
POSITION	President ▾
REPRESENTATIVE	Rai Ali ▾
DATE	Jul 29, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1. CASA

I am pleased to report that we have successfully joined the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) as an observer. This month, I sent a letter of intent to CASA's Board of Directors, and they approved our observership. We can now maintain our observer status for a period of two years, during which we are allowed to attend all CASA conferences. This will enable OTSU to participate in federal student advocacy and gain valuable insights into student issues at the national level.

1.2. Ex-Officio Seat at the Academic Council

Last month, I reported pursuing an ex-officio seat at Ontario Tech University's Academic Council to ensure student representation. This month's meeting with President Murphy was postponed to early August, so no further discussions have happened. However, I did have a conversation with Provost and Vice-President, Academic Dr. Lori Livingston, and she is aware of our interests. This continued dialogue is a positive step towards securing our seat and ensuring student representation in university governance.

1.3. OTSU Print Shop

Progress on the OTSU Print Shop continues to advance. We have paid 50% of the total quotation to Value-Rite Business Products Inc., and they have placed the order for the Epson SureColor F1070 DTG/DTF Hybrid Printer, which is being shipped from the US. The printer is expected to arrive within a week or so, and it will be shipped to us shortly after. All other products and equipment are already in stock at Value-Rite. The print shop promises significant benefits such as cost savings, revenue generation, and potential future growth.

1.4. VP Job Descriptions

As the president of OTSU, I recognize the need to revamp the VP job descriptions to better reflect our strategic goals and ensure clarity in each role's responsibilities. I am currently developing updated job descriptions, which I will present to the board at our next meeting. This initiative aims to provide clear, well-defined roles that align with our organization's objectives.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1. Election Committee

Reviewed the CRO's recommendations for revising our Election Policy and Procedure.

POSITION	VP Student Life ▾
REPRESENTATIVE	Areej Fatima ▾
DATE	Jul 31, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1. Edit/ Refine the Clubs and Society Policy and Procedures

This month, significant progress was made in refining the policies and procedures for clubs and societies. We streamlined the policies to be shorter and more compact, making them easier to read and understand. The new policies include:

Level 1 to Level 3 System for Club Ratification: This tiered system is designed to encourage more community engagement by categorizing clubs based on their level of activity and impact. Level 1 clubs are newly ratified and smaller in scope, Level 2 clubs have a moderate level of activity and engagement, and Level 3 clubs are highly active with significant community involvement. Each level receives corresponding base funding to support their activities.

Society Operating Policy: This new policy outlines the operational guidelines for societies, ensuring a smoother and more efficient process for running these organizations. It includes best practices for governance, event planning, and financial management, helping societies operate more effectively and sustainably.

These changes aim to enhance the organization, compliance, and effectiveness of our clubs and societies, ensuring they receive adequate support and resources to thrive.

1.2. Presentation for RA's Onboarding Training

I delivered a presentation for the Resident Assistants (RA's) during their onboarding training, focusing on OTSU's mission, services, and support systems. This training is crucial as it equips RA's with the knowledge needed to answer questions about OTSU, ensuring they can effectively assist students and foster a supportive residential environment.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

None to comment on.

2.1. Clubs and Societies Committee

I had the first meeting with the Clubs and Societies Committee this month, where we discussed and reviewed the proposed changes to the clubs and societies policies and procedures. I am pleased to report that the committee approved all the updates. This approval marks a significant step forward in our efforts to support and enhance the student experience through our clubs and societies.

POSITION	VP Student Affairs ▾
REPRESENTATIVE	Zainab Hussain ▾
DATE	Jul 26, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1. Academic Appeals

This month, I continued working on the Academic Appeals page. As I gathered information that needs to be added. Additionally, I have officially started drafting the first version of the page and the information it will entail. I have also gotten other students' perspectives who have used the OTSU Academic Appeals page before to further understand the gap that needs to be filled to make it more effective and user friendly to gather information.

1.2. Transit Advocacy

I have started preparing for the upcoming September TEC meeting. I am working on gathering information for the September TEC presentation which is set to include a recap of the work we have done. I'm also in contact with Shannon Thornton, to get introduced to any of the council members at the TEC meeting. I have also reached out to Trent, to talk about their plans for Transit Advocacy and further strengthen our alliance. I have also started drafting the transit satisfaction survey questionnaire that is set to be released during the winter semester when there are more students on campus and the majority of the students are utilizing DRT.

I have been actively advocating for an additional drop-off/pick-up service. Currently, the only location is at the bus loop on the DC side, which poses a barrier for many students who have classes on the far end of the campus. I have reached out to DRT Helps to suggest adding a drop-off point at the CRW. Additionally, I am in contact with the school's HR department (Health and Disability Management Specialist) to explore the possibility of conducting a survey to assess how many students are affected and provide assistance to those who have reached out. I am also working with the Deputy Provost's office to address this issue and to advocate for its consideration in the 5-year master plan, especially as the university continues to expand.

1.3 Blog Post

This month, I also worked on writing a blog post regarding mental health awareness. The post outlines both the support provided by the OTSU and additional resources offered by the school. By doing so, it aims to inform students about the various avenues for support and encourage them to seek help when needed. By providing detailed information about available resources, we uphold the value of transparency and accessibility, making it easier for students to find the help they need.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

None to comment on.

POSITION	VP Downtown ▾
REPRESENTATIVE	Matifadza Chidovi ▾
DATE	Jul 26, 2024

1. GENERAL UPDATES

1.1. Downtown Social Media

I have begun making content to help students navigate the downtown campus in collaboration with the FSSH and Campus Tour guides. The series of videos explores food options, student discounts, and the navigation of transit. I am attempting to make the information as explicit and accessible as possible. I am also planning to make a media plan for how to promote our services at the downtown campus.

1.2. Establishing a town and gown

I have made contact with both Trent and Durham College. They are also interested in establishing a town and gown. I also talked with a former Town and Gown committee member from Durham College. They gave insight into how the last Town and Gown was set up and why it failed. This was great in pivoting my approach to town and gown. A Town and Gown committee is governed by the issues it wishes to address, so now I am compiling a list of issues that would benefit from a Town and gown and examining if it should be municipal or regional. I am also reaching out to the University to see if they have the relevant offices to participate in town and gown and to check for interest for the committee within the University.

1.3. Mental Health

Attended a meeting on the Youth Mental Health Fund to provide input, learn and provide input on where the money should be spent to support youth (16-25 yrs). The event was hosted by the MP of Whitby, Ryan Turnbull. Provided helpful insight into the hole present in mental health support.

1.4. Student Discount

Contacting local businesses to try and establish student discounts. This is mainly focused on establishments in Downtown Oshawa that offer food. The downtown campus does not have a cafeteria, and students frequent local establishments, paying a higher cost for meals. A discount would be highly beneficial.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES

2.1. Downtown Campus Advisory Committee

Had a meeting with the DCAC. Provided information on projects in the downtown area and received feedback on how to structure them for downtown students best. Specifically on Tailcoating community events to increase student engagement. The committee recommended facilitating group 'hangouts' to attend events in large student groups. The committee also suggested providing opportunities to explore downtown Oshawa in student groups to make the environment less daunting to navigate alone.