

MARCH 2024 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

POSITION	President
REPRESENTATIVE	Samantha (Sam) Brown
DATE	March 20, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Queen's Park: Student Mental Health Advocacy with OUSA and Chegg

T5 membership schools alongside the OTSU (Laurier, Waterloo, Brock, McMaster's Student Unions) will be attending Questions Park on February 27th to advocate for better support regarding student mental health. Chegg has reached out to OUSA to support their lobbying day and since this is one of OUSA's core advocacy priorities I will be going on behalf of the OTSU. I will provide further updates at the next meeting.

1.2 Spring General Assembly McMaster Student Union

The principles, concerns and recommendations on the following papers have been approved:

- International Students and International Education
- Gender-Based and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response
- Addressing Racism & Religious Discrimination

The amendments from our delegation of 4 students (with OUSA's ratio of 1:3000 students) were also passed. We'll be posting clips from GA on the OTSU's latest in the coming weeks.

1.3 Durham Region Transit Visits

Tega organized Durham Region Transit visits for north and downtown campus for students to voice concerns and ask questions about routes and route changes that has recently come into effect directly to a DRT representative. I assisted the representative Kamika on her north campus day.

1.4 OUSA: Teaching in Excellence Award and PiHED

The 2 professors have been selected for OUSA's Teaching in Excellence Award in Excellence by the students. These professors alongside Dr. Steven Murphy will be attending OUSA's Partners in Higher Education Dinner in April to receive their awards. As part of our first year at OUSA we are also sponsoring a table at the event so we will be particularly highlighted during the night. The professors are:

- Dr. Syed Quadri (FHSc)
- Instructor Dan Walters (FSSH)

1.5 **Pangaea**

On March 5th, Elo and I hosted our Student Showcase at Regent Theatre. It was great to see how much time and effort students put into their acts! Thank you to the Events and Engagement team for 2 successful Pangaea events.

1.6 **Succession Planning**

It's almost May which means it's executive team transition time. I will be discussing a succession plan guideline for this year later in this meeting, however one of my recommendations is that there be an overlap at some point after election results have been confirmed with the outgoing and incoming team to discuss ongoing projects, goal setting, project feasibility and provide more general context to the role. This is a gap I noticed when our current team came into office that could benefit teams and the organization at large in terms of continuity for years to come.

1.7 **Transit Executive Committee Meetings**

Tega, Angelique, and I attended the Transit Executive Committee Meeting at Durham Regions Headquarters to follow up on the decisions for the committee regarding budget reallocations that impact service enhancements for Durham Region Transit. We are currently waiting on a decision for the final budget.

1.8 **Legacy Builders Digital Black Magazine**

The Digital Black Magazine is an element of legacy builders with 3 categories: Black and Cultured (highlighting cultural wear and its significance throughout the Black diaspora), Black in leadership (Black student leaders on campus), Athletics and Top People in fashion (fashion and the roots of current trends as related to contemporary fashion). The goal of this magazine is to wrap up the Legacy Builders series theme for Black History Month this year. I'd like to highlight Jocie and Austin's support in completing 2 days of photoshoots for this project as we move forward with editing and layouts of the magazine. This wouldn't have been possible without Breanne (Clubs and Societies Assistant) idea and commitment to the project. The goal is to have this published before the end of April. Thank you to all the students who participated!

1.9 **First Impressions**

We held First Impressions at north and the downtown campus (for the first time) and shout out to the Events and Engagement team, and particularly Krysta, with the thought she put into the event to ensure students feel comfortable receiving the resources they need.

1.10 **Legal Aid Meeting**

We met with the Legal Aid providers to discuss the potential for a housing 101 workshop so students can understand their housing rights and the resources they can utilize through the legal aid services the OTSU provides updates to follow in April!

1.11 **FSSH Eat and Greet**

The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (FSSH) has assembled a dynamic and experienced panel of all-star alumni who will be at Charles Hall, Room 105 to share tips for success in their respective disciplines with current students. This is your opportunity to learn about careers in your future field while you network with alumni, students and future students.

The event is on Tuesday, April 2 from 5 to 7 p.m if you'd like to sign up, registration is filling up fast and it will be hosted by AJ (Mitch and Leslie Frazer Faculty of Education) and I.

2. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

2.1 **Elections Committee**

The elections committee met to finalize the final items and concerns flagged during the elections meeting which

were addressed during the special board meeting earlier in March.

2.2 February SAAC

I attended the SAAC meeting to present the nominations for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Award for Teaching Excellence February 2024. We are hoping to have the candidates recommended by the students' votes and the committee's recommendations approved at this meeting.

2.3 Clubs and Societies Committee

I attended the Clubs and Societies Committee meeting for a complaint filed against a club through the Sanction Form, more context and the committee's recommendations will be provided in camera.

POSITION	VP Student Life
REPRESENTATIVE	Eloghosa (Elo) Avenbuan
DATE	March 20, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Black Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune

As part of the last event for our Black History Month events, Sam Brown (OTSU President) and I hosted our game night in SHA 131. Students who attended were able to receive a free tax clinic session with our Financial Controller.

1.2 Pangea

On Tuesday, March 5th, Sam Brown (OTSU President) and I hosted our Student Showcase at Regent Theatre! It was nice seeing the amazing display of talents that our students possess. On Wednesday, March 6th I also attended our Cultural Showcase event down in the CRWC! Huge shoutout to the events and engagement team for making this possible!

1.3 Day in the Life

Me, along with our communications and marketing team, worked together to create a day-in-the-life video! In this video, I took students along with me while I got ready for Pangea!

1.4 Meeting with the Student Legal Team

The executive team, along with other key staff members meet with Larissa Chen from the student legal team. The purpose of this meeting was to brainstorm potential legal workshops we could do for housing concerns.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1 Clubs and Society Committee

The Clubs and Society Committee met last week to discuss complaints that have been filed against a club. Recommendations from the club and society committee will be discussed later on during this meeting.

POSITION	VP Student Affairs
REPRESENTATIVE	Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor
DATE	March 20, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Transit Advocacy

Myself, the OTSU President and OTSU VP Downtown attended the March 6th TEC delegation meeting. We all presented our concerns surrounding the \$8million cut in funding to the DRT. However, the DRT was adamant in insisting that there would be no budget cuts rather there would be a “reallocation”. A meeting was also held with some DRT representatives, university administration from all three Durham post-secondary institutions. The DRT representatives made us aware of the Public Information Centres they will be holding from the end of March till April to gather feedback from the community on transit service level planning.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1 OUSA Teaching Excellence Award

The SAAC evaluated the nominations for the award & nominated one North campus professor, but one of the Board Directors expressed strong interest in nominating one of the Downtown professors. After the meeting, upon suggestion, the committee agreed to also nominate one Downtown campus professor to ensure inclusive recognition of instructors.

POSITION	VP Downtown
REPRESENTATIVE	Angelique Dack
DATE	March 21, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Black History Month

Alongside my fellow executives, we supported the university in creating a video highlighting the Black excellence initiatives from the OTSU, how to support Black futures and how to show up as active allies in our everyday lives.

1.2 Transit Advocacy

Supporting Tega, VP Student Affairs, I spoke at the March 6th Transit Executive Committee with a focus on my experience with the improvement and areas for growth with Durham Region Transit. It was well-received however, there was some conversation about the budget cuts not being as the delegation had noted. I look forward to working alongside Tega and Sam to put together a meaningful response calling to question the 2024 Property Tax Budget, which outlines a 36.4 percent service hour reduction specified as permanent.

1.3 Pints & Politics

Pints and Politics are coming back! We currently have three politicians RSVP'd alongside our friends at OUSA. The details are coming together, but we look forward to hosting it on April 5.

1.4 Downtown Residence Focus Group

Working alongside the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, I have put together a focus group to discuss the potential of a downtown focus group alongside connecting students with an accessible option 3-minute walk from Charles Hall. The focus group will take place March 26 and I look forward to sharing the results in April's board meeting.

1.5 Experience Venture Conclusion

The last day for Experience Ventures was March 11th, and we have concluded the two business development positions with a business proposal on how to monetize ESports. I look forward to meaningfully reviewing and pitching to our Esports & Engagement Coordinator. We want to continue this contract for the Downtown position to put more resources into a video series highlighting our downtown.

1.6 OUSA Spring General Assembly

Alongside Sam and two student delegates, we attended OUSA's Spring General Assembly at McMaster University. We had meaningful conversations about International Students and International Education; Gender-Based and Sexual Violence Prevention and Response; Addressing Racism & Religious Discrimination. The General Assembly passed all three papers. It was a great opportunity to represent our students within the priorities used to guide the OUSA network. Next year's papers will be announced later this year.

1.7 Pangea

Another year, another amazing Pangea! It was an amazing opportunity to observe the multicultural excellence we have here at Ontario Tech. Parkwood Estate reached out to have OTSU included in their Oshawa 100 anniversary message, and I am happy to report that we used this opportunity to highlight the performance at Pangea.

1.8 First Impressions

Special thanks to the Events & Engagement team, which hosted two pop-ups for first impressions this previous week. We interacted with over 80+ students across campuses. This is the first time we hosted downtown and it now presents an amazing opportunity to continue this effort.

1.9 Legal Care Meeting

Our executive team, alongside full-time staff, connected with Larissa from Student Care to discuss the legal programs alongside more ways we can further support our students. The usage rates of the program are much higher than expected, with the majority being in the housing space. I look forward to connecting with Larissa further regarding the advocacy for an Off-Campus Living coordinator and having the first-ever housing fair at Ontario Tech.

1.10 FESA October 2024 Election

Great conversations with the FESA team alongside full-time staff regarding action towards having an October 2024 Education Election. An action plan is being created however, the FESA team feels supported to aid in their transition to the 2024 Executive team.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1 February FSSH Faculty Council

The conversation focuses on Activity Based Budgeting and ensuring engagement budgets are used to their full potential to make the biggest impact on our students. The presentation took the full committee time with no updates from others.

2.2 February Downtown Campus Advisory Committee

The committee continues to work on a list of recommendations for the next VP Downtown and the committee focuses on our three priorities of Downtown Culture, Student Engagement and Public Transportation. The next meeting will focus on transition with the next VP Downtown, Matifadza Chidovi, invited to attend to ensure continuation.

2.3 International Town and Gown Student Engagement Committee

The OTSU has been invited to participate in the International Town and Gown Student Engagement Committee through our relationship with OUSA. At the core of this group is how best to engage students meaningfully every step of the way.

Alongside me, other students invited included: Abigail Chaplin from the University of Manchester and Brodie Norwich from Wilfrid Laurier University. I had the opportunity to continue to connect with Brodie via the partnership with OUSA to align our priorities on the committee. Leading the meeting, Alexander Wray is the current president of the Town and Gown Association of Ontario, a relationship I look forward to expanding.