**Date**: May 13th, 2021

**Term**: Spring 21’

**AUSU Chair Member**: Vacant

**Attendees**:

| Title |  | AUSU Members | Authorized Proxy |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| President | P | Rebekah G. |  |
| VP Campus Affairs | P | Prabhleen B. |  |
| VP Student Life | P | Tim vW. |  |
| VP Indigenous |  | Vacant |  |
| Queer\* Rep | P | Chantal L. |  |
| Women’s Affairs |  | Vacant |  |
| Diversity Rep | P | Aseel H. |  |
| Mature/PT Rep | P | Carina J. |  |
| Brampton Rep | P | Raza |  |
| Timmins Rep |  | Vacant |  |
| Residence Rep |  | Vacant |  |
| International Student Rep | P | Nicolette R. |  |
| Varsity & Athletics Rep |  | Vacant |  |
| Recording Secretary - NV |  | Vacant |  |
| Ombudsperson - NV |  | Tyler M. |  |
| Chair – NV | P | Chavanay B., Janette W. |  |
| Communications Officer – NV | P | Chardon K. |  |
| Chief Returning Officer - NV |  | Vacant |  |
| Office Coordinator - NV | P | Janette W. |  |
| Finance Coordinator | P | Daniyar A. |  |
| Food Pantry coordinator - NV |  | Vacant |  |
| People’s Garden coordinator - NV |  | Vacant |  |
| WUSC Liaison - NV |  | Lexine W. |  |
| Equity Project Centre Coord. NV | P | Marissa D. |  |

| **Meeting called to order at:** | 4:52pm | **Confirmation of Quorum: Yes** | # of members present: 8 | |
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| **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** | Moved by: carina  Seconded by: assel | | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: | Opposed: | Abstain: |  |

**Opening Remarks**

| Speaker(s): |  | | | |
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| Discussion: |  | | | |

**Voting Items**:

| Agenda Item(s): | Appoint Chavannay as Chair for 2021-22 term | | | |
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| Speaker(s): | Rebekah | | | |
| Motion: | Be it resolved that Chavannay Bennett be appointed as AUSU Chair for the 2021-2022 term. | | | |
| Discussion: | R: CB was chair with last board did a really good job, i believe they were going to bring a resume if anyone wanted to see it. As long as everyone is okay with that we can vote to appoint. I have the motion prepared.  C.L Move  Raza Second  Does anyone wish to speak to the motion?  If not we can move on to voting | | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor:   ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |  |

| Agenda Item(s): | Chardon’s employment contract expires May 30 2021 and is up for renewal | | | |
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| Speaker(s): | Janette | | | |
| Motion: | Be it resolved that AUSU extends the contract for Chardon Kozak for up to one year with a renewal of May 30, 2022. | | | |
| Discussion: | JW: CK is part time with us 20-25H / Week and her contract was extended last year for only 6months they make 18$/H There is still a need for a communications officer. Originally this started a pilot to see the need, its been going very well, i enjoy having a primary point of contact for communications projects that pop up from time to time.  CK is not looking for a raise or anything just an extension of contact to may 2022 1 year. Any changes to the contract would come back to the board as they come up.  DA: CK has done a very good job, communications look great. I like that i can just forward emails and i don’t have to worry about any communications or such.  R: i relied quite heavily from an organizational stand point, great with communications, emails, socials, zoom meeting, etc Not best with tech so it was very helpful.  MD: when i was a VP we did not have a communications person, and i would have really benefited from that. By having someone in that Position it frees up alot of time to focus on the bigger aspects of projects. And even as a staff member they are helpful to me for keeping me on track and helping with various tasks.  JW:between Ck and D they are my personal assistance and I love that they go above and beyond duties to keep everything running and in line. Until we can continue with hiring as a part of our growth; Because as we grow we are getting busier. 2 years boards ago started the project, and last years was the first one to pilot the project.  Rebekah moves, Nicolette seconds. Motion is carried. | | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |  |

| Agenda Item(s): | Purchase of work vehicle proposal | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Janette, Marissa | | |
| Discussion | JW: For some time, AUSU has needed a dedicated work vehicle of commercial grade so that it will last longer, closer to new (or brand new). Found a 2020 Ford Transit Connect Wagon XLT (CC238) from Maitland Ford Lincoln. The need arose for pubs and campaigns, protests and orientation events when needed to transport goods/supplies around town have used Janette’s vehicle. Rental places won’t do one-way trips (such as to the Brampton campus) and for liability reasons. Ensures company/board insurance to be durable and no personal implications on Janette should something happen. Both the Pantry and People’s Garden has grown since then, as well as events locally requiring cabs for guests and is very expensive. One way trip for a cab is upwards of 100.00, very expensive and unsustainable. Now is the best time to think ahead on student needs, and large purchases.  MD: Re: food pantry, picking up the majority of supplies is very demanding of transport, requires new staff (Marissa, currently) picking up the groceries every week. This has also been a barrier and inaccessibility for many students being hired. It would make any support staff helping with the pantry possible. Van seats flip down, rack on top, all around good vehicle for transporting things, people, whatever we need.  JW: Insurance is going to range from 200-300 a month, get basically comprehensive insurance but also we have to keep in mind alot of students dont have more than G2 insurance. What we do have going for us is corporate insurance as we are a company which should cover us. I think we are at 17/Y works out to 110$/M adding this to it will probably go for a bundle. MD would likely be main driver at this time as they are the supervisor and managing the pantry. For future drivers we would want proof of a clean driving record, to ensure those using the vehicle are skilled and vehicle/insurance safety.  Q: Does the vehicle need anything / was their regular checks and oil changes as it is coming from a dealership?  In terms of maintenance, i don’t think it needs much besides taking it for a spin keep things moving (no sitting parts) originally intended to be a shuttle which is why it has the decals, which are being removed for us. Which is why we are getting the price we are It is listed at close to 39,000. At this time we wont be able to get anything newer or at this price as due to covid, there is delays on parts / building etc so theres a wait on everything.  Can finance or pay cash, if we pay cash we save 5% interest which is over 5 years, and because its not a brand new 2021 we cannot get financing at 0% it will be more…. The price is 39,103. We have 99,000 sitting in our account today and more in reserves. It’s an asset so it Can be charged to capital funds as a capital projects (such as speakeasy, SASA, tbird, etc). The 99 is essentially a surplus from last year and the uni still owes us fees from last year so we essentially have 200K Over. If we pull from capital it replenishes itself, and will not effect operations in anyway. Or we can take from operating but that is a something that changes every year and can make things difficult. So my recommendation would be to take from the capital fund.  D: Would be easier to take from capital fund as operations is more intended for day to day expenses. We could even Can ask uni to write us a check for the exact amount to have it paid from the capital fund.  JW: I do not want to do that as We need to keep capital funds as high as we can as possible to leverage loan.  Main decision is do we want to buy a vehicle. If so do we want to pay cash / finance based off the information you heard today.  Q: Do you have figures on what it would look like if we financed for 72Weeks  JW: 5.2% financing would be an extra 2060 we would save that by paying cash. If we did financing we have to think about his time, he has to enter all those small transctions  Q: impact to cash flow  JW: we can send that once the audit comes in. The university still owes us fees from Fall/Winter semester. Im expecting aprox 400K from the university. We also have to pay the insurance claims so its difficult to make assumptions. The estimated surplus is 160K, we went over this at AGM so D you can probably provide that report if you want it. Basically not a concern of the board but appreciate the question being raised it is the job of DA and myself to ensure that there is cash flow and everything is running smoothly.  C.L Move  R.G Second | | |
| Motion: | Be it resolved that cash be used to fund the capital purchase and insurance of a used 2020 Ford Transit Connect Wagon XLT (CC238) from Maitland Ford Lincoln for student union use. | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor:       ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |

| Agenda Item(s): | Interim appointment of Residence Rep | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Janette | | |
| Discussion | Open voting opportunity for this board, sometimes if we find a demographics that is at risk, it is our job to ensure they are represented in the interim until the bi-election when someone can be voted into that position. At this time there is no one voted in for that particular constituent base and with covid, the cafeteria and most of the campus closed. I think its important that we have someone in the meantime.  First time this happened was with international student representative last summer with Balpinder Kaur.  We can do an expression of interest, i am interested this is my qualifications. If there is alot of competition we can do a formal hiring process  N.R: i want to make a point im staying in Residence this summer and i was hired as an RA for F/W but they have asked us to help over the summer.  T.VW: speaking as a former RA i can say that alot of students are struggling mentally as you have to be alone at all times not supposed to interact. I think its good to give a voice to those students who may be struggling at this time, and give a voice to the students living on res.  R.G: should this motion pass and we go to appointment i can reach out to the residence don, and see who they believe would be a good fit for the position.  N.R: just to add to tims point mental problems are a lot here, we still on the lockdown and not allowed to meet anyone. Im stuck in this room and not allowed to talk to anyone and im a social butterfly i often speak to family as theres no one else to talk to useless i run into my friend in the kitchen when cooking.  JW: since reps cant hold two positions on ausu its good that you said your an ra as its means we have eyes on the place and can know about whats going on and how to make improvements  Q: How do they advocate for students in residence  JW: Work similarly to other representatives but in regards specifically to residence students, food insecurity, lack of social needs met. Inform us to make sure their needs are met and things were not thinking of that someone could point out to help us provide resources to those students. Essentially those who are reps bring concerns forward to budget holders (execs), to ensure student needs are being met.  For anyone who has questions about positions, or wants to know more about their position you can look at the job description in our policies.not limited to job descriptions as they are not rigid and individuals often take on additional tasks.  C.J: Suggest expression of interest  R.G: suggest reaching out to Residence Don to appoint someone  JW: | | |
| Motion: | Be it resolved that the AUSU board moves to appoint an interim residence rep by way of an external hiring process via expressions of interest and submissions on voluntary basis to be reviewed and chosen based on the candidates.  RG Move  CJ Second | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor:    ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |

| Agenda Item(s): | Food Pantry support worker to move from honorarium to part-time hourly wage | | |
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| Speaker(s): | Marissa | | |
| Discussion | MD: Working at the food pantry ts a ton of work, it’s important to pay that person equitably, making deliveries from harvest algoma, keeping track of inventory, any other engagement campaigns, building relationships within the community.  T.V.W.: Time and money saving, social determinants, key aspect of residence life and resilience.  C.J.: During pandemic, it is exhausting and deserves to be sustained properly (cat jumps)  J.W.: Likely a part-time, one-year contract. When we had the placement students in there need to keep in mind handling full-time studies along with part-time. If oe coordinator got sick a backup is important, will help with succession planning as well. Support worker would be minimum wage, responsibilities are more operational than main coordinator to help maintain and keep the essential service of the pantry open. It’s a job I would not want to sorely do on my own anyways. It’s creating another opportunity for students anyways, I’m a huge advocate for paid equity. Very hard to get hours appropriate to the time and effort.  D.:  M.D.: Tuesday 1-7 and Friday 11-4  J.W.: 100 per semester  J.W: position would be added to recording sheet for the executive team, all paid on an hourly basis filling out biweekly timesheets, increased or reduced hours are therefore paid appropriately.  R Move  TVW Second | | |
| Motion: | Be it resolved that the food pantry support worker position be paid on an hourly-wage basis up to 20 hours a week and as needed for a one-year contract. | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor:  ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |

| Agenda Item(s): |  | | |
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| Speaker(s): |  | | |
| Discussion |  | | |
| Motion: |  | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: | Opposed: | Abstain: |

| Agenda Item(s): |  | | |
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| Speaker(s): |  | | |
| Discussion |  | | |
| Motion: |  | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: | Opposed: | Abstain: |

**Discussion Items**:

| Agenda Item(s): | Clubs 2021-22 |
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| Speaker(s): | Daniyar |
| Discussion: | D: Last year even the most populated clubs did not have opportunities to do anything and did not hold any activities. I am in communication with all clubs and their financial matters. Right now I can see hopes from executives to return the club activities, not in-person or this fall or winter, probably, but people want to do something and that’s really exciting. The reason why I bring this is to remind people that they want to do something and maybe sponsor something. Last year gave 500.00 the years previously was 250.00, budgeted. It could be that after a year, accepting the fate of online activities, we should encourage more online club experiences for more student engagement for more visibility and its always nice for student life and wellbeing.  R: Clubs in Brampton, Business Society have discussed before the importance of keeping it running especially with no president to replace graduating one this summer, having discussed with existing board members I believe that I can hopefully keep it alive and have had interest with a professor to open a bridge (card game) club, could be cross-campuses due to its virtual nature.  D: I also had ideas for clubs (to be discussed later) within certain circumstance we can extend sponsorship in extenuating situations such as a french-speaking club with funded classes per hour online to keep people busy and engaged culturally. There are more opportunities than a mone-time donations. If anyone has any ideas, feel free to bring them and organize them.  J.W.: We should commit to organizing a focus group with existing/interested club members on how we can best support them during covid. Often they are very independent, we have previously sponsored trips, events or speakers. I’m having a hard time thinking accountability in virtual environment, could be organize the focus group while understanding the financial piece and stay at home order. We would be reliable as governing part of clubs and members. Provided are virtual, not equipped to answer, needs to come from leaders and members of clubs themselves.  TVW: It’s important, even when difficult, perhaps giving some creative ideas or resources such as technology to support club activities, every interaction a student can have helps during difficult time, can utilize those of similar interests such as those in the club to encourage community and wellbeing of all. We understand how challenging but it is important for student experience at Algoma to have interactions with similar ideas and interests. |

| Agenda Item(s): | Food pantry: research and development of the service |
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| Speaker(s): | Daniyar |
| Discussion: | D: Marissa and I have been working at the pantry following the end of the contract of the previous food pantry coordinator. If you do not directly participate in the service you may not understand how things work in real world, also had great interest and care for this service. I really want (and am in process of) research project of how have worked in other pantries. Three areas are critical: budgeting, how inventories is replenished through donations, compensation for staffing and volunteers. I also know that people’s garden is much more organized, I hope by end of research will come up with this service more stable and for that reason I and Marissa are working with previous food pantry coordinator and Carina to participate. This will include for policies and staff training as turnover can be pretty high, don’t wish to start from scratch. Consistently for this service would like to dedicate two semesters to whole year to complete this project to deliver valuable results. I invite you to join and make suggestions, analyze it more and bring to the board to vote.  MD: Nothing to add.  CJ: Do you have access to the manual from previous  Food committee access to discuss certain measures, things are serious  JW: Endorse this idea, encourage delving into operational procedures to ensure business continuity, want to be a part of this for sure, if needed should hire another food security researcher to carry forward work that Mohammed has done previously. It is a huge service, even to the community even though not advertised that way. Business planning and continuity is a huge concern so that the onus is not on the staff, especially if not as generous in the future. Want to ensure paying a sustainable wage to allow experience and sustainability to future students, a very easy job to learn and useful for those in related fields. That research part of it is really important, possibly by honorarium, was 100.00, perhaps it needs to be evaluated for the near future. I support a separate position for that within a more relaxed pace that is appropriate for an honourarium. We should continue to recruit students for this position.  D: Maybe I overestimated my capacity for research and the scope of the project. I agree that we should provide an opportunity for another student to research. I would be extremely glad to support and see this through.  JW: we already have contracts but the pay needs to be renegotiated to make it more sustainable for the researchers. It worked well with the co-op students and also aligned with common interest of AUSU’s values. All positions have descriptions in a spreadsheet that Marissa can add you to. |

| Agenda Item(s): | Peoples Garden Coordinator-Henna Johnson |
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| Speaker(s): | Janette |
| Discussion: | JW: Offered position to biology student Henna Johnson who has volunteered with the garden before and researching medicinal/herbal greens and how grown in garden, especially those not native to Canada either and wider variety of things, perhaps like those being grown internationally. Diverse offerings, expanding the green house as that project comes to fruition (woo pun). Perhaps a service position group could be created. Included them in board relations to support properly. Position is filled and will be starting soon.  RG: Perhaps hiring for both to ensure whoever is interested is invited to weekly check-ins, etc. |

| Agenda Item(s): | Covid Accomodations-Survey Update |
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| Speaker(s): | Marissa |
| Discussion: | MD: Tomorrow the survey for students is closing. Let people know. We have around 50 responses, which is encouraging. We will analyze at that point. Most is positive, culturally relevant mental health supports, financial supports and food access, a lot of what we already know is listed but mostly positive toward both AUSU and Algoma U. Then we will develop and present to Algoma U and students in a visually interesting way. The data looks good.  JW: Agree that it should be presented ot Algoma U.  MD: Should be careful/kinder to allow for welcome to data shared.  R: Request to send survey to himself to share it further.  JW: I will send Chardon a request to fill-out the surveys in one last push. |

| Agenda Item(s): | International student tuition fee increase by 3.5% |
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| Speaker(s): | Janette + Board discussion |
| Discussion: | JW: Predicted that it would happen, not in press release sent out of Algoma U press release, communicated in such a way that it implied there wasn’t one. Attended a town hall last Friday, didn’t send out a recording. Not allowed by regulations by government for domestic students but international students enrolled will increase by 3.5%. Each institution has own parameters. Federal government does not have jurisdiction. Each province can freeze for domestic due to COVID. I think it’s inappropriate due to COVID, unfortunate situations, it;s a time of hardship. I know they have to recuperate that but have a lot of grants to offset and wishing to improve programs and a little bit tone deaf and double-standard, unfair, no tuition subsidy for international. It doesn’t sit well with me, I don’t think AUSU was consulted, and am disappointed wasn’t. Algoma U has a planning consultation committee, looking for a representative from AUSU, don’t think was voicing concerns. May have had extreme power imbalance and intimidation.  PB: It’s a business, but consider proportion. Covid ciris, considering indian students demographics in state of punjab, farmers within strike without media coverage for over 6 months and continuing. Marketed that could be working part time but not allowed. Tough for students, I don’t see a reason to do this now when could do so later when the situation is under control.  NR: Marissa and I have been looking to increase job opportunities for international students, especially with tuition increase so it is at least partly sustainable. Very little available opportunities.  MD: Systemic disparity between financial supports and opportunities for international students ex. 50% of population international yet not the equal for international students.It need sto be wholistic effort under one campaign ex. Tuition fees, job opportunities, access to healthcare, housing in addition to equity piece of systemic issues. Must be much larger, unified campaign.  R: Can understand why with renovations and increase services, but believe Brampton is largest campus and don’t see most of services or renovation ex. Ore classrooms added every semester but doesn’t improve student life just a race to increase reven8e through more student registration without any student accommodation, very little co-op opportunities, very little living options, transportation costs is ridiculous ex. 130.00 for bus per month, it saves 20-30 but the average is going to spend 3 days/week on campus. We can talk all we walk about increased fees will help students in some way but none of those ways are being realized on campus at all, ex. Gym which has a limit of 15-20 people allowed per day meanwhile 700 students on the campus. I am furious, a lot which is bourne by Brampton campus which will see nothing of.  D: Business perspective shows Algoma has one of the cheapest tuitions in public university for Ontario, especially Brampton. Would assume only reason why increase is that similar college or universities potentially also increase, too. Possibly more complex than we know.  TVW: Find timing disappointing, know announced high proportion of international intake/registering, even during inflation and pandemic. So little being done for international students, so many laid off, living overseas. Making the people already struggling do worse for the benefit of the institution, taking advantage.  MD: Algoma loves talking about diversity for marketing purposes but there’s this justaosition of honouring/celebrating international students and disregard status and supporting completely. They are actively doing it, continuing to recruit without recognizing a lot of the conflict overseas and failing to realize they’re not just other students but those with issues going on at home and here. Algoma fails at taking that into consideration.  JW: The cap is 6%, they went more than 3.5%, unsettling that could brag about supports such as COVID-19 bursary fund 500.00 per individual, but if raising it 300.00 taking it back. Tone-deaf and playing media game. Agree with everything, timing is insensitive, shouldn't’ be able to celebrate to all who applied to the funding and didn’t even max it out. Also, ancillary fees are different from tuition, ours are higher because we can’t share costs such as GLC/YMCA with population but tuition is lower. We should ask ourselves as students: has the quality of education or learning opportunities increased? I would argue no, so how can increase a justification, are hiring, restructuring, offering mor eprograms and have infrastructure of online programming and IT support, unsure of quality but options. To transfer that burden to international students without transparency is unsettling. They don;t have to increase it, it is a moral and business decision.  TVW: Overall experience has decreased, especially for international students, timings of class vs. group projects. This affect wholistic wellbeing. More effort from international students with less understanding, accessibility and cultural sensitivity. Algoma is not losing much income, perhaps from residence and food/drinks, but befitting from other students already struggling. Some professors are flexible and some are not. Not consistent, and makes it a lot worse.  R: Time zones experiences of learning in Saudi Arabia which is an 8-hour time difference. Mentally it throws you on top of isolation, existing on two plains, exhausted and socially deprived. It is incredibly debilitating, denergizing, demoralizing. #thecakeisalie #thecakeismadeofmisery  PB: Even if only 3.5 increase, countries internationally have very high conversion rate, very large difference.  TVW: Have addressed impact, how can we support students in this  JW: Solutions on hand is for it’s own campaign, to have in own diplomatic way, go to board of governors at Algoma University was appointed with Rebekah earlier in the week. The VP of finance, Dean and Azima should be involved. Can negotiate and try to appeal. Can say will result in campaign. CFS have a special campaign to cut the fees across Canada. If administration give pushback can consult them for lobbying advice, bad publicity and threaten to go to the media as a backup option. We also need allies, one of which would be SASA, very well respected and tend to stand up for these types of things, made commitment to want to support international students more when established self on campus so should have solidarity over this. Azima encourages values and actions of collaboration over conflict.  MD: Cash cows is Asima’s favourite (not) word.  JW: We will keep this on the record and quiet for now, think there will be some resistant so that don’t have bad publicity especially now with newly formed reputation. We will therefore have this campaign later, as needed. |

| Agenda Item(s): | Palestine awareness campaign/ statement |
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| Speaker(s): | Marissa in place of Aseel |
| Discussion: | MD: Working on the statement, suggest releasing it at the beginning the week, we are in the editing phrase, suggest evaluating it and meet next week bringing together comments, concerns. Tyler has brought it to EDI (Jane), email sounds like Algoma U is not planning to do anything, referring to Karen.  PB: Sent an email to SASA, no response.  MD: Will send a message to Angela to see if/when available.  CJ: Testimonial and thoughts of “why we should care” is available.  JW: I’m a fan of lived experiences so would be glad to include somewhere.  R: sharuk didn't get back to me, but i know hes busy being seen as such a resource for brampton, i did reach out to my sister who is very religious. They allow for volunteering (have not been able to clarify if that is muslum or not) they do offer counseling but that is religious counselling. Difficult to find professional resources that understand / come from a Middle Eastern background. Perhaps reaching out to Churches/Mosque/Sinagog would be good to show unity among the student body and can show there can be co-existance |

| Agenda Item(s): | Community Wellness Fair |
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| Speaker(s): | Marissa |
| Discussion: | MD: carina and i have been working closely on this as we have been talking to ... the first concept of this fair was to be a virtual version of an actual fair and after talking it through and with AU, we have adjusted it to be an idea of wellness / presentations and speakers, tying in those cultural pieces and wellness not normally talking about. As well as featuring services internal/external to AU and student testimonials about accessing those services.  CJ: We want it to be as useful to students as possible especially when it comes to the end of it we want to heavily feature students / student testimonials to try and destigmatize |

| **Adjournment of Agenda** | | Motion to adjourn the meeting at: 7:24  Moved By: Raza  Seconded by:Rebkah | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Vote Count: | In Favor:         ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |  |