



*MUNSS Meeting Minutes
6:30pm-8:30pm, February 13, 2017
Conestoga College 2F28*

Call of the Role

Present

Anmolpreet Kaur (President), Leighanne Swance (VP-Conestoga), Jessica Hill-Porter (Executive Assistant), Heather Buchanan (CNSA OD-Conestoga), Hannah Cross (CNSA OD-McMaster), Thomas O’Handley (CNSA OD-Mohawk), Kristin Greig (Level 1-Conestoga), Andrea Rideout (Level 1-Conestoga), Jessica DeBackere (Level 2-Conesotga), Aidan Nitz (Level 2-Conestoga), Sophie Lapierre-Green (Level 3-Mohawk), Brianne Flowers (Level 3-Conestoga), Caitlin Devries (Level 3-Conestoga), Dallas Miller (Level 4-Conestoga), Ashlyn Baer (Level 4-Conestoga), Christina Pastore (RPN-BScN-Conestoga), Rebecca Crawford (CNSA AD-McMaster), Alexandra Dandy (CNSA AD-Mohawk), Vigne Sridharan (CNSA AD-Conestoga), Mary Attalla (Awards and Scholarships), Sarosh Karma (Social Co-Chair-McMaster), Megan Pople (Social Co-Chair-Conestoga), Sagar Patel, Bethany Greathead, Chloe Norris, Laura Jakobsen

Faculty

Dianne DalBello (Conestoga), Heather Cross (Chair of Nursing – Conestoga).

Absent

Cynthia Hammond (Mohawk), Ola Lunyk-Child (McMaster), Lois Chui (VP-McMaster), Amanda Todd (VP-Mohawk), Joyce Ng (Finance), Maryam Salik (Education-Mohawk), Mira Sayah (Education-McMaster), Shivani Patel (Communications), Kayla Bradley (Level 1-McMaster), Sara Rajiwate (Level 1-McMaster), Lou Ginne Avancena (Level 1-Mohawk), Grace Sinke (Level 1-Mohawk), Adriana Tugg (Level 2-Mohawk), Laura Chapman (Level 2-McMaster), Shirwa Geele (Level 2-McMaster), Mackenzie Mawson (Level 3-Mohawk), Rachel Rowey (Level 3-McMaster), Alison Langendoen (Level 3-McMaster), Zoe Waller (Level 4-Mohawk), Katie Labron (Level 4-McMaster), Nikki Berza (Level 4-McMaster), Hilary Sudar (RPN-BScN-Conestoga), Bailey Rogers (RPN-BScN-Mohawk), Cara Peters (RPN-BScN-Mohawk), Josh Enzlin (Accerlated), Sharon Nwamadi (RNAO-Hamilton), Lawson Sherwood (RNAO-Kitchener-Waterloo), Joseph Fan (Social Co-Chair-McMaster), Kelly Long (SRA), Allisa Ragnanan (SRA), Alyson Bierling (GUNI-McMaster/Mohawk), Lisa VanderWees (GUNI-McMaster/Mohawk), Selena Braund (GUNI-Conestoga) and Caitlin Brydges (GUNI-Conestoga)

Start of the Meeting

Motion	To start the meeting at 6:35pm
Motioned By	Aidan Nitz (Level 2 Representative)
Seconded By	Dallas Miller (Level 4 Representative)
Motion Conclusion	Passed by general consensus

Heather Cross

- Electives: Ada Harrison went to McMaster to speak with the Sociology Department to see if the elective selection could be improved at Conestoga College. Results from this conversation have not discussed, but once they are actions will be implemented.
- Level 2 challenges with statistics (HTHSCI2S03):
 - The course is presented in an unorganized fashion. One of the concerns is the professor and TA do not provide answers to practice assignments. The feedback from the professor was that she cannot release the answers, instead it can be discussed in tutorial. The TA however, contradicts lessons or concepts the professor presents in class and the clarification of how an answered was determined remains unclear. There is anxiety building because students do not know how well they are performing in the class due to lack of feedback making it difficult for students to identify areas of weakness and focus studying. Additionally, the class itself is unorganized. A lot of class time is dedicated to questions, which could be answered through email or in tutorial as some are off topic in regards to the lesson that day. The professor also dedicated time prior to class for questions, however most students did not utilize this time and asked the same questions during the class period. This is an issue of communication with students and the professor.
 - The professor does have to right to refuse posting the answers.
 - There has been discussion that students are being disrespectful to the professor and other students within the class. This could be hindering the professor's ability to properly teach the lessons. Upper years are suggesting to find a structure that works for the professor and the students. The level 3 students experienced many of the same issues and it is critical to approach the professor in a respectful manner to determine a method that works for the cohort.
 - The course has changed within the last 2 years so finding resources outside of the class are challenging. Conestoga College does offer excellent tutors in the Learning Commons, however because it is a McMaster course their understanding of the course is limited. To seek help from upper years is also limited because a new teacher has been introduced into the course recently as well as a new textbook. For students that want to find extra help and guide their studying is extremely limited at Conestoga.
 - To add on, this course requires the purchase of a computer program with the

textbook. However, there have many issues the computer itself and with registering/downloading itself on to student's computer due to theft/fraud cases. It regards to this computer program; the students require clarity on SPSS function in nursing. This is the first-year SPSS has been implemented so it very limiting to seek help with the program and the relation of this program in terms of the course as it will not be used in exams and excel is sufficient in assignments. It is clear as to why students require statistics for nursing research, however understanding a computer program that will not be used in professional practice or course exams remains unclear.

- Level 2 representatives will gather feedback from fellow level 2 students in regards to this course. The Conestoga representatives will filter through the feedback that is received via level2@munss.ca and send a structured email to the professor outlining concerns and feedback from the student body
- Level 1 challenges with PBL/PBL and clinical:
 - The nursing courses are very tutor based and this carries throughout the program. If other students are receiving additional resources, then utilize them as a resource as well. Network and access resources from other students if you are aware that they are available.
 - The policy on uniforms is developed by nursing students. Tutor do not decide what is mandatory and what is not. It is tutor based and yes the tutors will support the MUNSS uniform policy, however, it is a student policy that should be followed by the student population. Heather can mention to the team that MUNSS would like the policies enforced to maintain consistency, but overall the policy is the students and it is the student's responsibility to adhere to the professional conduct that is expected of them as a student. It is not about appearance, it is about safety in regards to professional practice within the clinical environment and this why it enforced in hospital or in the open access lab.
- Resources for upper years to reference to program changes to educate lower years or keep updated on improvements:
 - Changes are being made every year and every change in curriculum is tracked. However, this resource is extensive and would not appropriate for students to decipher. There is a summary sheet that is constructed every year on changes which may be more effective for the student population.
- Updates on NCLEX:
 - Planning to stick with the current nine-point approach as it has proven to be successful and correlating with higher pass rates. For the Conestoga site the method is effective and as a school we plan to keep all the supports (HESI, learning plans, MCQs, adaptive testing, etc) in place and as time continues improvements will be implemented where appropriate.
 - The CNO has overruled the 3-attempt limit on the NCLEX and graduates have unlimited re-writes.
 - Updates on the HESI from last meeting of opposing placing a grade to the exit

exam will be sent to Heather as this was a major concern among the upper years.

- It was suggested to begin preparing lower years without direct knowledge they are preparing for the HESI and NCLEX is through computerized testing. This was mentioned at the last meeting it was discussed that is very effective in preparing students for exit exams.
- MUNSS is currently writing their referendum piece to present to McMaster University to become a chapter school for RNAO. If the referendum were to pass, then there would be a \$16.00 increase in student fees. This is strictly a student interest movement as institutions like Conestoga, Mohawk and McMaster cannot increase fees that would go over inflation. Since this will be a change that occurs in subsequent years there will be revaluation measures that will be implemented to ensure effectiveness and interest from incoming students.
- Explanation of fast tracking and availability for students:
 - Years where Conestoga has the resources to do, the school offers courses in the Spring/Summer between the level 3 and 4 years with typically 40 spaces. Doing this assists with the overload of graduates in the Spring and accommodate clinical placements during the Fall and Winter terms.
 - Typically, there are spots available and is inclusive for RPN-BScN students. There is a ranking system that will be implemented for over capacity.

Thode Library Proposal

- Engineering and Health Science Societies are looking to extend the Thode Library hours to 3:00am beginning after reading until exams week. As of right now, the extended hours for the library do not begin until the week prior to exams.
- It is evident that nursing students do use Thode and Health Science Library. The cost MUNSS will be covering the security costs for the extended hours. The breakdown is that it will cost \$5,000.00 for a 6-week period and each society (including nursing) is asked to assist with the cost by averaging \$200.00-\$250.00 from each society.
- This donation will be a one-time donation, if this trial run demonstrates need and proves effectiveness of extending the hours then hopefully the MSU and/or faculty departments will assist to cover the security charges in the long-term
- Feedback:
 - Thode is a casual area for study space for students allowing for group study. Nursing students do use the area and it will be beneficial for McMaster and Mohawk students.
 - Based on amount that is left within the budget for donations, it is not a costly donation and it will directly benefit the 2/3 nursing student population as well as other students present at the university.
 - If the trial run is successful, this is something that will continually benefit incoming students.

Motion	Motion to donate \$250.00 to extend Thode's hours of service by subsidizing the cost for security.
Motioned By	Sarosh Karma (Social Chairperson)
Seconded By	Jessica Debackere (Level 2 Representative)
Motion Conclusion	Yes: 9, No: 1, Abstained: 1 → PASS

Election VOCS

- Update: Conestoga's Education Chairperson resigned earlier today.
- Jessica Hill-Porter (VP Conestoga) → PASSED
- Bethany Greathead (Finance) → PASSED
- Ally Dandy (CNSA OD Mohawk) → PASSED
- Rebecca Crawford (CNSA OD McMaster) → PASSED
 - Open core positions:
 - Education Chairperson Mohawk and Conestoga
 - Executive Assistant
 - Communication Chairperson
 - Positions going to election:
 - CNSA OD Conestoga
 - Education Chairperson McMaster
 - Voting for begins on February 20th-February 26th for core positions.
 - General Executive Nominations begin March 6th.

Policies and Procedures

- Content that needs to be added to MUNSS Policies and Procedures are procedures for a referendum, individual holding multiple positions, tie during elections.
- Anmolpreet has provided polices from Science and Engineering societies outlining their procedures and executive members are asked to review content and prepared to discussion opinions at the next meeting.

Updates

- Executive Assistant:
 - Has been in contact with members of the Polytechnique Post-Secondary Institution on Six Nations Reservation in hopes of gaining a MUNSS member from Six Nations campus.
 - The McMaster Nursing program that was originally offered at the Six Nations campus has been relocated to Brantford and is not solely directed for Aboriginal students as it is open to all residents in the surrounding area.
 - Updates from obtaining a chairperson from this campus will be provided as they are received.
- Finance:
 - Still investigating contradictions in MUNSS fees for students, MUNSS is currently running off surplus.

End the Meeting

Motion	To end the meeting at 8:27pm
Motioned By	Aidan Nitz (Level Representative)
Seconded By	Brianne Flowers (Level 3 Representative)
Motion Conclusion	Passed by general consensus

Meeting Adjourned