



MAY 2024 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

PRESIDENT, RAI ALI

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 CASA

I am working on joining the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) as an observer. CASA is a national voice for Canada's post-secondary students, representing various student associations across the country. Joining CASA will allow OTSU to participate in federal student advocacy and attend CASA's conferences, providing valuable insights into student issues at the national level. This is an important step to enhance our advocacy efforts and align with other student associations.

1.2 Ex-Officio Seat at the Academic Council

I am also pursuing an ex-officio seat at the Ontario Tech University's Academic Council. This council is the governing body that represents the academic community and serves as an advisory body to the Board of Governors. Having an OTSU executive as a voting member on the Academic Council will ensure student representation in decision-making processes regarding academic standards and policies, thereby strengthening our influence and advocacy within the university.

1.3 OTSU Print Shop

I am planning to establish the OTSU Print Shop, a new service aimed at providing custom merchandise for clubs, societies, and students. This initiative will not only save costs by reducing reliance on third-party vendors but also generate revenue for OTSU by selling our own merchandise. Additionally, it will support Ontario Tech Ridgebacks by offering custom printing services for athletic teams. This project will enhance the services we offer to students and improve our financial sustainability.

1.4 Onboarding

The month of May was primarily dedicated to our onboarding process. During this time, we met with university administration and key stakeholders to establish strong working relationships and align our goals with the broader university objectives. This foundational work is crucial for ensuring effective collaboration and achieving our strategic priorities for the year.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

None to comment on.

VP STUDENT LIFE, AREEJ FATIMA

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Onboarding and Training

I completed a comprehensive onboarding program designed to equip me with the knowledge and skills necessary for my role. This included a detailed overview of the Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) operations, governance structure, and current projects. Additionally, I focused on learning the responsibilities and expectations of the VP Student Life, such as event planning, student engagement, and collaboration with other departments. Furthermore, I underwent training on the administrative processes, and reporting protocols within OTSU.

1.2 Meeting with Staff and Faculty

I met with all staff members of the OTSU to introduce myself and understand their roles and how we can work together effectively. Through these meetings, I identified areas where cross-departmental collaboration can enhance student life and gained insights into the support systems available for students and how we can leverage them.

I also held introductory meetings with various faculty members to establish a rapport and discuss potential partnerships. These meetings provided me with an understanding of ongoing faculty initiatives that could benefit from student involvement and helped establish a feedback loop to ensure student concerns are addressed in academic settings.

1.3 Brainstorming and Planning

I participated in several brainstorming sessions with the rest of the executive team. These sessions were instrumental in developing a strategic plan for the year, focusing on key areas such as mental health, student engagement, and campus events. We also discussed ways to address current issues.

- **Wellness Center**
By bringing vital resources closer to students, faculty, and staff, we promote overall well-being and foster a sense of community. Convenient access to mental health resources and wellness programs enhances the campus experience, prioritizing the health and wellness of everyone within our university community. We will be working with the Wellness Center to make sure these tools are easily available and widely advertised.
- **Clubs and Societies Policies**
We are adjusting the policies for clubs and societies, making them slightly stricter to ensure better compliance and enhance the overall organization and effectiveness of these groups. This adjustment aims to provide clearer guidelines and support for clubs and societies, ensuring they operate smoothly and contribute positively to campus life.
- **Inclusive Calendar**
We are creating an all-inclusive calendar for the year where clubs, societies, and OTSU can add their events. This calendar will provide students with easy access to all activities, helping them stay informed and engaged with campus events. The goal is to foster greater participation and a sense of community by making it easier for students to know what is happening around campus.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1 Clubs and Societies Committee

I am aware that I will be working closely with the Clubs and Societies Committee as the VP Student Life. I had the opportunity to review the team that has been selected for this year. Although I haven't had a meeting with them yet, I plan to get in contact with them soon to arrange a meeting. Before doing so, I hope to meet with our Student Engagement Team to ensure a coordinated approach.

VP STUDENT AFFAIRS, ZAINAB HUSSAIN

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Executive Onboarding & setting priorities for the year

This month, I worked on completing a series of HR training and obtaining designated certificates. I set out my priorities for the current year, and attended meetings with various OT stakeholders.

1.2 Transit Advocacy

I looked at what progress past executives have done and got familiar with the associated Transit committees. I also met up with Josh (past OTSU president) to gain insight into how to be most effective in regards to TEC and received advice and tips on being able to advocate for Transit. I also made a list of potential survey questions to ask students that could be presented at the TEC.

1.3 Accessibility of resources

Suggested some website changes to make it easier for students to navigate and access the resources offered by the OTSU. The clubs and societies page now has the clubs respective ig pages in hopes of more students being able to connect and apply when the clubs are hiring.

1.4 Academic Council

Ali and I are actively working on trying to get the OTSU an ex-officio seat on the Academic Council. For this the bylaws need to be changed so in the meanwhile we are planning and working on changing our campaign dates so they don't overlap with the Academic Council campaign.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

The advocacy committee has not been set up as of yet.

VP DOWNTOWN, MATIFADZA (MATI) CHIDIVI

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1 Onboarding and Training

I completed a series of onboarding training courses and workshops to get up to speed quickly. Through these sessions, I familiarized myself with the organizational structure of the OTSU and gained a clear understanding of my role. I also reviewed the projects the previous VP Downtown was working on and read up on ongoing initiatives.

1.2 Meeting with Key stakeholders

To effectively prepare for my objectives over the next year, I scheduled and conducted meetings with key stakeholders from both campuses. My scheduling was assisted by Brain and the previous Downtown Executive, Angelique. During these sessions, I took the time to familiarize myself with their roles, responsibilities, and perspectives. This comprehensive understanding of their functions allowed me to identify how their contributions align with and support the initiatives I aim to implement. By fostering these relationships and gaining insights into their operations, I am better positioned to collaborate effectively.

1.3 Durham Region Strategic Planning Meeting

Durham Region recently held a meeting to gather student perspectives for their upcoming 10-year strategic plan. The session was open to various student groups and saw a diverse turnout, including local high school students and Trent and Durham College students. This inclusive approach ensured that a broad range of student voices and ideas were heard, helping to shape a plan that reflects the needs and aspirations of the region's young people.

1.4 Strategic planning for the upcoming year

I've begun planning my year, focusing on key areas needing attention. Angelique, the previous VP Downtown, has been instrumental in this process, guiding me to relevant groups and stakeholders. Through these connections, I've gained a clearer understanding of current issues and priorities at the university, particularly concerning food assistance, collaboration with the Oshawa community, accessibility in the Charles building, housing at the downtown campus, study spaces, parking, and campus engagement. This groundwork is helping me set actionable goals for the year ahead.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1 May Faculty Council Meeting

The meeting was attended by President Steven, who gave a brief overview of the university's prospects for the following year. The dean of FSSH acknowledged the Teaching Awards awarded to the FSSH, including Dan Walters, who won an Award for Teaching Excellence from OUSA's annual Partners in Higher Education Dinner. Talked about accessibility issues at 61 Charles. Dan Walters bought a wheelchair for use at 61 Charles. Angelique Deck (VP Downtown 2023-2024) Introduced me, the new executive and talked about Bill 166.

2.2 Downtown Campus Advisory Committee

New members of DCAC introduced themselves, but no meeting has been scheduled yet. The first Meeting will occur in June.