

Sheridan Student Union 173rd Meeting Minutes HMC

2nd March 2016

Members in Attendance:

Xinxin Zhang – Director (Acting Chair)
Marina Qureshi – Secretary, Director
Nicolas Mazur - Director
Rachel Pusateri – Director
Kaushalsingh Devda- Director
Muhammad Tayyab Asrar- Director
Shanise Collins - Director
Krittika Malhotra – Director
Russel Neal – Director
Gurpreet Singh-Director
Michael Burnside (Teleconference)
Sunny Pathak-Director

Ex-Officio Members

Sylvia Ibrahim- President
Jamie King- General Manager
Kaitlyn Di Ilio- Project coordinator and CRO
Enrique Ponce- Executive Vice President

Guests

Simranjit Singh Sandhu
Ben LeBlanc
Richard Mohorovich
Gunjan Makwana
Nalane Nirmalan
Momocha Dikshit
Navnit Bains

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Call the meeting to order at 7:15

Motion to approve the changes to the agenda

First: **Nick**, Seconded **Muhammad**
Motion Carried

Shuttle Bus Conversation

Katie provides everyone with a summary of the reason for the survey being put out back in November. She lets everyone know that the reason for doing the survey was to provide the board with better understanding of the needs and wants of the student body when it comes to a transportation solution. The funding model for the Shuttle currently relies on reserves (for both the college and the Sheridan Student Union) which are currently funding the Shuttle, also why gauging the student need for this service was important. The other reason was so that if any decision was made by the board with regards to the shuttle or a universal pass, they would have reliable data to point to in supporting a decision. The survey was launched on November 20th 2015 and concluded on December 11th 2015. 21,079 students were sent an email invitation to take part in the survey and 1,481 responses to the survey which is a 6.8% response rate. The data presented looks at shuttle users, campus users and the total student population to develop the recommendations for the board. The survey is divided into three separate sections.

- 1) Needs analysis- Patterns and purpose of student use of transportation
- 2) Experience - Rating of quality & availability of services, to and between campuses, issues faced by students, method of payment, time it takes
- 3) Possible solutions - Enhance Shuttle Bus, Introduce U-Pass and remove shuttle Service, or Negotiate discounted public transit pass and remove shuttle service

There was no over-powering voice that indicated a need or want from students to implement a U-PASS. Students rate Public Transportation Services to be average/normal in terms of availability and quality of service. Students rate Shuttle Bus service slightly below average/normal in terms of availability and quality of service. Students experience most issues with availability, length of trip, late service and full bus/pass ups. Shuttle respondents experience these issues with a similar frequency. PRESTO is the most common method of payment for public transit among students. Most students are spending between \$50-149 on transportation services in a month. When rating the value of service, students are split (half say it is unreasonable, while the other half say it is fair to reasonable). Overall, students show the most support for enhancing the shuttle bus service. Students are neutral on supporting the different funding options, however the most support is given to an optional term pass. Students do not indicate that they will use the service more if the changes proposed are made to the service.

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The Recommendations made to the board were as follows.

Recommendation One:

Sheridan Student Union should explore ways to enhance the shuttle service with the College using survey feedback, and proceed to coordinate a referendum in the 2016 fall term to establish an ancillary fee to cover the cost of the enhanced shuttle bus service.

If the referendum fails, the shuttle service will convert to a pay-per-use model (possibly subsidized by the SSU and College), with the potential introduction of a discounted term pass for access to the shuttle.

Recommendation Two:

The SSU Board should make a statement surrounding our understanding of a lack of student interest in a UPASS, and focus instead on working with the College to enhance the shuttle service over the next several years.

Recommendation Three:

Recognizing the importance of municipal transit to a majority of students at all three campuses, aim to build more effective dialogue between the SSU and municipal transit partners in order to find ways to better their services, as well as look into potential ways to enhance student access to PRESTO services and potential discounts where possible.

Russel comments that he likes the idea of meeting the needs of as many students as we can. He would like to see a shuttle bus pass that has an opt out option for people.

Ben brings up that he has met with the Oakville Transit and discussed different possibilities of running our shuttle bus through Oakville, Mississauga and Brampton municipalities as well as the possibility of a u-pass.

Sylvia reminds all those at the meeting that we have conducted the survey to use when coming to a decision surrounding the upass, and that information points us away from a upass and towards the enhancement of the shuttle bus.

Nick points out that the board has requested information to provide them with direction for what to do with the shuttle bus and what the need and want is for a upass. He says that now we have the direction, and data to point to which takes the pressure away from the board in making a large decision.

Shanise says that this is a decisions we should make using the data that we have been presented. I want this board to make the decision because they have all the context.

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Be it resolved that the SSUI would like to table the Shuttle Bus recommendation discussion limited to 15 minutes to the next meeting.

First: **Shanise**, Seconded **Russel**
Motion Carried

Meeting Adjournment

Be it resolved that the **SSUI Board of Directors** adjourn the 173rd board of directors meeting at 9:09 pm.

First: Shanise, Seconded: Gurpreet
Motion Carried