**Date**: September 27th, 2021 4:00 - 5:30 PM

**Term**: F/W

**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 |  |
| Women’s Affairs |  | VACANT |  |
| Diversity Rep | P | Aseel Hashim |  |
| Mature/PT Rep | P | Carina Joneit | Nicolette Rebello |
| Brampton Rep | P | Raza |  |
| Timmins Rep |  | VACANT |  |
| Residence Rep |  | Emma Ude |  |
| International Student Rep | P | Nicolette Rebello |  |
| Varsity & Athletics Rep |  | Avery Litke |  |
| Recording Secretary - NV | P | Jahanara Abbar |  |
| Ombudsperson - NV | P | Tyler Murphy |  |
| Chair – NV | P | Chavannay Bennet**Authorized Proxy**: Rebekah Gwynn |  |
| 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 |  |

| **Meeting called to order at:**  | 4:08 PM | **Confirmation of Quorum: Yes** | # of members present: 15 |
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| **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** |  |
| Vote Count:  | In Favor: All | Opposed: | Abstain:  |  |

**Opening Remarks**

| Speaker(s):  | Rebekah |
| --- | --- |
| Discussion:  | Not many items because today’s items are lengthier. We will have our October board meeting before reading week. We are going to take more time today so make sure to pay attention because these are important things. Take small breaks in the middle if required.  |

**Voting Items**:

| Agenda Item(s): | Logo redesign |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Chardon |
| Motion: | Motion for the approval of $5500 for logo redesign / brand identity guide for AUSU sub services to be paid to Cavera |
| Discussion: | CK: We would like to do a logo redesign to rebrand new services of AUSU and make it apparent that these services are part of AUSU. This way students can be educated on and made aware of AUSU. Today we would like to motion for the board to approve $5000 for redesigning of speakeasy, pantry, etc. We will be redesigning a total of 6 logos. JW: The cost is a lot higher than we anticipated but I don’t think it’s more than what we have calculated as of now. We are stuck with higher costs due to some vendors backing off. Option 1 is what we have decided to move forward with. Extra $500 for the visual identity guide.MD: CK: We will have each of our services independently identifiableJW: We are not doing unified branding. We want unique banding for each of our services. There might be some similarities between each service logo but that’s just like colors and things like that. There can be confusion between students when it comes to understanding which service provides what and so we need them all to be different and separately identifiableCK: We want each of our service logo to explain what the service actually is and not just like the logos for the different services we see under the company FEDex, for example. |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: 1 |  |

| Agenda Item(s):  | Need for two more Brampton Campus Representatives | n |
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| Speaker(s):  | Raza  |  |
| Motion:  | Whereas the Brampton Campus is close to the SSM campus in student population, whereas Brampton Campus is not being equally represented on AUSU, BIRT AUSU commit to adding two new Representative positions for Brampton to serve its unique needs and demographics, being a Part-Time/Mature Rep and an Equity and Diversity Rep. To be included in the upcoming F21 By-election for vote |
| Discussion:  | Include two new positions for ausu in brampton, to have a stronger position. There’s a lot of reasons in terms of politics, such as the Sault campus being bigger than the Brampton one. So the positions to propose are equity diversity rep and \_\_\_\_. We cannot restrict voting across campus. The CRO will have a chance to talk with the candidates to tell them that these issues will be specifically for Brampton, with those in the Brampton campus. There has to be a way for Brampton to have a larger voice on the ausu board and have more members for the campus. I’m having to vote and having to represent the students specifically and this is difficult as I'm not part of the group. Brampton is not as diverse as other areas in GTA and we need more exposure. To solve this, we need some representatives guiding the students. what I’d like to do is to have those two elections in the bi-election, later on to look at longer-term executive positionsTM: In this area of ontario, I’ve seen that not a lot of people have given attention to the brampton campusJW: I think we need to be careful of how we approach it. Putting this motion forward, I'm wondering if this should be a commitment or a discussion item. A note of caution. We can reword the motion to make things easier to implement. RG: JW: it is not implied that we are amending the policy it means that we are committing to the motion so we have a deadline on when this should be done so we can actually get it doneRaza: Rather than saying it’s only applicable to current Brampton students, we should specify that it is available to students from either campuses. So that it is not misunderstood that only brampton students can be elected. JW: I think what we need to do is amend our policies before the election day for changing not only how positions are elected and who’s allowed to be elected, etc. We need to be clear within our policies that only Brampton campus students should be applicable because I don't personally see Sault ste. Marie students knowing the issues of brampton campus students |
| Vote Count:  | In Favor: ALL | Opposed: | Abstain:  |  |

| Agenda Item(s):  | Operating budget approval |
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| Speaker(s):  | Daniyar |
| Motion | Motion to approve the operating budget for fiscal year of 2021-2022 |
| Discussion | DA: Our fiscal year starts on May 1st and we are making a budget for the current fiscal year. There are 2 budgets, the 2021 budget. The previous budget was for a completely online year and so we can’t compare years. We had huge deficit because we stuck to conservative budget numbers. We are budgeted for a great number of costly projects - some already paid, some that will be paid this year. Previous years deficit can’t be afforded as we had deficit from last year. Primarily we have 2 revenue streams - the student fees and the student health plans. In terms of health plan premiums, all health plan premiums were charged to AlgomaU students - AlgomaU charges on behalf of us and we buy from the health insurance plans. There are 3 expenses we have - membership development. If we hold an important meeting, and order food for it, it will belong in this category. Conferences, training, & Travel and Conferences, Dues, and Fees. And the travel budget: hotel, flights, typical travel expenses, apx. 15,000 dollars. Donations & sponsorships: sponsorship for events that are aligned to our vision such as\_\_\_\_. Events and Campaigns: events done by team. Students Life Events (), Campus Affairs (8500), Carina (5000). Marissa wanted to propose a budget for 2 items. Marissa, could you explain why you wanted to have a higher budget?MD: 35,00 for the 1st one. 55,00 for the second one. Larger one for more large scale events that would require more money. DA: I find that we go over budget most of the time and so we will keep $3500 as contingency. We budgeted for $4200 for subscriptions. JW: Marissa and I have been looking around for good grant administration software, and funds for quarantine purposes. We came across a few different ones, but some are very expensive although they are amazing ($14,000). We found a cheaper one but the software didn't seem to have the capabilities we needed ($25,00). But the survey monkey agreed to give a better offer so we are thinking of getting a better service, and we are looking for other ones too. We will all approve the bursary, and once it is defined, we will have a meeting to discuss it. When it is approved, we will divide it between different areas that the bursary can go to. The criteria is already prepared. We believe we will receive influx of applications once we have enough applications but we will not be advertising it now as we don’t have enough services to process a huge influx of applicantsJW: Most printers on campus are leased, so we are looking to have a dedicated printer. We do a lot of printing for advertising and Algoma Uni wants us to use their printing provider - Xerox. And that is, in fact, better because our maintenance cost for the printer will be taken care of by AlgomaU. We are hoping that it is a one time buy that will last almost 10 years. DA: It was estimated that laptops and phones will come to around $7200. There’s 11,000 dollars in honorariums per year including brampton campus positions. We are obligated to have car insurance ($4300). We have three orientations - Frosh, Frost, Fresher, and the total amount dedicated is $15,000. Sometimes small equipments may go off-expenses. We dedicate $40,000 for policy and governance. JW: If there is any disagreement over overhauling our governance structure, we add an extra item on our agenda item. Rebekah and I have been running into problems dealing with issues such as legal issues, etc. We don’t have to go to a lawyer to do so, we just want to do it internally. DA: Food Pantry budget was requested by Marissa along with People’s Garden as every year it requires maintenance. Every club receives $500. Marissa has been working on developing more financial support services for students. We don’t advertise this because we think that students may take advantage of it. But if you think you know someone who desperately needs it - let them know. If students want to organize a club under the roof of AUSU, they will receive an amount of $500 for the expenses of the club. If idea is beneficial for a great number of students we will accept it.JW: There is a proper process for it already - providing budget, info on any partnerships, etc. We want to give more people more bursaries for their clubs. If we have the software I was talking about earlier, we can set a process for it. It is a competitive process.DA: Wages and benefits for both staff members including wages for executives: $3600. It is a very conservative estimation. We have a net loss/profit of $185360. JW: Our capital expenses will exceed the amount in our budget, and so that we don’t have to apply costs of interest, we can inject money into the funds to a fund called “stability fund”. It protects us from risks, such as health plan claims exceeding the amount we collected, we can pay off the deficit using the fund. If we experience a deficit due to enrollment reduction for example, the stability fund will help mitigate our expenses. Any surpluses could be put into the fund. We don’t have much money although it looks like it, this is because there are always costs that we come across everyday. Mover: CJSeconder: AH |
| Vote Count:  | In Favor: ALL       | Opposed: | Abstain:  |

| Agenda Item(s):  | Motion to extend the board meeting of Sept 27th, 2021 until 6:15pm |
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| Speaker(s):  | Rebekah |
| Motion:  |  |
| Discussion: | Mover: ChantalSeconder: Aseel |
| Vote Count:  | In Favor: ALL | Opposed: | Abstain:  |

| Agenda Item(s):  | Choosing from two options to find a way to amend the current AUSU constitution |
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| Speaker |  |
| Motion: | Motion to engage with a lawyer to amend current AUSU constitution S7.2.3, 7.2.4, and following that to work with a third party policy specialist to improve AUSU policies. Where a specialist will be selected using RFP. Hereby where the aim is to have policy revisions and amendments are to be implemented by W22 AGM |
| Discussion:  | JW: We are probably going to look at the governance front. There are only 2 ways to change policies in accordance with this document, through AGM, usually before or after election of the new board. We looked at new restructuring plan, to manage growth of our membership, to be able to run programs essential to students such as the food in the pantry. The document is old and doesn’t align with our goals as of now. Everyone should look at the restructuring document in our shared google drive. AGM (Annual General Meeting) is a meeting where any member at large can come and share opinions on our policies. We found a loophole in our policies and we were made aware of it as far back as 2018/2019 board. A large group of students came in to proxy once but we don’t still know if multiple people can proxy for a member. Proxy vote was changed. We are thinking of rehosting the AGM, etc. and know if we are within our rights. What we are basically trying to say is that not every single thing needs to go to a lawyer. I’m hoping our membership is diverse enough to understand our issues and can solve them by ourselves instead of going to a lawyer for every single change. If a decision seems rationale, not everything needs to go to the board everytime, as that will need board members \_\_\_. I think the problem is the small time of notice as it is hard to get students to plan for something in a short amount of time. We want to be able to make decisions without being stuck in the process due to our present constitution. RG: Our constitution right now is a mess making it hard for us to get some things done. So it is important that we get this done as soon as possible. JW: We have explored a few different options. First option we tried: to work with CFS, as they do partner with many student unions. We can try to implement strong policies so that there are no loopholes for people to take advantage of. SASA had issues with some agenda items and from their members present at AGM, no concerns were expressed although we specifically mentioned items. As a board, we tried to streamline the process. But our constitution supersedes our by-laws and that creates complications in terms of what policies we have. Back in 2019, when restructuring first came about, the board helped assess the need for our services. By NORDIK’s recommendation, we divided it into services and \_\_\_\_. If we were not to go for the free avenue which was CFS, the other option would be giving a salary for a government specialist. We can implement or start to roll out our decisions on whether we will be hiring a specialist or doing it internally because we do not want to be held hostage by an outdated constitution. RG: Person working with CFS, is no longer with CFS. I fully agree with Janette that they already had a whack at it. They weren’t acting in support of AUSU. I personally also think the board will need a specialist on this depending on what complications may arise. We are a bunch of students making up this union and so we will not be able to make learned decisions like that.DA: Knowing that there are different interests regarding the policies, I would be happy to make sure that all parties are consulted thoroughly. JW: I think it will be worth it to engage them with our decision or our finished product as it would be too volatile for us to do that in the beginning itself. I still would like to get an opinion from CFS as I think their expertise has always helped us, maybe not the current CFS members but we have worked with excellent people of CFS before. RG: Mover: RazaSeconder: AseelFavor: ALL |

**Discussion Items**:

| Agenda Item(s):  |  |
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| Speaker(s):  |  |
| Discussion:  |  |

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

| **Adjournment of Agenda** | Motion to adjourn the meeting at: 6:25\_\_ PM by Aseel\_\_\_\_\_\_Moved By: ChantalSeconded by: Carina |
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| Vote Count:  | In Favor: ALL | Opposed: | Abstain:  |  |