**Date**: August 5th, 2021 3:30-5:30

**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 |  |
| 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 |  | Emma Ude |  |
| International Student Rep | A | Nicolette Rebello |  |
| Varsity & Athletics Rep | P | Avery Litke |  |
| Recording Secretary - NV | P | Jahanara Abbar |  |
| Ombudsperson - NV | P | Tyler Murphy |  |
| Chair – NV |  | 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 |  |

| **Meeting called to order at:** | 3:55pm | **Confirmation of Quorum:** | # of members present: 14 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes:** | Moved by: Raza  Seconded by: Prabhleen | | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |  |

**Opening Remarks**

| Speaker(s): | Rebekah | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Discussion: | If anyone has any questions let me know  Hoping to keep this meeting short, as the last one went long Please keep role of order, speak your mind / opinions but try to shy away from repetition, and dragging  Try to stick to schedule and agenda items as we move along | | | |

**Voting Items**:

| Agenda Item(s): | Ratification of new Board Members (Avery, Jahanara, Emma) | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Rebekah | | | |
| Motion: | Ratify the new board members as follows: Avery Litke as Varsity Rep, Emma Ude as Residence Rep, and Jahanara Jabbar as Recording Secretary. | | | |
| Discussion: | I, Rebekah, motion to omnibus the ratifications.  PB: move  CJ: second  Motion Carries  I Rebekah, motion to ratify the new board members as follows: Avery Litke as Varsity Rep, Emma Ude as Residence Rep, and Jahanara Jabbar as Recording Secretary.   * Varsity Council appointed Avery as the Varsity Representative   PB: Move  CJ: Second  RG: Having sat on the hiring panels for most of these individuals I feel that they are the most qualified candidate for their positions. As for Avery, she was appointed by the varsity council which I am also a member of. As such, due to conflict of interests, I excluded myself from those discussions to ensure unanimity with the decision. But I would like to personally agree to the appointment. | | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |  |

| Agenda Item(s): | Purchase of additional laptops and work mobile phones | | |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Janette, Rebekah | | |  |
| Motion: | Approve the purchase of 9 phones, 4 laptops, looking to lease the devices | | | |
| Discussion: | JW: Need a dedicated line for Student VIP related questions as they get many enquiries from students. A work cell phone is preferred. I believe we should have 5 phones, especially for VP student life to avoid the majority of calls coming in directly to ED (myself).  MD: Only emails and social media are the current mode of communication between staff and students. At some point before September we will be hiring new walksafe staff, we will need 1-2 new phones to replace the current phone (brick) for the staff and/or the coordinator. FP/Garden Services don't have a particular need at this time. I see walksafe service requiring it more.  T: I use a personal phone at times, but don't personally see a need for myself. But maybe in the future this would be more useful.  D: Predominant role in life of staff members. 80% of communication coming through my phone is work related.  JW: I would like to have additional laptops on hand for execs and board members to allow them to work on projects as needed, even if a board member returns at the end of their term. Vps will occasionally need tools. We have 4 at the moment but feel 8-10 would be a more appropriate number. In regards to cell phones, I think it would be beneficial to have a work/life balance by having a separate device and for historical records (useful for future board needs) or if someone else has a different opinion perhaps some form of compensation since we are using personal devices.  DA: Laptops are often used by student executives, and as technology is being used more extensively, they are important to have. Having it is often an advantage as it can be very handy for projects.  MD: It is useful as it provides Institutional reference/memory and also drive and email communication as well. Would like to reiterate that it is for your work email.  RG: I know for myself I had to upgrade my personal phone plan so I see the benefit, as well as for sister campus positions and vp since we have external contacts. So at least 3 if not 5. Bulk purchase would help everyone have cell phones for themselves.  JW: I've been shopping around and looking for an opinion for the security of phones such as provision of upgrades/repairs when leasing. We can also purchase outright and get warranty plans. Most plans are nationwide talk and text but where it gets competitive is data. Would be beneficial for board members living in residence or who are working on the road, travelling to conferences, etc, - a sizable data plan is important. Leaning towards pixel or android, both with google since we use google suit with AU and think it would be best capability-wise considering the services we use. While I dont have pricing today, I would like to inform the board and potentially send this to emotion. Research on the number of devices, types, data plan, and decide whether purchasing or leasing.  R: I do think data is important. When I was in the UK, I was traveling a lot and long commutes made it difficult for me to hop into meetings. It affects your flexibility and therefore availability. I think a sizable amount of data would help with that.  CK: My recommendation based on personal use over last year is to get 10-15 GB high speed data and the rest unlimited - 5G high speed is present until the 15 GB mark is reached according to my travel experience and the need for flexibility over the last year in my position. which likely used the most?  JW: We have been looking at multiple options including Family plans but those then to be tied to personal not business credit accounts which I would like to avoid. Mobile phones for 6 staff.  CJ: Does not see the need due to the sort of responsibilities being assigned personally  JW: Extended warranty required even if we lease or buy.  RG: Motion of 6 staff, 3 board (President, Brampton, Timmins)  Lease is cheaper upfront and allows for replacements and warranty.  R: For some phones a minimum plan is required  JW: Can’t finance a phone for more than a year. If we purchase the phone, there should be a policy for not trading in before turning the phone over. 10-15 GB of data is good.  I, Rebekah motion to approve the purchase of 9 phones, 4 laptops, looking to lease the devices.  Move: R  second:PB | | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor:       All | Opposed: | Abstain: |  |

| Agenda Item(s): | Logo Provider Selection | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Chardon, Rebekah | | |
| Motion | Table the agenda item "Logo Provider Selection" until a later date or the next board meeting. | | |
| Discussion | ?: Seeing as our top choice candidate just recently informed us that they are unable to perform the work, we will need to make an alternative choice/go back to the drawing board. I would like to table the motion.  I, Rebekah, motion to table the agenda item "Logo Provider Selection" until a later date or the next board meeting.  Move:  Second: R  Tabled | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: | Opposed: | Abstain: |

| Agenda Item(s): | Social Work Student Placement w/ AUSU | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Marissa | | |
| Motion: | Approve an unpaid, non-voting position on AUSU for a Social Work placement student, to be provided with an honorarium of $100 per semester. | | |
| Discussion: | MD: The Placement will help any social work student who wants work through the lens of academics with AUSU tentatively in the winter/ perhaps throughout the year. We should provide these students with honorariums. Working with Carina on health and wellness projects and with VP Campus affairs most likely to be overseen by my position.  JW: I love it as it fits a strategic vision, and gives students job experience, and a lot more opportunities. Lots of work going around with EDI but would love to see more student initiatives. As last year we offered our placement students with honorariums due to their work being beneficial and difficult, I would like to ask if there will be some form of honorarium and if we can vote on it so we don't have to come back to it later?  ?: Maybe an hourly placement  I Rebekah, motion to approve an unpaid, non-voting position on AUSU for a Social Work placement student, to be provided with an honorarium of $100 per semester.  Move: CJ  Second: AL | | |
| Vote Count: | In Favor:      ALL | Opposed: | Abstain: |

**Discussion Items**:

| Agenda Item(s): | Contribution to AUSU emergency bursary program |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker | Janette |
| Discussion: | JW: AUSU has improved their bursary program in the past. Had invested $1600 in emergency bursary for the benefit of students if insurance did not cover 100%. Student vip, as part of RFP and proposal is they offer 1600 a year which is invested as a health bursary to students for medical expenses they can’t afford (medical/dental/etc) - they submit an anonymous letter explaining their situation to the board which the board then votes on. Expand this bursary program to other issues – coverage for example, for rent, or any other household costs. We are working on a crisis stream such as in the housing development committee so we can then, once the process is fine tuned, advertise to students and allow them to know it's available to them.  Quarantine plan is expensive (aprox $1200) on top of flights etc, students are finding they can’t afford it but have to, as they wish to complete their studies in person. We have been in discussions with Wilfred Laurier who has a bursary to help with this exact issue, since we are working on a bursary program looking to approach AU to contribute to that portion of the bursary. Or potentially lower the costs of the quarantine plan. Best approach to support students would be to have AU contribute to bursary fund.  RG: I would like to share that the university has been in talks with APH and government officials to help mitigate the problem, but unfortunately they are bound to their initial covid plan made at the start of quarantine although they have been working to try and come up with solutions.  R: apx. $1858 for Brampton students, probably 200 cheaper for ssm students (11 days) added to your student fees, moving to new safe travel quarter that will cut down costs, which what they will do now is $2000 for 14 days. Not sure if that will also be included in your student fees.  Arrivals team is unbearably complex, and although I speak good english, I have struggled with understanding and clarity regarding these issues. |

| Agenda Item(s): | Starting O-week later in the fall to allow for quarantine |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Tim, Raza |
| Discussion: | RQ: Will meet with Student Exp. tomorrow, I think it’s important to delay Brampton one to allow staff to assist/travel, and students could be active in volunteering because they’re busy or in quarantine. Current plan is to have two-parts. Algoma U is having its own o-week and wants actual community building. Want 3 smaller events, then we can have bigger events later in Sept. near the end or middle. Prelim, have got excited response from Student Exp. team. My hope is that this is possible as it makes sense, within capacities, to have more students experience something like an event, following a year online. Last day to come to Canada is Sept. 17, including the 14 days of quarantine. It’s the end of the month already and a lot of students could miss out on it, so we want the biggest event at that time to facilitate as many people as we can.  RG: Should arrange a ride for Raza from Brampton to Timmins  TvW: For the Sault we think it’s good, talked with Rachel from Student Exp., our orientation goes from Sept. 5 for a week, spreading it out a specific time and other “bonus events” will happen on Sept. 18 for international students and hope to have a scavenger hunt, primarily for informational sessions being prioritized. Later, we do know the busier students will get occupied with midterms and assignments. One busy week of events with expectations of no assignments or many hard classes during that time. Spoke with Rachel about Brampton and Timmins, going to be August 28-30 (or something), both campuses suggested that we have presence there for O week to help out. Could do the week before our original o-week in Timmins, then the Sault and then Brampton. It’s already planned, is “pretty good”. We have confirmed the drag show and are waiting to confirm from a catering company for a banquet and then the agenda is all set for the Sault’s events during o-week.  RG: Discussion previously re: AUSU van that seat seven to drive, including Raza and other key staff members. Is planning being made for this to happen along with AUSU activities to meet Raza, as well?  TvW: Tiring to do all the events for those who must travel between the campuses. The distance between the three campuses are the same. Right now in scheduling all we know is AU’s planned events, I suggest we drive up and split into two trips to allow for rest in-between events. Planned “Meet AUSU” the week before o-week in the Sault, as well. Raza stays in the Sault following the trip to Timmins, and then Brampton caps the end of the journey. Rachel discussed this with Marissa and Tim in their meeting to not do this in only one trip.  RG: Sounds good. To wrap up will have discussion on who specifically later and dates/times. Does anyone else have something to add?  RQ: (does Algoma U Triangle) |

| Agenda Item(s): | Resolution to support food security hub - background, updates |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Marissa |
| Discussion: | MD: For the grant application for Nairne/Laura’s projects, asked for a letter for support of the grant, which was created from template and signed off. They have both been extremely supportive of any food security on campus and our concerns, will be applying for more grants.  JW: The globe will not be a dedicated international space as looking to make the pantry accessible and academic while expanding affordable food and cafe spaces. Savannah’s board in 19-20 of $50,000 for Globe and international students. With this it won’t be a dedicated space but it would still occupy its multicultural theme. We can re-allocate it into the food security hub. Making food encouraged and the space should bring people together and help them socialize. We’re looking to equip and prep students more through the teaching component. University is paying for new lounge space and Lauren Wilson (sp?) has been writing big grants for the university. Very high that we will win more.  MD: The space in the Speakeasy doesn’t have the prep/kitchen space we expected and needs more space for hosting workshops and teaching environments. A small-scale certified kitchen will open up a *lot* of options for future programming for students. Wonderful to have that in there, and as Janette said not just have a dedicated space for one group but weaving different things into everything and not only silos, so existence is not tied or valid to only one physical place. Focus also on other events/projects/programming, and think about how you can weave many components into one thing.  JW: University is looking to expand student spaces long-term, talking about tearing down townhouses and having multi-story buildings as a combo of spaces, and dorms have huge potential to house international student lounges.  MD: Space is at a premium and we’ve been privileged/lucky to have the spaces, see what we can do with the spaces that are available to either make them into international spaces or have them contain larger components. What is actually needed? Ask if it’s a functional, practical or another need? Do they feel like they need representation? Ask/drill down what is actually needed and quantify that.  A) Do we need more spaces?, B)) Is it something that just needs improvement of spaces already present c) can this be accomplished in other round-about ways.  C: All student spaces are open to all students at this time, having dedicated spaces for each demographic is difficult to maintain until more space is made from these long term plans.  RG: To have an international student lounge that bounces around will make it impossible to have the space to suit the needs, which is why it should be multicultural and have the food security hub represent as many different cultures/students as possible. I have been speaking with Dave Trudelle, there is a possibility that the old T-Bird lounge--?  JW: Agree with everything. Even though the Globe was well-intentioned, it was for the most part always empty, T-Bird lounge was way more used, I don’t know if we are doing ourselves a favour by segregating. Better to have a theme of multiculturalism and use the spaces we already have (to their full potential).  MD: Looking at other spaces that have historically been used by international students, asking why that is, how we can replicate that, asking students, maybe about privacy or temperature even, and maybe make it a place to play, by adding for example, a ping pong table? We can get across a warm and inclusive space without all the flags (?) on the way (etc.) Constantly engaging these students to see what they want, always checking in with demographics to see what they want in the spaces they call theirs.  C: The T-Bird has changed over the years. In the years 16-17, it was a space for clubs/ students to gather and in 18-19 for naps and other activities. During 19-20, it became more of a hang out space again (so many lost ping pong balls).  J: T-bird lounge is more isolated  JW: Nap/resting spaces can be awkward, but also an essential part of a busy student life |

| Agenda Item(s): | Set transition date |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Rebekah, Janette |
| Discussion: | RG: 16-17 of August, evening of the 16th (Monday) will see the executive staff be in a restorative circle with SASA. (Explains what Transition is to those who are new, including SASA helping select a facilitator for Indigenous cultural competency training). These would be day events, likely 4-5 hours each day, and we would be receiving money for meals at that time. (As Janette said it’s usually 10-4 PM) and hoping to have a hybrid structure. Usually in-person contract catering or order through an app together.  RQ: Not able to make either days as I will be travelling internationally during those days. Can not commit to either day at all.  RG: 18-20 is CFS OGM with Prabhleen, with the Board Meeting for August done almost directly after then. What about the 23-24?  TvW: If it was entirely online I would probably be able to participate while in my full-time job.  RG: Know that facilitators will be joining us virtually, everyone then would have the option to call in as part of a hybrid. If it works for everyone else but not me with this, that’s fine. Feel free to go forward with it, I can catch up.  C: It's not just individual roles that are discussed at transition, it is overall training and how the company works that is also included and necessary to board members' understanding of how things work / what their role in the board would be.  JW: It’s also mandatory  RG: - as part of your appointment letters  MD: We could put certain things on time blocks where everyone is available, for example Raza can join during the AUSU parts and then arrange his own one on one sessions when best for transition pieces between previous members.  RG: Locking it into the 16-17, exact times will be figured and shared in the next couple of days, the moment it’s ready it will be shared. We can do it in the townhouse, and look to book another retreat in the fall. Putting forward a motion to extend the board meeting by 30 minutes.  I, Carina, motion to extend the board meeting by 30 minutes, culminating at 6pm (est). Moved: RG seconded: R |

| Agenda Item(s): | Student complaint process for AU staff/admin |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Tyler |
| Discussion: | T: Run into some issues with the complaint process, doesn’t tie into HR at AU and is only for certain things, like human rights and not just grading. Would like to see a solid complaint process - not as accessible as the complaint process against students and not as accessible as that for a student which is a Google Form. This should be amended. Maybe we could petition AU to do this. Janette has thoughts as well.  JW: Think it’s missing a few areas to make it streamlined for students, capturing different complaints and what would warrant attention from the Dean vs. HR. New policy re: academics is specific and has been developed but there’s nothing for students against staff or HR, if concern is/isn’t academic related. Could be discriminatory in nature, which I have encountered in the last couple semesters. Have found there’s no way to differentiate cases. Looking to implement or bring into attention that process needs to be in place ex. sexual assault and other serious cases in nature. We’ve discovered while working on a complex case that certain deficiencies have been identified. Need to create a good protocol for the faculty complaint process. Before the EDI committee was created, it used to have another working taskforce, and now doesn't have any inbox or place for complaints with confidentiality for students to use. Hope to reintroduce, offer different solutions in prep for when other students come forward to matters they would approve of.  T: The current policy only mentioned faculty, but there are in fact many different people at AU other than faculty that students may wish to make complaints against.  RG: I propose a committee to be led on this  T: Like the idea of going to the university with something just so that it’s more receptive, and hopefully if they do that then  RG:  T: will share existing policy and short doc with proposed changes we can talk about |

| Agenda Item(s): | Food Pantry/ Garden Policy Committee |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Marissa |
| Discussion: | MD: Working with the food pantry and garden. Don’t have any policies outside of the ones in AUSU or on operational things, nothing beyond manual and general things. Have been researching other pantries in general. Want to create a committee that Nairne and Laura will assist with, have other members of previous members and interested volunteers to sit on. Please send your availability so that a time can be chosen. Or, if you know of anyone that would like to take part, an interest in policy or like that stuff, let me know. |

| Agenda Item(s): | Walksafe Program |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Marissa |
| Discussion: | MD: Will run again in the fall, aiming to have it started up again in sept. Hoping to put out a coordinator position and other staff positions, have been working with Karen Hudson for funding for this, working on budget and AU will pay for it from a safety grant. I have brainstormed with Daniyar on different programming esp. for Brampton and would like to speak to Raza on if it’s needed and what that would look like. If interested, let me know.  Can compile a list for opportunities for new policies, like top students at large for students to sit on, volunteer opportunities for AUSU and all students, show how it is going.  CCR application process there is one for AUSU volunteer, step by step  RG: Janette meet with me to include in CCR credit |

| Agenda Item(s): | Waterfront Centre Partnership/ Membership Project |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Marissa |
| Discussion: | MD: Favourite person Dave Trudelle included in ancillary fees or have some sort of partnership/reduction in fees for students to access the centre. He is on vacation right now. Wanted to meet with the waterfront centre for plans, which got delayed due to COVID. Having observed a lot of programming there, will keep us all updated. Tim was also in the loop and meeting with. Send a message if interested. Carina and I had a meeting with Thrive Tours, we’ll be meeting a bit more to talk with them on partnerships, events, ideas. Preliminary meeting, I think there are a lot of opportunities to work with them.  Q  MD: y’know how I got a pass included and the university (and student) is paying for AU, with a great discount so instead of 15/hour (if can’t get covered) then 50% off as student, sure would be down for it. It would also open us up to other programming on the water if we have a pass individually, programming especially since close.  Indigenous partnerships and communication, will be included and be transparent |

| Agenda Item(s): | AU Security Training Sessions |
| --- | --- |
| Speaker(s): | Marissa |
| Discussion: | MD: Talking to Yuka on training on Brampton campus to coordinate Queer 101, cultural competency and diversity equity training. Could include working with Ali again (who is amazing) and other organizations who can provide it. While hosting those things, we will have it open for other staff and faculty as well. Yuka said that the campus is open to everything. Will touch base with Raza once I touch base with Yuka, again.  RQ: Think we should have an official voting-on stats for vaccines. First clear out the AUSU image, core value of wishing to help vaccinate students as something that is vital, not just generally but soecufuakky, because of relationships on the COVID-19 taskforce.  RG: I have been interviewed twice by the media over the last month, and have shared statements from board during my chat with SooToday and CTV News Sault Ste. Marie to encourage vaccinations. It should be safe vaccinate, but not mandating it as international students will be left out, due to travel timings and unrecognized vaccines, quarantine and wait times. Publicly (so far), we have been in support of AU to encourage but not mandate vaccines. Important to remember, in any capacity when it could be construed, that it is your opinion and not the board as a whole which goes for most matters. If speaking to anyone, mention if you are doing so on behalf of the board or someone else.  ™: organizational views don't have to be same as personal views either  RG: Yes, but make it very very clear what is your belief and what is the belief of the board.This is where confusion arrives and it makes it seem like we are not working as a team.  JW: Propose a vote to take a collective stance  MD: Might be a good idea to protect yourselves, agree to work under AUSU’s policies  RG: I have until Monday to propose a concise stance in an official written letter to propose approval by the board for any media or other inquiries.  MD: Forward all media requests to Rebekah or Janette. Don't talk, not because you’re not allowed to but it’s not a good idea to do it.  RG: If the media reaches out to you, even if you have a broad stance or plans, please send it my way. A chance to comment will ensure we have a unified front and we can protect the board, and also individuals on the board. |

| **Adjournment of Agenda** | | Motion to adjourn the meeting at: 5:56 PM by RG  Moved By: Carina Joneit  Seconded by: Tim van Weerden | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Vote Count: | In Favor: All | Opposed: | Abstain: |  |