

17 March 2017

A Health Centre Review was conducted in the early fall of 2016, with a focus on recommendations for providing the best possible service to our students. Thank you so much for your active participation in that review.

First and foremost, the reviewers took particular note of the dedication of our employees and physicians to student health and wellness at our University, and it is this focus that will drive decisions as we move forward.

The overarching recommendation was that the units dedicated to student health and wellness be combined into one department called Student Wellness Services. This department will be under the direction of a Student Wellness Services Director reporting to the Executive Director, Student Services and will include the following units: Accommodated Learning Centre, Counselling & Career Services, Health Clinic, and Mental Health Team. By the time implementation is complete, Student Wellness Services will be centralized in one space and will share a Mental Health Strategy, Communications Strategy, information technology systems (to the point allowed by statute), triage systems, case management model, forms, budget, and health promotion and education.

The University has accepted this recommendation and we are excited about the service-enhancement possibilities this presents for our students. We look forward to working with you to realize the full implementation of this plan within the next 5 years.

Key to implementation is the following: 1) the creation of the position of Student Wellness Services Director to provide leadership for the new department and implementation, and 2) the creation of space for all four units to be housed together. On the former, we are hopeful that the position of Student Wellness Services Director be filled as soon as possible, at which time reporting relationships will begin to be addressed. On the latter, plans are being developed to address the need for common space for the Student Wellness Centre with the completion of the new science and academic building (Destination Project – Phase I) and space allocations happening subsequent to that.

In the meantime, we do not anticipate any changes to the reporting structure within the units as it currently exists, but we are focussing on other steps toward implementation:

- Discussions have commenced on how the role of Physician Lead could be expanded to take on a larger medical lead role in the future. We are in discussions with the physicians about how this could roll out.
- The role of First Aid Nurse within the larger Health and Safety picture will be reviewed.
- The makeup of the Behavioural Incident Committee (BIC) will be reviewed.

We commit to providing direct regular updates as implementation proceeds. As we progress toward implementation of the Student Wellness Services Centre, we will need to consult with groups and individuals as appropriate. We invite you to provide suggestions directly to either of us.

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