

OCTOBER 2024 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

PRESIDENT, RAI ALI

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Executive Job Descriptions and Bylaw Amendments**

Following the valuable feedback from our last board meeting, I presented a revised proposal to the Policy Committee to amend the OTSU Bylaws. The key updates are:

- Updated Executive Titles to better align with our strategic direction.
- Concise Job Descriptions are now included under each executive position within the bylaws for clarity. This change removes overly detailed descriptions, allowing for greater flexibility to adapt roles as needed without requiring bylaw amendments.

The Policy Committee reviewed and approved the proposed amendments.

- **Custom Apparel Print Shop**

I'm pleased to report progress on the establishment of our custom apparel print shop:

- Received confirmation from Value-Rite Business Products Inc. that all printing equipment is expected to arrive by the end of October.
- The printer is already in Canada and is being shipped directly to us.
- The remaining equipment will be shipped from Value-Rite.

- **Palestinian Youth Association Event Cancellation**

On Friday, October 11th, the Palestinian Youth Association's scheduled event was canceled by the university on the day of the event. We are currently investigating the root cause to understand the circumstances and prevent similar occurrences in the future. I will keep the board updated as more information becomes available.

- **Ex Officio Seat on the Academic Council**

I continued discussions with Dr. Steven Murphy and Secretary Julie Childerhose regarding securing an ex officio seat for OTSU on the Academic Council. They informed me that since this requires a bylaw amendment on their part, it will take some time. They have committed to providing more information as they progress through their internal processes.

- **OTSU Esports Arena Internet Costs**

I met with Dr. Steven Murphy to discuss the high internet costs associated with our Esports arena. Given that we already incur significant expenses for maintenance and IT services to the university, I requested assistance in lowering these internet costs. We are exploring potential solutions, including possible subsidies or integration with the university's network infrastructure, to make the Esports arena more financially sustainable.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Policy Committee**

Reviewed and approved the revised proposed bylaw amendments concerning executive roles and responsibilities.

- **Elections Committee**
Reviewed the Chief Returning Officer's (CRO) policy recommendations, incorporating the board's previous suggestions. The updated policies aim to improve the fairness and efficiency of our election processes.
- **Finance Committee**
We successfully completed the RFP process for selecting our auditing firm. The Finance Committee reviewed the applications received by the October 10th deadline and has selected a preferred firm to present to the board for final approval at our upcoming meeting.

VP STUDENT LIFE, AREEJ FATIMA

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Frosh Week Planning**
In preparation for the winter semester, we have begun planning Frosh Week, which will welcome new students with a variety of events. We are working to make sure this orientation week builds strong connections within the incoming class and sets a positive tone for their time on campus.
- **End of Year Event**
We are focusing on refining Pangea to ensure we bring out more engagement than in past years. In addition to the traditional talent show, we want to add a Clubs and Societies reception to highlight their achievements and show our appreciation for the executives. However, this is still in the planning stages, and we will continue working on the details.
- **All Society Presidents Meeting**
I have a meeting scheduled for the end of the month, where I'll discuss the end-of-year event idea with them to gather student feedback. This will also be an opportunity to address any concerns or questions they may have about upcoming plans.
- **OUSA Fall General Assembly**
We have the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Fall General Assembly coming up this month. This event is a great opportunity to represent our students on provincial matters, ensuring their voices are heard on key policy issues affecting post-secondary education.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Clubs and Societies Committee**
I plan to meet with the Clubs and Societies Committee at the end of the month to discuss progress and plans for the future. One committee member has raised concerns about the new leveling system we introduced, and I intend to meet with him first to address these concerns before presenting the issue to the entire committee.

VP STUDENT AFFAIRS, ZAINAB HUSSAIN

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Durham Region Transportation Advocacy**

This month, I conducted a survey to gather feedback from students regarding their experiences with DRT, specifically related to the affected bus routes and general feedback ahead of the contract renewal.

Kamika, our DRT ambassador, will be tabling on October 28th, possibly alongside Presto, to engage with students and address any questions they may have.

- **Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA)**

The visit from the OUSA home office staff this month was a success. Several students stopped by the table to inquire about and learn more about OUSA. Additionally, there was engagement with the Instagram story as well, as students' questions regarding OUSA were addressed. The OUSA team also met with various leadership members, which proved beneficial in aligning our priorities.

This month, Sophia, OUSA's Indigenisation Intern, conducted a focus group survey session. Later this month, the OUSA Fall General Assembly will take place.

I, along with all the delegates—including the executive team and the president—have been working to finalize the training and provide feedback on the delegate papers in preparation for the assembly.

Additionally, I am continuing to create awareness about OUSA through another Instagram reel and a blog post, which will also discuss the survey on students' experiences that will be conducted here at Ontario Tech for the first time.

- **Housing Our University Student Equitably (HOUSE)**

This month, Mati and I met at HOUSE, a non-profit development firm established to research, advocate for, and develop affordable, community-oriented student housing for students. They specialize in cooperative-based housing. At this time, we have decided not to proceed with them, as it is not feasible given the approaching AGM and the lack of awareness or insight regarding how beneficial this initiative will be for our students.

- **Student Care (Legal aid resources)**

This month, I collaborated with Nick, the Community Housing Associate at Trent University, who was organizing an event in partnership with Durham College and Trent regarding the legal aid clinic and the resources available to students. I assisted in coordinating and connecting our Student Care team for this informative event, enabling them to share the services we offer to students at Ontario Tech. The event is scheduled to take place in mid-November.

- **Partnership**

Later this month, I will be meeting with Niya from the Student Price Card (SPC) to explore the possibility of establishing a partnership with them.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- None to comment on.

VP DOWNTOWN, MATIFADZA (MATI) CHIDIVI

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Understanding Student Engagement at the Downtown Campus**

I am spending time attending as many events hosted at the downtown campus as possible to understand what events students are attending, what they offer, and how students primarily hear about events. I am collecting this feedback primarily from students who attend events while they are at events. I am also reaching out to club leaders to understand their expectations for engagement compared with reality. Outside of OTSU events at the downtown campus, I have attended events hosted by the OTHS, OT-PHE and the FSSH.

- **Understanding the needs of Graduate Students at the downtown campus**

I have had informal conversations with some graduate students to understand what graduate life at OTU is like. The executive team has historically been composed of undergraduate students and dominated by that perspective. I am having these conversations to understand their experiences and see if the OTSU adequately supports their needs and what we may not be aware of as an organization. I plan to have meetings with Graduate student leaders, including the president of the Graduate Student Society.

- **Town and Gown**

I met with the Trent Durham Student Association to create actionables for establishing the committee and understanding where our advocacy intersects. I plan to have or schedule meetings with other stakeholders and meet with all university and college stakeholders to ensure our significant goals can be served in this committee.

- **Housing**

I continue to work on the Housing I spent time looking into the issues that the Trent housing office has to ensure a recommendation to the university for an off-campus Housing coordinator does not run into those same pitfalls. As well as reviewing alternative supports for housing needs.

- **Representation**

I attended the Ontario Universities Fair on the 6th of October. I was able to connect with not only potential students but also with various departments of the university. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the OTSU as a part of the first contact students have with the University and showcase how students shape their university experience when they get involved. I will have another opportunity to do so on October 26 at the open house.

I have also been invited to attend recruitment meetings with the FSSH to provide a student perspective on what downtown campus life is like as a student and what it can be. This is a fantastic opportunity to highlight and understand what the university offers and how the OTSU fits in that mould.

Lastly, the executive team will attend the OUSA fall general meeting to read and offer contributions to the policy papers that have been written.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Downtown Campus Advisory Committee**

Meet to discuss focuses for the month of October, as well as getting feedback on what additional steps or initiatives are needed at the Downtown Campus

