



Undergraduate Pharmacy Society

2019-2020



Agenda – UPS Meeting #1 - Student Fees

Date: Thursday, May 23rd, 2019

Time: 8 PM - 10 PM

Location: Online via BlueJeans

Speaker: Tom F.

Minutes: Christina T.

Present: Jacob P., Gigi L., Christina T., Meagan H., Patrick C., Shreeya T., John H., Aline H., Alena T., Matthew Lau, Jonathan K., Jaily Y., Katelyn L., Sunny H., Tom F., Elaine N., Kristina M., Michelle W., Wendy C., Yifan Z., Teagan B., Fabian C., Samantha C.

Regrets: Shelby Y., Andrew T., Laurel L., Linda P., Sera L., Matthew Luu,

Faculty Advisors: Kenny T., Lachmi S.

A. Call to Order: Tom F.

B. Motion to Begin: Christina T. motions to begin the meeting at 8:07 PM

O Johnathan K. seconds the motion

O Meeting begins

C. AGENDA:

1. Introduction to Meeting

Presenter(s): Tom F.

The point of this meeting is not to vote on student opt-out descriptions, it is a discussion of the statements. Motions to amend what the statement says are on the table.

2. Updates on Activities

a. Student Fees Opt-Out

- i. **Presenter(s):** Jacob P., Gigi L.
- ii. Provided a list of what fees are considered essential under the Ford government. Took time to see if we could fit into those essential categories, but we have to separate our fees into Society, CAPSI, Graduation fees. We cannot combine into a single \$36/semester fee. This has led to speaking with the Faculty to see if we could supplement any of the income, and questions about what happens to students who do not pay the fee. Once we discuss and vote, we will submit the description of student fees to the Vice-Provost to appear on the opt-out portal (deadline is tomorrow). This will be the description that will be seen by those who opt-out. The infographic campaign shows what the fees contribute to. It is uncertain at this moment whether this opt-out description can be changed later on.
- iii. Students will be able to opt-out on a semester-by-semester basis. The opt-out period for the fall semester will be from mid-July until September 19th, and the opt-outs will be broken down into three distinct fees which are not permitted to be amalgamated: Society fee (\$18/semester), CAPSI (\$9.50/semester) and Grad Fund (\$8.50/semester).
- iv. Proposal:
 - a) **SOCIETY FEE** - we propose that opting out of the society fee will result in a markup on UPS ticket events (Boat Cruise, Phollies, Semi Formal) and a loss of eligibility for conference subsidies (OPA/PXP, PDW, OPSIS) as well as UPS



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Awards & Grants.

RATIONALE - Conference subsidies and UPS awards & grants cost UPS a lot financially, and conference subsidies are often >\$100 in value, and so students who do not pay the fee should not be eligible. Regarding the ticket events, we do not want to ban people who do not pay student fees from attending the event, but student fees assist with costs such as venue fees and catering. Therefore, a small fee should be added to ticket price (similar to early bird vs regular pricing). The added fee for each event would be TBD based on base price that is charged per event.

We do not want to restrict access to our general events (back to school mixer, holiday parties, etc) as we do not want to discourage attendance and it would be too difficult to determine if people at these events paid student fees. We do not want to prohibit access to clubs and club events as their events are smaller scale and we would like clubs to thrive without restricting who can attend their events. We do not want to prohibit access to intramurals as the relative fee for intramurals is small and we would like to encourage people to participate in our intramural teams. Similarly we do not want to ban people from attending athletic events such as OPA cup and soccer cup as we'd prefer to prioritize attendance. Access to monograph cannot be restricted so there will be no restrictions placed. Finally we do not wish to either restrict access to, or increase the price of yearbooks as we do not wish to hinder yearbook sales.

- Policing events would be difficult, and even if some students do not pay the fee, UPS exists to serve students. Fees go to some awards (i.e. UPS entrance scholarship) and subsidies for conferences, so if someone isn't paying the \$18 society fee, and just taking the money, it is unfair.
- The fees go towards the cost of catering and halls rented for ticketed events subsidized by UPS. It is not overly punitive to subject students who opt-out to a higher ticketed price.
- The budget needs to be looked at line by line to see which contributions are fair to restrict to students who do pay fees and which should be available to all students regardless of fee.

Example: IPSF subsidy is a lot (>\$1000) that should be looked at. \$5000 comes from SLL and \$1200 from UPS that is used after SLL funding used. If the \$1200 does not go to the student, they are still eligible for the \$5000 from SLL. SLL gives UPS Council the money and we distribute it to students. Given that, we cannot really make a decision on how opting out affects students before talking to SLL; need to consider these changes.

- Goes back to conference subsidies, would you take that out of the blurb? Even though we have SLL funding, UPS still gives a significant money PDW: \$4000, OPA: \$2000.
- For anything that is joint between SLL and UPS funding needs to be considered. For example, SIF provides funding for clubs, so are students who do not pay fees allowed to participate in clubs? Clubs are enriching experiences that we do not necessarily want to take away. Consider reallocating the budget and only use SLL for conferences, taking UPS conference funding for other expenses. This is an internal change within UPS, but would not change the



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language of the Society Fee statement.

- For PDW and IPSF, the students have to pay for CAPSI fee to be eligible for these things. If you pay CAPSI fee, they can still go on exchange and PDW, but they will not get funding from UPS. If you are a CAPSI member, you can do all these events and attend CAPSI conferences, but subsidies are a part of the Society Fee. CAPSI fee does not contribute to the subsidies.

- There are 3 income streams: student fees (\$67k/year), sponsorships (\$30-40k/year), SLL (\$30k/year) - SLL and sponsorship funding comes in regardless of student fees, so it makes sense that some events are available to all students, and then some that are for fee paying students. Depending on the number of students that do decide to opt-out, you could see the limitation to put on students, but that is difficult since you'd have to do it retrospectively, based on the number of students that opt-out.

- If students opt-out on a per semester basis - example: if a student only opts out first semester and pays for second semester fees, how would that impact restrictions? Will have to work with the Faculty to figure this out, as it depends on how quickly we can get a list of students who opt-out, and what the opt-out window will be for second semester. First semester is mid-July to Sept 19, but for second semester, it is unknown.

- Based on the Constitution and Handbook for Student Societies (governs how student societies are run), if you do not pay full fees, by definition, you are not a part of UPS. Given this definition, and the fact that students can opt-out, if they opt out, they lose their eligibility as full UPS members. If we want to preserve that, we need to reach out to Vice-Provost to see their view of student societies and rewrite Constitution. It brings up the concern that these students would not be able to run for student council, vote or be a club executive. Will talk to the Vice-Provost first to see if we can get around that. Usually for elections, you run the year before, and then students may run thinking they can pay next year when they are on council. We do not want to limit life outside of academics. It could also cause a negative perception of UPS. Talk to Vice-Provost and consider change to The Constitution.

- If a student does not pay CAPSI, are they a part of CAPSI at all? No, they would not be a CAPSI member, and they do not receive any CAPSI benefits. Waiting on response on whether they can run for CAPSI. In terms of voting for local and national CAPSI councils, this has never been an issue before since all UofT student were automatically CAPSI members. Only CAPSI members can vote on both local and national CAPSI council. Local CAPSI council includes class council CAPSI rep positions (i.e. first year CAPSI reps, second year CAPSI reps, etc.)

- We want to stress not paying Society Fees is seriously. First year students will be less aware of the opt-out and less informed about it. You have to actively go on a portal and choose all the fees you want to opt out of. By default, you have to go out of your way to not pay fees. If you see the option, you will not really know the benefit. UPS does a lot of textbook sales - in the past, upper years come into Facebook group that said not to buy textbooks, so they could also possibly do that too with Society Fees.

- What has UTSU done about UTSU student fee opts outs? UTSU has really just talked about awareness campaigns. Will find out more what they intend on



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doing.

- The deadline tomorrow is for the description of the fees that will appear on the opt-out portal.

- It may be worthwhile putting a line that says the results of opting-out are tentative or subject to change. It may be useful to write "Please refer to UPS' final guidelines regarding this matter." In the future, could have a document that outlines all the details, rather than just this little description about the opt-out. Proposed to change the wording for the blurbs to include "may/could result in..." which is better than tentative.

- Will students still get full access to clubs? Participating in club activities, being a club executive, requesting for funding. More of a question about being executive members on clubs. It may be worthwhile to add student clubs into the opt-out statement, since it emphasizes the gravity of the matter - it shows the extent of UPS contribution to student body. We may necessarily go through with enforcing it. However, the way that clubs choose their next executive team does not go through UPS, it goes through previous president(s) choosing, so we would have to give this list to those people and tell them you cannot choose these students. The infographic made will go everywhere - everything Society Fee goes toward will be made clear.

- b) **CAPSI FEE** - By opting out, you will renounce your status as a CAPSI member and Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) member, and will no longer have access to the following benefits: CAPSI competitions/awards, Professional Development Week (PDW), mock OSCEs, free agendas, continuing professional development programs, and textbook/Staples/PEBC preparation material discounts.

RATIONALE - The benefits listed above are only available to students who are CAPSI members (i.e. students who pay the CAPSI fee) - this is enforced on a national level and cannot be changed by any individual school. However, we have chosen not to restrict access to any other CAPSI initiatives (e.g. PAM initiatives) given that these are governed by our local CAPSI council instead of CAPSI National.

- In the past, all UofT students are CAPSI members. Opting out, puts us in the same position as some of the other schools. What is listed here is firm, because it comes from CAPSI. This is how it works at every school where not all students are automatically members. Basically anything not in this list is governed by CAPSI representatives and they have decided that they will not add any more limitations to the list - i.e. PAM.

- Point of clarification: Students who opt-out cannot participate in Toronto's Next Top Pharmacist (TNTP). Since these students cannot participate in Canada's Next Top Pharmacist, then they cannot compete in TNTP since they will not be eligible to attend PDW. However, these students can still buy a ticket, and watch TNTP.

- Restrictions on IPSF initiatives - you don't need to be an IPSF member through CAPSI, because you can independently go and become an IPSF member.

- It is important for students to know that they are not eligible for the exchange



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program, if they do not pay this fee. This can be added to the to the CAPSI Fee description.

- c) **GRADUATION FEE** - We propose that opting out of the graduation fee will result in a markup on tickets to the graduation formal, proportional to the number of years the individual has opted out.

RATIONALE - The graduation fee directly contributes to both the graduation formal, and graduation gifts. The funding for the graduation formal subsidizes the ticket cost of the event, therefore if an individual opts out for multiple years an increased ticket price should be paid in fairness to those who pay the fee yearly. We do not wish to revoke graduation gifts from those who do not pay the fee, as it is meant to be a parting gift to remind everyone of their time at the faculty.

- On the one hand, it is difficult because fees are being paid on a semester-by-semester basis. If there are no measures like this taken, then people would have no incentive to pay the fee.
- UPS contributes \$5-6k/year to graduation fund. A bulk of it goes towards each class fund every year. This money helps to run your events. Graduation fund also receives money from sponsorships and fundraising - we should add more on the graduation fee in terms of phrasing.
- Proposal for instead of saying what students are opting out of, we should say what the fund the fund contributes to (graduation and class council). Using "your graduation" or "your class council" would be more direct, as it emphasizes the concept of it affecting your graduating class and council funds. Consider that although it is true that these fees get transferred into the class council account, which important for first years, after second year Phrosh, this contribution is negligible.
- Proposal for changing the name from Graduation Fee to something different, since first years may not necessarily be thinking about graduation. In the past, when we submitted how our fees are broken down to the Vice-Provost, and we were the ones who called it Graduation Fee, so we can consider changing the name.
- Can graduation fee be a lump sum fee to be paid in fourth year? That is a matter of how we operate versus how we are planning on phrasing it in the description.
- Instead of statement saying that opting out will result in this, is it better to say that the fee brings you subsidies for graduation formal, class council events and graduation gifts? It would be more positive, instead of saying you lose this. We have the infographic campaign that will be going everywhere, which would tell students what they are getting. The opt-out descriptions are more of a last attempt for students who have decided they want to opt-out, so they see what they will be missing out on. Is it possible to include both what the fee goes toward and what they would miss out on if they opt-out? For example, "This fee brings you X, Y, Z. Opting out, results in lack of..." These blurbs can only be 500 characters, which is not a lot of space. Saying this is what we bring has a lot more emphasis on aspects of student life that are considered important



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(conferences, intramurals, clubs, scholarships). Tell them what the benefits are, and if you opt out, you may not be eligible to receive these benefits. But if you're opting out, you read what you will miss out on in the infographic, since the fee is there.

- As long as people can get a clear idea of what the graduation fee is for and the consequences of opting out are.

- Will the mark-up for prices be equivalent to \$8.50 * the # of times you opt out, or higher? If it is the same, there is no incentive to pay now versus later. It is too early to determine what the mark-up price would be.

- Overall, change the name of the fee, and include class council contribution to the fee.

- v. Next steps, JP and Gigi will write out the final statements that will be put for a vote.
- vi. Cannot reverse opt-out once a student has chosen to do it.

3. Updates on Upcoming Events

4. Updates/Presentation from Council Members

- a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary
- d. Finance
- e. External Affairs Directors
- f. Athletics
- g. Events
- h. CAPSI
- i. OPA
- j. UTSU
- k. Marketing
- l. Monograph
- m. Pharmakon
- n. Webmaster
- o. 2T0
- p. 2T1
- q. 2T2
- r. 2T3

D. Other Business

E. Adjourn Meeting

- a. Christina motions to adjourn at 9:46 PM
 - Gigi seconds the motion
 - Meeting adjourned