

Meeting Notes

Meeting	CSC Student Committee – General Meeting
Date & Time	October 21, 2013 @ 2:30pm
Location	921 Kaneff Tower
Attendance	Salvatore, Margaret, Karanjit, Shazia, Ioana, Prakash, Soyinka, Elana, Elize, Matt

CSC Vice-Chair Nomination

- CSC student members Ioana Gheorghiu and Prakash Amarasooriya have put forward their nominations for the CSC Vice-Chair position.
- As there were not enough CSC Student representatives to vote (6 needed a min of 7), the vote was post-poned to the CSC meeting on October 28, 2013. Any other CSC student members interested may also put forward their nomination at the meeting.
- An inquiry was made to whether a co-chair option was possible. Elize said she would inquire. UPDATE – co-chair option is not possible under the current CSC Terms of Reference.

CSC Student Report to the CSC

- CSC Chair, John Amanatides, asked that the group provide a report to the CSC at the meeting on Oct. 28, 2013. P. Amarasooriya was asked to give this report based on his involvement with the CSC Student Committee and the Safer Together campaign last year.
- The report was reviewed by the group and it was asked if recommendations for this year could be included. A discussion was held with the following key recommendations to be included in the report:
 - **Connecting with the Community - need to be proactive vs. reactive**
 - Would like to see more promotion for the upcoming CSC forums
 - Themed Forums – providing a space to talk about a specific issue – keep the conversation focused – might help encourage more people to come out if they have a particular interest in the discussion.
 - Would like to look at various means of outreach – i.e. possibility of using social media (Twitter, Facebook) to connect with other students, online suggestion box, finding ways to connect with commuter students who have concerns but not sure who to ask, or where to get the information, surveys, website for the student group, etc.
 - **“Safe Space” for Clubs**
 - looking at the idea of creating a “safe space” designation tied to club recognition, i.e. increasing awareness with club members to help change culture

- **Recognition for participation**
 - the group would like to see if there is an opportunity to receive a letter or certificate recognizing their contributions as CSC members
- The report is included at the end of the meeting minutes.

Upcoming Events

- If you have an event or update, let us know and we will share it at the meeting.
- CWTP Working Groups – included at the end of the meeting minutes
- Understanding Sexual Harassment – Nov.7, 9:30-12:30pm, 305 York Lanes
- Safety, Space and Gender: A Symposium Trans Day of Remembrance - 20 November 2013, Underground, more information to come
- CHR Commemorating Dec. 6 – for more information please see the CHR newsletter: http://rights.info.yorku.ca/files/2013/10/Newsletter_2013_October.pdf

Listserv

- Kind reminder that the listserv: cscstudents@yorku.ca may be used to help promote events, request for volunteers or opportunities for collaboration within this group. Have an event you'd like folks to come to? Send it via the listserv! If they are any difficulties, email Elize.

Next Meeting

- Doodle poll will be sent out in November.

CSC Student Committee Report to the CSC

October 2013

Prakash Amarasooriya

The CSC Student Committee began in October 2012 as a small focus group comprised of students of the CSC to share their ideas, comments and concerns about safety on campus. From that initial meeting, the group decided to meet monthly and extend membership to any student on campus who was interested in speaking about safety issues.

The group met 12 times from October 2012 to October 2013. The group offers an environment where students can share their ideas, comments and concerns on campus safety and together work towards finding opportunities where improvements can be made. A holistic approach to safety is taken by the CSC Student Committee and this includes abiding by a Safer Space team agreement to promote respectful and inclusive dialogue.

There was participation from a number of different groups and individuals on campus including SASSL, TBLGAY, DPET, YFS, CWTP, GSA, SCOLAPS just to name a few. Outreach began through word of mouth and now a listserv and a YU Connect page have been created to facilitate communication of important notices and events related to safety.

CSC Student Representatives have also utilized their involvement with the CSC to build partnerships and collaborations with other student representatives and affiliated groups outside of the CSC.

Discussion topics focused on questions including: "What does a safer campus look like to you?", "Where do you feel safe/unsafe on campus?" and "How can we help to make a safer campus?" Some of the answers include:

- "A campus where all members of the community can fully participate and be respected and not have fear of discrimination, harassment or violence"
- Equity statement on course syllabus
- Visible safe space mandates
- Proactive approach to addressing systemic issues
- Sexual Assault policy

The definition of "safe" was also discussed. One definition presented includes:

- A place where you can express your identity without being attacked
- Where differences are accepted
- Where there is someone you can talk to
- Where you have trust that appropriate intervention will be used

Further to discussion topics, the CSC Student Committee has also provided feedback on the Safer Together campaign, Safety App, and Student Resource Guide.

Some ideas the group will be working on this year include:

- **Connecting with the Community** - need to be proactive vs. reactive

- Would like to see more promotion for the upcoming CSC forums
 - Themed Forums – providing a space to talk about a specific issue – keep the conversation focused – might help encourage more people to come out if they feel an issue that is relevant to them will be discussed.
 - Would like to look at various means of outreach – i.e. possibility of using social media (Twitter, Facebook) to connect with other students, online suggestion box, finding ways to connect with commuter students who have concerns but not sure who to ask, or where to get the information, surveys, website for the student group, etc.
-
- **“Safe Space” for Clubs** – looking at ways the idea of creating a “safe space” designation clubs, i.e. increasing awareness with club members to help change culture
 - **Recognition for participation** – the group would like to see if there is an opportunity to receive a letter or certificate recognizing their contributions as CSC members

We look forward to continue our active role in providing advice, guidance, and information which will assist in the development of policies, procedures and action plans that promote campus safety at York University.

For Reference

- YUConnect has 10 non CSC members (13 in total)
- On average 8-10 people attended each meeting.