

BOARD MEETING MINUTES 2020/2021

Date: February 12, 2021

Term: W21

Chair Member: Chavannay Bennet

Attendees:

Title		AUSU Members	Authorized Proxy
President	★	Yahaya Alphonse	
VP Campus Affairs	★	Japhet John	
VP Student Life	★	Rebekah Gwynn	
VP Indigenous		Vacant	
International Student Councillor		Vacant	
Queer* Councillor		Vacant	
Residence Councillor	★	Elvis Boakye	
Athletics & Varsity Councillor		Vacant	
Women's Councillor	★	Barbara Asare	
Diversity & Equity Councillor		Balpinder Kaur	
Mature/PT Councillor	★	Edmund Badu	
International Student Councillor	★	Nicolette Rebello	
Brampton Rep	★	Shanece Lee	
Timmins Rep		Vacant	
Recording Secretary – NV	★	Dipeeka Luitel	
Ombudsperson – NV		Tyler Murphy	
Chair – NV	★	Chavannay Bennet	
Finance Coordinator – NV	★	Daniyar Almenbayev	
Executive Director – NV	★	Janette Wallace	
People's Garden Coordinator – NV		Johnathan Lalonde	
Food Pantry Coordinator – NV		Alyson Macleod	
WUSC Coordinator – NV		Vacant	
Communications Officer – NV	★	Chardon Kozak	
Equity Officer – NV		Vacant	

Meeting called to order at:	5:11pm	Confirmation of Quorum:	8	# of members present:	9
Approval of Last Meeting Minutes	Moved by: Japhet Seconded by: Yahaya				
Vote Count	In Favor: 8	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0		

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Voting Items:

Agenda Item(s):	AUSU bursary/scholarship
Speaker(s):	Yahaya, Janette, Mohammed
Motion:	Motion to table discussion until the next board meeting.
Discussion:	<p><i>Yahaya</i> – Would like to create an AUSU bursary, have been in contact with Bev Teller. The difference between a scholarship and bursary is:</p> <p><u>Scholarships</u> are merit based, meaning that the student who meets the criteria of the award, and who has the highest mark will receive the award.</p> <p><u>Bursaries</u> are based first on financial need. The student who meets the criteria for the award and has the greatest financial need will receive the award. There can be an academic component, such as "must have a minimum average of 70%", but the first criteria overall have to be a demonstrated financial need.</p> <p>By creating a bursary for students, this would put more pressure on Algoma to provide students more funding to students.</p> <p>Motion to revisit this voting item after the discussion items Mover – Yahaya; Seconder – Japhet 8 in favor - Motion passes</p> <p><i>Yahaya</i> – Currently international students only have access to 3 bursaries – admission scholarship, black excellence bursary, and an OSTEf scholarship. By creating an AUSU bursary, this would allow us to take lead and put pressure on Algoma to create more resources for students. With a bursary, we would not be able to select the specific individuals for the scholarship but rather we would set broad criteria for who the bursary would go towards. Right now, AUSU has a Student-Helping-Students bursary but this is mostly geared towards part-time students. This new AUSU bursary could also encompass going towards international students since they have limited resources they can access.</p> <p><i>Janette</i> – We should start with investing \$20k for the endowment fund and would then need to create the criteria for the students who would be eligible to receive the money. With a \$20k fund, we would earn about \$500 in annual interest which could go to funding one student per year.</p> <p><i>Mohammed</i> – Is the bursary intended to be used in whatever manner the student needs?</p> <p><i>Janette</i> – This award is not to be confused with the emergency bursary, which we are already working on creating. The emergency bursary is not advertised but it is for students who have medical emergencies and are unable to pay for medical bills.</p> <p><i>Chardon</i> – The bursary is automatically put towards the winter fees assessment, and if the fees have already been paid then the university will refund you that amount.</p>

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	<p><i>Janette</i> – We should differentiate the bursaries that AUSU creates, one as an emergency fund that is based on the number of applicants and the other as a bursary for students in need.</p> <p>Motion to table discussion until the next board meeting. Mover - Yahaya; Seconder – Nicolette Motion passes.</p>		
Vote Count:	In Favor: 8	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0

Agenda Item(s):	AUSU bursary/scholarship		
Speaker(s):	Yahaya		
Motion:	Motion to extend the meeting until 7pm		
Discussion:	Moved – Yahaya; Seconder - Rebekah Motion passes		
Vote Count:	In Favor: 8	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0

Discussion Items:

Agenda Item(s):	CFS lobby week
Speaker(s):	Yahaya
Discussion:	<p><i>Yahaya</i> – There are two lobby weeks – one will be provincial, and the other will be national. The goal is to lobby the government to create changes on things students want to see. The first lobby week will be with Rebekah, and the second lobby will be with Japhet. The national lobby will contain a list of COVID issues that pertain to student issues.</p>

Agenda Item(s):	AGM policy team
Speaker(s):	Yahaya, Janette
Discussion:	<p><i>Yahaya</i> – Planning for the AGM this semester and need to create a policy team who will be involved in reviewing the AUSU policies. There was one student who reached out to volunteer, but we will require several more students to complete the team.</p> <p><i>Janette</i> – The policy team usually takes 2 full days to review all of the policies.</p>

Agenda Item(s):	UTILE Student Housing Presentation
Speaker(s):	Nolan, Yahaya, Japhet, Janette, Mohammed, Elvis

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<p>Discussion:</p>	<p><i>Nolan</i> – Working on an AUSU run housing unit. There is a non-profit from Montreal called UTILE who reached out to Yahaya about creating a student co-operative. The outreach coordinator offered a free survey to give to students and would compile relevant data.</p> <p><i>Yahaya</i> – The UTILE is an interesting initiative that is a long-term commitment.</p> <p><i>Japhet</i> - This might cost a lot of money initially, but this would be a good investment and would also put pressure on Algoma as well on the topic of affordable housing.</p> <p><i>Janette</i> – UTILE would be dealing with only the data, because student data is unreliable on national statistics. Purpose of survey is to benchmark need of affordable housing for students. The survey is funded through the government, so it is free for us to do it. Students have a 3-week period minimum to complete the survey with 3 emails + social media posts and the survey is 70 questions. There is going to be a shortage of affordable housing for Algoma, so it is important to pursue this topic. Their project – Woodnote - has 80 units with a variety of 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom units. The next step would be to complete a local survey with a feasibility analysis. It may be difficult to encourage students to fill out the survey, but we could partner with Algoma to incentivize completing it.</p> <p><i>Nolan</i> – The students only answer a subset of questions, so there would only be around 20 questions that each student would be required to complete.</p> <p><i>Janette</i> – This would be a minimum 2-year feasibility observation and a 2-3year construction process.</p> <p><i>Japhet</i> – When it comes to the survey, what kind of questions will be asked? Will there be potential issues with privacy concerns?</p> <p><i>Janette</i> – As this is a government funded survey, it has to go through an ethics board. The survey is also anonymous.</p> <p><i>Mohammed</i> – Would this have a preference on upper year students?</p> <p><i>Nolan</i> - There is only a lease to sign, but it is primarily geared to first- and second-year students.</p> <p><i>Janette</i> – This is geared towards to first- and second-year students who still need support as they are entering and settling into university and choose not to live on campus. We would still be intaking 3rd and 4th year students, but it would likely be first-come-first served and have a waiting list.</p> <p><i>Elvis</i> – This project would be a great project if AUSU can proceed with it. It would be good for AUSU to work with Algoma to support students and provide them tentative housing.</p>
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	<i>Janette</i> – We shouldn't let Algoma take lead on this project as Algoma doesn't have the same goals that we do. We need to be adamant in advocating for students' spaces.
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Agenda Item(s):	Food Pantry Update
Speaker(s):	Olivia, Mohammed, Yahaya, Chardon, Janette
Discussion:	<p><i>Olivia</i> – Working as the current food pantry coordinator. There are some challenges with the food pantry being underutilized with the requirement of creating appointments to pick up products. There is also an issue with staple food items running out of stock. There is also a challenge with students getting to campus with the public transit. We need ideas on how to make it more functional.</p> <p><i>Mohammed</i> – There is a decline of students coming to the pantry from 20-40 students coming in per day to 7-11 students coming per day. There has been a rise in no-show appointments likely due to the issues with dealing with the transit system in the winter. We also have not been able to get the staples from harvest and we are not able to provide enough healthy food for a complete meal. There is a lot of food at the pantry, but they are not staple items. Working around the booking system is also very challenging for students.</p> <p><i>Yahaya</i> – Could we reach out to our previous suppliers to get staple supplies.</p> <p><i>Mohammed</i> – The issues with Harvest is that they do not know what foods that is coming in the trucks coming in from Southern Ontario.</p> <p><i>Chardon</i> – Would AUSU be able to provide supplementary funding to ensure we have enough supplies for students? Additionally, are there any other issues we are not considering with the online booking system that is deterring students?</p> <p><i>Mohammed</i> – Physical plant is requiring students to not be able to come into the building even though we are following the APH COVID guidelines.</p> <p><i>Yahaya</i> – This is a complex issue with multiple parts, but as things begin to open up from the lockdown then students will be able to come.</p> <p><i>Janette</i> – We could advertise the food products that are available in the day-to-day. We should hold a monetary and food drive to fundraise items for the pantry.</p> <p><i>Chardon</i> – We could hold a March Madness food drive, similar to the Halloween food drive, to collect items and we could advertise well in advance which would allow best turnout.</p>

Agenda Item(s):	Audit update
Speaker(s):	Janette

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Discussion:	<i>Janette</i> – Received a message from BDO that stated they would like to start the audit. We also resolved the health plan issue with Algoma.

Adjournment of Agenda		Motion to adjourn the meeting at: 6:57 Moved By: Yahaya Seconded By: Rebekah	
Vote Count:	In Favor: 8	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0