

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
2021/2022**



Date: August 27th, 2021 2:30 - 5:00

Term: SP/S

AUSU Chair Member: Chavannay Bennet

Attendees:

Title		AUSU Members	Authorized Proxy
President	P	Rebekah Gwynn	
VP Campus Affairs	P	Prabhleen Bhatia	
VP Student Life	P	Tim van Weerden	
VP Indigenous		VACANT	
Queer* Rep	P	Chantal Larmond	Rebekah Gwynn
Women's Affairs		VACANT	
Diversity Rep		Aseel Hashim	
Mature/PT Rep	P	Carina Joneit	Nicolette Rebello
Brampton Rep	P	Raza	
Timmins Rep		VACANT	
Residence Rep	P	Emma Ude	
International Student Rep	P	Nicolette Rebello	
Varsity & Athletics Rep	P	Avery Litke	
Recording Secretary - NV	P	Jahanara Abbar	
Ombudsperson - NV	P	Tyler Murphy	
Chair – NV	P	Chavannay Bennet	
Communications Officer – NV	P	Chardon Kozak	
Chief Returning Officer - NV		VACANT	
Executive Director - NV	P	Janette Wallace	
Finance Coordinator - NV	P	Daniyar Almenbayev	
Food Pantry coordinator - NV		Preeti	
People's Garden coordinator - NV		Henna	
WUSC Liaison - NV			
Equity Project Centre Coord. NV	P	Marissa Ditoro	

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Meeting called to order at:	2:37 PM	Confirmation of Quorum:	# of members present: 16	
Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:	Moved: Rebekah Seconded: Emma			
Vote Count:	In Favor: ALL	Opposed:	Abstain:	

Opening Remarks

Speaker(s):	Rebekah
Discussion:	<p>Last board meeting of the summer Likely won't use the entire time of meeting and we have time to discuss many things today Follow rules and orders although according to today's agenda the discussions will be messy and a bit out of order but remember it is set that way Excited to start with the new semester</p> <p>CB: Will we do meetings on-campus? RG: Probably HYBRID but we will discuss that on a later date</p>

Voting Items:

Agenda Item(s):	VOTING ITEM: Travel compensation			
Speaker(s):	Raza			
Motion:	Table the voting item "Travel Compensation" until the end of the voting items of today's Board Meeting			
Discussion:	<p>CB: Put forward to table the voting item</p> <p>I, Rebekah, Motion to table the voting item "Travel Compensation" until the end of the voting items of today's Board Meeting.</p> <p>Moved: ? Seconded: Emma Ude</p>			
Vote Count:	In Favor: ALL	Opposed:	Abstain:	

Agenda Item(s):	FunQi	
Speaker(s):	Tim van Weerden	
Motion:	Table the (voting item?) "FunQi" for next week's Board Meeting	

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<p>Discussion:</p>	<p>Platform for students to apply for scholarships, which will ask them which school they are studying in, what year they are in, and if they need any financial need. It is a service to provide scholarships to students and will be subsidised</p> <p>Can his team apply for scholarships at algoma u students office Saves students from going through the long list of scholarships or research about it This service will connect you with all scholarships in canada We have decided to have 1000 students sign up for the service for \$420 per student</p> <p>RG: There are many free services online that show a list of scholarships, so how is this more beneficial?</p> <p>TvW: Most just give list to apply for, but this service rates which to apply for, and gives you a rank of the scholarships</p> <p>CK: Does the service offer anything additional or special?</p> <p>TvW: Not exactly sure, I should've done more research on that. (...)</p> <p>JW: This is just a pilot commitment to see how many students found it useful. If one person was to get a large scholarship, it would be worth it. If the student didn't invest in this, they would not really get this opportunity for a scholarship. Tim is employed in the financial department and so he can provide information about all the scholarships, etc available for AlgomaU students. Tim can also discuss with Nicole on everything and also on having international students obtain these opportunities too.</p> <p>TvW: 4200 in regular costs for 1000 subscriptions, interest rates, (...)</p> <p>JW: Getting feedback to see how many are getting awards compared to how many are signing applications. (Info on price of different service combinations with Grammarly and without...)</p> <p>TvW: Can we maybe partner with professors to know which research format can be included as a service in grammarly. I don't think we need 1000 subscriptions, do we?</p> <p>RG: If 4000 dollars for 1000 subscriptions, and only 30 students are subscribed, then that's great but we always have low turnouts and it would be super unreasonable to do this</p>
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	<p>JW: Both grammarly and FunQi, (price details...)</p> <p>TvW:?</p> <p>JW: We won't get any cost savings if we do less subscriptions than 1000 option or more subscriptions than that</p> <p>R: The 1000 subscription option could work but if we could extend the unused subscriptions to future years, it will be well worth it</p> <p>RG: If you can't use the subscriptions until we run out, then 500 tier would make sense for the first year. And if we get nothing from the first year, we could advertise it to get through with the rest of the 500 for next year</p> <p>TvW: If we don't get much grant for this, it would be better to simply get grants for individual students requesting it. So in that way it makes the service not that apt. But students putting some effort into this will get a lot out of it right?</p> <p>CB: Wouldn't a poll be better to give students an idea of the service and see if they would really need it and would use it</p> <p>JW: That is true, but it is mostly just a gamble and it would fall upon AUSU to eventually decide upon it. And as it is a pilot project it will be very difficult to decide on which would be the best way to go</p> <p>R: If 400 students subscribe the first year itself, and we can negotiate to get only a few more for next year, this could be a great service</p> <p>TvW: This is a gamble, yes, but this is a great opportunity for students. I was surprised to see the number of scholarships out there which don't really get to students because no one really applies for it. To be completely honest, our scholarships do not work or is efficient in the way that it is set up</p> <p>CB: I think we'll motion the item as we are spending a lot of time on this</p> <p>JW: As Tim said, some people may not even reveal to us if they actually received the scholarship. So ground work is required to reach out to students ourselves. Table for next meeting</p> <p>Moved: Tim Second: Rebekah</p>		
Vote Count:	In Favor: ALL	Opposed:	Abstain:

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Discussion Items:

Agenda Item(s):	Staff and Exec Benefits
Speaker(s):	Janette
Motion	?
Discussion	<p>JW: Get approval to get our current staff maximize benefits waiting to claim. Some new things looking to explore for anybody on payroll. Life insurance plan, accidents, additional insurance, a health spending account etc, to be provided to permanent staff. Recommended from our consultants is to cover CNS which is an expensive treatment, basically creating a new category for people who need it. Then there is the mental health para and other paras to be covered. In support of all this, approve this, look at the benefits, and get recommendations for all the permanent employee insurances also but this will take around 2 months to get through. There really is no immediate cost to AUSU, the university collects money from students. The only difference between an executive class and the ones that I talked about is that there will be a capped rate for vision and dental care.</p> <p>CNS to \$750 per year Mental Health Para – from \$600 to \$1,000 Other para from \$400 to \$500 Dental from \$750 to \$1,000 Vision \$350 per 24 months</p> <p>Be it resolved that the executive class plan for Student VIP be increased for the following criteria: CNS to \$750 per year Mental Health Para – from \$600 to \$1,000 Other para from \$400 to \$500 Dental from \$750 to \$1,000 Vision \$350 per 24 months.</p> <p>Moved: Rebekah Seconded: ?</p> <p>R: ?</p> <p>JW: Good question Raza, if you make the new changes as of September and change it according to the student plan at large, a new change as of september 1st would actually be better. To make it nice and easy for all parties included and easier for clarity</p>

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	R: I do agree with what Janette said that some staff members may expect the old benefits to still remain in their plan. And I don't think putting it for September would make a big difference.		
Vote Count:	In Favor: ALL	Opposed:	Abstain:

Agenda Item(s):	Budget Draft Overview (Do BEFORE staff position changes)
Speaker	Daniyar
Discussion:	<p>DA: We permit the negative deficit as it will still not affect our budget. We always budget expenses to maximise what we expect to get.</p> <p>We expect this amount to be 300 to 200 dollars. This current fiscal year starts from May to April. Student life events will have a 10,000 dollar budget, we also have contingencies not being sent, 9,000 on technology, etc. We will spend on advertising for new logos. We purchased a card this year. Honorariums will always be lower because some of our positions don't get filled. We may need legal help and that is why our legal fees are this big. We dictated 12,000 dollars for brampton events. Food pantry requested 6,700 dollars as administrative and food costs. Club bursaries, to make initiatives. Sometimes we don't have more than 2 clubs requesting for events, so it won't take a lot of our budget. In the end, wages and benefits - this May we are going to pay 21,112 to all of our appointed officials and this applies to all months.</p> <p>R: Does this include Brampton campus</p> <p>DA: I had not made a meeting to discuss this really so I don't really know. There was not enough decision making done on that but you should do that sooner than later</p>

Agenda Item(s):	Approval of the AUSU Media Coordinator Contract (Do AFTER budget draft)
Speaker(s):	Tim

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Discussion:	<p>To look for a media coordinator. Videography, to make Chardon’s promotion easier, students will see ausu merchandising, etc. to have a whole database of ausu media. AUSU purchased podcast equipment, to present our first AURA episode, and to start Sentient editing again, to get content-creating started again. This person will start next Monday, to prepare for upcoming O-week, perhaps start with everything. Should we explain the contract Janette?</p> <p>JW: ?</p> <p>TvW: The part time position will be 15 dollars per week. This person will help Chardon as a communication officer.</p> <p>I, Tim van Weerden, motion to add AUSU Media Coordinator as a staff position to our board. \$15/h a week at 15 hours max for 8 months.</p> <p>Moved: Nicolette Seconded: Rebekah</p>
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Agenda Item(s):	Moving Chardon to Full-Time (Do AFTER budget draft)
Speaker(s):	Janette
Discussion:	<p>JW: Dividing responsibilities to some specialized skills and moving chardon to a permanent position as communication officer. At certain times of year, the creative work will be more heavy and we will need a personnel who can make work that is visually appealing without having to use template sites, etc. We are looking at full-time, which means she will be in meetings all day long - so need to introduce a receptionist to help with that. As we grow, we are getting an increased volume of emails, and so we need to be able to manage that to be responsive to students - more of a customer care skillset. The volume of email increases at the beginning of Fall and we will need to manage that. Marketing on the research side as well, AUSU branding to be recognizable for students to differentiate us from Algoma University. Rebranding the speakeasy. Also developing co-branding or sub-branding for Brampton, such as naming Brampton's as AUSU-Brampton. We are proposing a wage increase as she is one of the first employees we have had and she has been in the position for a good amount of time. We came up with an administrative assistant/communications officer so the appointed personnel can move on to better opportunities and are not restricted to this job forever. Our current protocol is to find a student who has the qualities for the work, and if not, to go ahead and appoint external candidates. Chardon has been a sincere worker and is available to take most work that is thrown her way and so I think she deserves such a full-time appointment.</p>

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	<p>CB: When would she start the role?</p> <p>JW: Whenever she moves here; I would like to say September?</p> <p>R: Chardon has been a huge help for me personally with many things that I am unclear about.</p> <p>MR: Staff members that do a good job should deserve it, and so I think Chardon's appointment is proper</p> <p>RG: She's really good at what she does and creating full-time position will make things a lot easier for the executive team; in my mind it is a no-brainer</p> <p>CB: Can I have a motion for this? What does everyone think - full-time for one year?</p> <p>R: I think one year makes sense, just in case in the future someone else wants to apply or the appointed person wants to resign</p> <p>JW: I recommend a year to the board too, because we are constantly changing our rules and so that will give us a chance to see how it will work</p> <p>I, Emma Ude, motion to add administrative responsibilities to the Communications Officers position within AUSU. And to change the position to full-time starting September 1st 2021 for a full year with the option to renew.</p> <p>Moved: Rebekah Seconded: Raza</p>
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Agenda Item(s):	Student Champions and Position(s) on Joint Wellness Committee
Speaker(s):	Carina and Marissa
Discussion:	<p>CJ: As Janette mentioned, mental health is important. We want to understand Algomau's source for student's well-being. No we can't fix them all, Rebekah has been working hard to fight for students but there is much unresponsiveness on the University's side. Basically, we want to make sure the students are getting what they need but this won't happen if we don't talk to them. We need a joint wellness community in the well being department to</p>

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	<p>bridge the biomedical and social service sector which have to be recognized on the onset - when they first seek out help. Need them to be on the committee, but more importantly we need champions for this - students need to feed into this, being able to say what it is they need - my question is - what is the best way to do this?</p> <p>MR: There's lots of ways to go about it. What if we approach the individual clubs to intertwine with the stuff that they are doing. Wellness is not all mental health, we know it affects every single part of lives - so we can take help from partnerships in order to have engagement - we can do surveys but what else can we do to catch people. Seeing how we can come up with different mechanisms to make the process less formal - enter into people's everyday lives (the pin mood-board example)</p>
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Agenda Item(s):	September/october wellness fare
Speaker(s):	Carina
Discussion:	<p>CJ: Tim and Marissa, Rebekah, etc, we discussed about this together. We were thinking if everyone likes the idea to make it more outdoors. Curious wen it comes to that, the idea of bringing in varsity, etc, for wellbeing.</p> <p>Marissa: october wellness fare that is land-based or something like that by doing partnerships</p> <p>CJ: im personally lookin forward ot the food one, i think it will be culturally awesome</p>

Agenda Item(s):	October Wellness Fair (Outdoors/Land-based with SKG/SASA)
Speaker(s):	Carina and Marissa
Discussion:	<p>CJ: Would anyone here, who is not committed enough for the joint committee, whenever given opportunity to pitch in, feel free to be your own role model selves for this committee?</p> <p>EU: I feel that I don't want to be bowed down by the commitment but am interested.</p> <p>CK: What are the actual responsibilities? Do we need to share our own mental health struggles, how does it really work?</p> <p>CJ: I was not clear about it at all. So it includes all of that, sharing your struggles, reaching out to people, etc.</p>

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	R: I have spent a lot of time in high school and uni, talking to a lot of people about it and I do think it is necessary
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Agenda Item(s):	Travel compensation
Speaker(s):	Raza
Discussion:	<p>R: Back in July I was trying to get back with my family as being able to physically talk to people was something I looked forward to. This personnel and I had exchanged about 30 emails. What ended up happening is that the person in the arrivals team had failed to communicate with me properly and it came to the point where I had to book a 3 day mandatory quarantine stay at a hotel. Took about \$900 deposit for the hotel and told me I was ready to fly. They took 3 - 5 days to respond to me. There was initially a checklist sent to me in the first email. They took 2 days for them to say everything is done and the original experience I had led me to incur an insane amount of stress. I originally had food poisoning for 2 days and even then I had to power through the lack of energy to fix everything so I wouldn't completely burn out. The entire arrival process was so demeaning that I had to actively reach out to other staff members. Is it possible for me to be compensated for that? I'm willing to provide whatever information is necessary to enable this.</p> <p>R: Moved</p> <p>I, Rebekah, Motion to extend the meeting until 5:30pm, August 27th, 2021.</p> <p>RG: This goes a lot beyond what Raza was expecting to incur. Something we should grant especially since we know from past cases, there are times those from University don't look so kindly on members of the AUSU, and so we should forward this issue to the president.</p> <p>CJ: While this was happening for Raza, he was working a lot, there's been a lot of planning this summer and yeah</p> <p>RG: We should not approve an amount that is not correct, and so I think we should confirm what amount needs to be granted to Raza</p> <p>I, Carina Joneit, motion to compensate the deposit amount for the additional travel and accommodation expenses for Muhammed Boredaf Raza's return to Brampton as VP to the amount of \$844.14.</p> <p>Moved: Rebekah Seconded: Nicolette</p> <p>Raza abstained from the voting</p>

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Adjournment of Agenda		Motion to adjourn the meeting at: 5:12 PM by Rebekah Moved By: Raza Seconded by: Avery I, Rebekah, motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:12PM, August 27th, 2021.		
Vote Count:	In Favor: ALL	Opposed:	Abstain:	