



APRIL 2024 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

POSITION	President
REPRESENTATIVE	Samantha (Sam) Brown
DATE	April 24, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Social Science and Humanities Eat and Greet

The Eat and Greet was a huge success! The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (FSSH) Experiential Learning office, with Ontario Tech collaborators, hosted an Eat and Greet event featuring alumni and current students of Practicum. 9 FSSH alumni shared their journey from Ontario Tech including self-care, determination, and community involvement in the sector. There were easily 100 people including students, faculty, staff, community members, and high school and college students considering a FSSH degree.

The Alumni panelists represented the breadth of FSSH programs and featured grads from the very first cohort to the most recent:

- AJ Narenthira (Co-Host): Faculty of Education Board Director, Criminology & Justice (Alumni), Bachelor of Education and Ontario Tech University
- Sam Brown (Co-Host): President, Ontario Tech Student Union
- Nic Stevenson: Provincial Constable, Ontario Provincial Police
- Brandon Gibbs: Coordinator, Community Engagement and Social Impact, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment
- Roger Ragoonath: Senior Recruitment Officer, Ontario Tech University
- Kelsey Cluett: Communications and Digital Marketing Co-ordinator, Grandview Kids Foundation
- Allan Tieu: Investigator, Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
- Lindsay Bandini: Professional Standards Counsel, Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario
- Phil: Region of Durham

1.2 Board of Directors Interviews

We are interviewing for the 2 vacant Board of Director positions that will start May 1st.

1.3 Pints & Politics

We were able to welcome MPPs and municipal representatives to 2200 North for political conversation. A large part of what the OTSU does is advocate for students in spaces where they can't be or are not invited to the table. Our municipal and provincial advocacy (Housing, transit, mental health and sector sustainability) happens during the working day which conflicts with class times. This is why we brought the politicians to campus. Although we

advocate for students, part of our job is empowering students to advocate for themselves and what better of an opportunity than to speak to decision makers themselves. The event was largely successful as we had 3 politicians attend for students to converse with.

1.4 OUSA Partners in Higher Education Dinner

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes instructors who excel at unlocking the potential of Ontario's students. This is an opportunity to thank and provide an instructor with the recognition they deserve for successfully facilitating their students' desire to learn.

When you scroll through OUSA's list of Award Winners from all membership schools you may notice that we have 2 awards. Given that we have a North and Downtown campuses, part of the executive team's goals this year was to reflect both campuses at the Student Union and students who nominate their instructors at both campuses.

Since this is the OTSU's first year as a voting member of OUSA this is the first year we have been able to celebrate instructors at PiHED. The nominations were reviewed by OTSU's Student Advocacy and Advisory Committee (SAAC), proposed to the Board of Directors where the final nomination was ratified. Please keep an eye out for the latest blog that will have a detailed report on our website.

1.5 Legacy Builders: Digital Black Magazine

Our Legacy Builders Digital Black Magazine: Edition 1 has been released thank you to Breanne, our Clubs and Societies Assistant for the ideas, Jocie and Austin for the effort they put into photography and graphic design efforts related to the project. This is a project that I hope to see renewed next year as it is a good opportunity to spotlight Black leaders on our campus for Black History Month.

1.6 Black Excellence in Leadership Award

Black Excellence in leadership award winners have been selected and the formal announcement will be going out Our Legacy Builders Digital Black Magazine: Edition 1 has been released thank you to Breanne, Clubs and Societies Assistant, for the ideas, Jocie and Austin for the effort they put into photography and graphic design efforts related to the project.

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1.7 Communities with Brooms

We joined the City of Oshawa with M.P. Colin Carrie, John Howard Society, and the Durham Regional Police, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities for this annual initiative. We cleaned up downtown Oshawa's streets, foster community pride, build partnerships and raise awareness regarding clean and safe communities.

We met at North Parkette of City Hall to collect a map, garbage bags, gloves. Post event there was a BBQ at M.P. Colin Carrie's office.

1.8 Queen's Park Bill 166 An Act to amend the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act

Bill 166 "amends the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act with respect to colleges of applied arts and technology and publicly-assisted universities. The amendments include the following:

- Every college and university is required to have a student mental health policy that describes the programs, policies, services and supports available at the college or university in respect of student mental health.
- Every college and university is required to have policies and rules to address and combat racism and hate, including but not limited to anti-Indigenous racism, anti-Black racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia.
- The Minister is authorized to issue directives in relation to the information to be provided about the costs as-

sociated with attendance at the college or university”.

The recommendations and speaking notes from Angelique and I that we highlighted at the delegation at Queen’s Park will be on the OTSU’s Latest. Our recommendations were as follows:

- Under Student Mental Health Policy, including the addition of “a description of the student input process” to align with the verbiage of Regulation 131/16 of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act.
- Expand the understanding of Student Mental Health Services to include supports such as but not limited to Indigenous Centre, DEI Offices, and student-facing departments to allow for additional support for these services.
- In agreement with our provincial advocacy body, the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, the OTSU recommends that “A new clause should be added such that a provincial advisory committee be struck and comprised of racialized and religious students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community leaders. This committee will be responsible for helping create and advise on the policies being developed at post-secondary institutions.”
- The OTSU notes that the Ministry of Colleges and Universities should mandate that all institution-based mental health care providers receive training on providing accessible, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant counselling and referrals to diverse populations.”

The Critic of Colleges and Universities MPP Peggy Salter and other members of the committees asked us questions based on our delegations as well.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1 OUSA Steering Committee

I participated in a transition meeting to shift my duties to the incoming Steering Committee member and shared responsibilities, expectations for the role as a member on OUSA Steering Committee Meeting.

POSITION	VP Student Life
REPRESENTATIVE	Eloghosa (Elo) Avenbuan
DATE	April 25, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Digital Black Magazine

This month we celebrated the much-anticipated release of our Digital Black Magazine! Honourable mentions to Jocie Abbasakoor, Austin Oligario, Samantha Brown, Breanne McAlpin, and Salvador Caruncho for their dedication to this project.

1.2 Transition

This month has been busy as I'm preparing to end my term. Most notably, I have been busy finishing my transition document for the new incoming VP, setting up transition meetings, and adding all my projects and important documents into my VP folder for the new person.

1.3 Athletics Award Night

On March 28, 2024, I had the pleasure of attending the Athletics Award night at Regent Theatre. Here, I made a speech on behalf of the OTSU addressing all the athletics and highlighting their accomplishments so far. It was such a nice way to see how well the Athletics department was growing.

1.4 Pints and Politics

On April 5th, the executives and I held our second annual Pints and Politics event at 2000 North. The purpose of this event was to connect students with our leaders, enabling students to voice their concerns from a student perspective. Thanks to our VP Downtown (Angelique Dack) and our President (Sam Brown) for putting together such a wonderful event.

1.5 OUSA Partners in Higher Education Dinner

On April 10th, Sam Brown, Anglique Dack and I attended the OUSA Partners in Higher Education Dinner. During this dinner, Sam Brown presented two OUSA Teaching in Excellence Awards to Dan Walters and Syed Qadri.

1.6 Communities With Broom

On the 22nd of April, I, and the rest of the executives, partook in a community-led initiative cleaning downtown Oshawa to honour Earth Day.

1.7 Black Excellence in Leadership Award

This year, we picked two recipients for our annual Black Excellence in Leadership Award, to be announced at the Black Student Collective Gala. A blog regarding this award was written by myself and Sam Brown and will be released soon!

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

None to comment on.

POSITION	VP Student Affairs
REPRESENTATIVE	Oghenetega (Tega) Ubor
DATE	April 25, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Transition Planning

Along with the other executives, I spent a sizable chunk of the month working on my transition document for the incoming Vice President of Student Affairs.

1.2 Communities with Brooms

This city initiative is held to have community members contribute to cleaning up the downtown community. Myself along with the other executives and representatives from the Downtown campus participated in this initiative on the 23rd of April.

1.3 Pints & Politics

Vice President Downtown and OTSU President organized this year's Pints & Politics hosted at 2200. Municipal representatives and MPPs were present. While we had a small turnout, the students present were engaged.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1 SAAC Hiring

Two SAAC members-Sonia Mirza & Sanaullah Hayath have expressed interest in renewing their terms on the committee. This leaves two spots open for students at large, and nineteen students have already applied to fill the openings.

POSITION	VP Downtown
REPRESENTATIVE	Angelique Dack
DATE	April 25, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Meeting with 75% of Students, Faculty and Staff before December 1, 2023

The ambitious goal was 1741 downtown stakeholders before the end of the first semester, unfortunately, I was not able to reach this however, I was able to get this number up to 1,452. Originally my focus was on students, faculty and staff but with the opportunities from the community & OUSA, this has expanded to community members such as the GAP Committee (community partners working towards ending homelessness in Durham Region), the Transit

Executive Committee members, municipal and provincial politicians, student leaders from across Ontario (some of which share advice of unique challenges of satellite campuses) and international partners (such as the International Town and Gown Committee). I have not included these partners in my number as they were not originally accounted for, however, if included would bring my total much above the original goal.

This success is in large part due to OUSA and the opportunities this membership has brought to our team for collaboration, partnership and expansion of our services. For example, during Fall General Assembly I was able to advocate for a PCR set specifically targeted on satellite campuses which allowed for the Downtown perspective to be heard.

1.2 Downtown Residence Focus Group

The attendance for this focus group was small however it opened room for collaboration with 1SIXTY1, now known as Alma. Sam, incoming VP Downtown Mati and myself were able to tour the building and get more details around the amenities offered. The goal is to create an inviting space for students alongside the committee with common spaces, shared amenities and community engagement opportunities.

1.3 Alumni Engagement Strategic Planning Stakeholder Consultation Session

The OTSU doesn't work much with Alumni engagement as they aren't typically part of our target demographic however the team was invited to sit in on this stakeholder consultation session as to give our experience and expertise in the space. I attended to represent the OTSU as a recent Alumni myself. It was great conversations around "what does it mean to be an Ontario Tech Student/Alumni"? And how to continue to offer opportunities to engage graduates years down the road.

1.4 Pints & Politics

Second year our team has put together this event and it was a success! We invited back MPP French and MPP McCarthy alongside Councillor Jim Lee, OUSA Executive Director Malika and OTSU Alumni Josh. There was a great turnout of students alongside meaningful discussions around municipal and provincial affairs. I look forward to seeing this tradition continue and expand in attendance. This past week, a City Councillor had mentioned a desire to attend in 2025; I have prepared a transition document specific to this event so we can carry on with the wishes of our esteemed guests.

1.5 SCSP Bill 166 Legislative Assembly

Sam and I had the opportunity to speak in front of the Standing Committee for Social Policy on Bill 166 Strengthening Accountability and Student Supports Act. This was an opportunity brought forth through our membership with

OUSA and we presented alongside five other partnered institutions over the span of two days. It was another great opportunity for Sam and I to represent the priorities of our students; I specifically highlighted the need for clear communication of the student input process on institution mental health policy as well as expansion of the definition of student mental health services to include those historically excluded such as Indigenous Centres, Equity departments and so forth. A copy of our full remarks can be found on the OTSU website under the blog section.

1.6 Habitat Paper

Over this past month I have been working alongside Sam to bring forward an addition to the OUSA annual Habitat paper. This publication focuses on the municipal conversations around housing and students perspectives/recommendations.

1.7 Communities With Brooms

The OTSU alongside other members of the Ontario Tech and Oshawa community got together on April 23rd for the annual Communities with Brooms! It was a great opportunity to meet more stakeholders in the community and find ways of collaboration in the future. Special thanks to FSSH and Campus Sustainability for promoting and encouraging students to be involved.

1.8 Downtown Campus Advisory Committee (DCAC) Annual Report

In accordance with the DCAC's terms of reference, the committee must publish an annual report. This year, the DCAC took a more advisory approach, with the hope of setting up the next committee for success by offering recommendations to hit the ground running; therefore this report will be centred around improvements for the next term.

1.9 OUSA Partners in Higher Education (PiHED) Dinner

On April 10th, I had the pleasure of joining my fellow executives, Brian Robson, Dan Walters, Dr. Mary Bluechardt, Dr. Syed Qadri, and Arajenthira Narenthira at a Partners in Higher Education Dinner. It was a great opportunity to see such deserving recipients, Dan and Dr. Qadri receive the award for Teach Excellence. This award recognizes

Instructors whose commitment to supporting students goes above-and-beyond, and ensures students are getting a high quality of education at Ontario Tech.

1.10 OTHS Update

Out of the 14 mandates set by the board in August of last year, 10 have been completed with the remaining recommendations being: OTHS proposing space rental funding allocation 2024/25 AGM, co-designing elections strategy, revision of Society Election policy, and key agreement for the OTHS office.

1.11 Transition

I have connected with Mati, incoming VP Downtown, over the last week and finding space for her to meet with key downtown stakeholders to continue momentum on legacy priorities. She has had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Steven Murphy, Dr. Lori Livingston, Dr. Mary Bluechardt, Dan Walters, Jennifer Robb, Campus Sustainability and Brilliant Catalyst. Additionally, Mati and I filmed a final Downtown Deets where it is handed off to her to continue 2021-2023 VP Downtown Dakota Cluett's legacy.

We touched on her key priorities for the upcoming year and I am excited to see the impact she will be able to make on the Downtown community.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1 Faculty Council

I spotlighted key accomplishments over the past weeks, such as First Impressions, provincial advocacy and upcoming events such as Pints and Politics. The overall committee meeting was focused on a few course considerations and upcoming administrative needs.

2.2 Ontario Tech - OTSU Advisory Committee

Alongside Board Chair MaryCae and Executive Director Brian, I attended the Advisory Committee to set the priorities and logistics of the year for this committee.

2.3 Downtown Campus Advisory Committee

The final DCAC meeting of 2023/24 was held at the end of March to discuss wrap-up and transition to the committee. The team continues to work on the final report set by the terms of reference. This year's committee played a vital role in setting the next committee and VP Downtown for success with their well-researched recommendations to centre downtown students in our operations and advocating municipally.