: 1
Opposed: Aoki, Sooriyakumaran, Stott, Zhang, Raez-Villaneuva, McNally, Ochocinski, Florean
Abstained: D'Souza
Motion Passes

Recessed at 9:32pm
Called to Order 9:43pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present: Anas, Anbalagan, Aoki, Arbess, Arnold, D'Souza, Deshpande, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Ibe, Lao, Lee McNally, Nwamadi, Obaidullah, Ochocinski, Raez-Villaneuva, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Senthillmohan, Shin, Sooriyakumaran, Stott, Webb, Zhang

Absent Excused:

Absent Ahmed, Chestney, Fama, McGill, Patel, Szeliga, Vlatkovic

Late

Others Present: Brandon Malamis (Observer), Pranali Raval (PSL Assistant Director), Victoria Wong (Observer), Jasmine Bhatti (MSU Member), Anna Goshua (Observer), Aamna Abdullah (Observer), Divya Jain (Observer), Karina Nabieva (Observer), Kamini Persaud (AVP Internal Governance), Miranda Clayton (incoming QSCC Coordinator), Zach Rudge (MSU Member), Steffi Arkilander (MSU Member), Haley Greene (MSU Member), Zienab Khawaja (Observer), Geneva Neal (Observer), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)

Chair

Helen Zeng

- Sabra Salim stated that this conversation was going in circles.
- Raval stated that the Coordinator didn't have the opportunity to talk about her thoughts and that she didn't have the chance to comment on her part of the review. Raval stated that some previous volunteers were able to give their experiences but present ones cannot.

Moved by Florean, **seconded** by Stott to Call to Question

Vote on Call to Question

In Favour: 21 Opposed: 5 Abstentions: 0

Opposed: D'Souza, Raez-Villaneuva, Senthillmohan, Sabrin Salim, Lee
Motion Passes

Vote on Main Motion

Moved by Anbalagan, **seconded** by Anas that the Assembly rescind OPERATING POLICY – PEER SUPPORT LINE.

In Favour: 21 Opposed: 7 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Sooriyakumaran, Obaidullah, Senthillmohan, Yun, Nwamadi, Lao, Lee
Motion Passes

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. OPERATING POLICY – INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Moved by Ibe that the Assembly approve OPERATING POLICY – INTERFAITH COUNCIL, as circulated.

- Ibe stated that a lot of work was done towards this, but that there were a few amendments to be made.

Amendment

Moved by Sabra Salim, **seconded** by Arbess to amend OPERATING POLICY – INTERFAITH COUNCIL with the circulated changes.

- Sabra Salim stated that they moved the religious chair to be non-voting, and that any religious group who would like to be a part of the council can now apply through the Chair and join as a non-voting member. She explained that this was more sustainable for the council moving forward.
- Ibe commended the work that Lightstone did on this operating policy.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Back to Main Motion

- Deshpande stated that as the past Diversity Services Director it was nice to see that there was now more for faith-based groups on campus. He commended everyone on their work.

Vote on Motion

Moved by Ibe that the Assembly approve OPERATING POLICY – INTERFAITH COUNCIL, as circulated and amended.

Passes Unanimously

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Sunday, March 4, 2018
5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH 111

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present:

Anas, Anbalagan, Aoki, Arbess, Arnold, D'Souza, Deshpande, Florean, Gardner, Hackett, Ibe, Lao, Lee McNally, Nwamadi, Obaidullah, Ochocinski, Raez-Villaneuva, Sabra Salim, Sabrin Salim, Senthillmohan, Shin, Sooriyakumaran, Webb, Zhang

Absent Excused:

Absent

Ahmed, Chestney, Fama, McGill, Patel, Szeliga, Stott, Vlatkovic

Late

Others Present Brandon Malamis (Observer), PranaliRaval (PSL Assistant Director), Victoria Wong (Observer), Jasmine Bhatti (MSU Member), Anna Goshua (Observer), Aamna Abdullah (Observer), Divya Jain (Observer), Karina Nabieva (Observer), Kamini Persaud (AVP Internal Governance), Miranda Clayton (incoming QSCC Coordinator), Zach Rudge (MSU Member), Steffi Arkilander (MSU Member), Haley Greene (MSU Member), Zienab Khawaja (Observer), Geneva Neal (Observer), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)

Chair Helen Zeng

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sabra Salim, **seconded** by Sabrin Salim that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Passes by General Consent

Adjourned at 9:56 pm

/vs

DRAFT