

JULY 2025 EXECUTIVE REPORT

President, Eloghosa Avenbuan

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Introductory Meetings with Steven Murphy and the Provost**
I, alongside the VP of Downtown and the VP of Student Life, met with the Provost (July 8) and President (July 9) to offer them a high-level overview of our plans and goals for the upcoming new year. Through these meetings, we were able to get connected with certain university officials, including Jill Treen-Rebee from the Human Resources office. Over the course of the year, these relationships will enable us to more successfully pursue our projects.
- **Discount Hub Webpage Update**
With the help of the VP Student Life, I was able to complete and edit the final draft of our discount hub website document. The draft has now been sent to our marketing department for review, and the completed webpage is intended to be released at the end of August/early September.
- **Meeting with HRO**
On July 18, I met with Jill Treen-Reber from the Human Resources office. In this meeting, we talked about future collaborations that we could participate in that align with our goals. As a result, the Human Resources office was able to provide us with about 200 pens and some consent stickers that we would be able to put in the safe sex kits that we would be handing out at our Bingo After Dark orientation event.
- **Awards Selection Committee**
This month, I worked with our HR to get the Award Selection Committee application on the OTSU website for our student-at-large positions. Once the application was up on the website, I coordinated with our communications team to market the position to students. I have conducted 3 interviews and have written a letter to the board regarding my recommendation for the student-at-large hiring.
- **Student Honorarium Position**
This month, I have drafted a job description for a student honourarium position that I would like to implement at the Otsu in the fall. Originally, I had worked with HR to apply for this position using University Works; however, I was not approved. In talking with finance, we decided that the next best steps would be to do would be to offer this position as an honorarium to offer students a chance to work at the OTSU and gain valuable experience while also receiving compensation.
- **OUSA Steering Meeting and Working Groups**
This month, I attended an OUSA Steering Committee meeting in person on July 11 at OUSA's home office in Toronto. In this meeting, we talked about Bill 33 and strategic campaigning. We also discussed the potential structure of our fall general assembly, taking place in October. After the committee meeting, we had a practice lobbying session, which was meant to prepare us for Lobbying Week in November.

Additionally, I am part of the HR and Risk Management working group, to discuss our top priorities for the committee and to create a plan for the 2025-2026 audit for OUSA.

- **DC Food Bank Tour**

This month, the VP of Student Life and I had the chance to tour the Durham College Student Association's Food Bank here on the North Campus. We were able to gain a better understanding of what types of items were offered at this food bank and what the intake process for their food bank entailed. We also got a brief overview of the history of the DC Food Bank and the challenges that they faced/are still facing. All things considered, this conference was a significant step for OTSU in combating food insecurity, and we want to use the knowledge gathered to inform our future programming..

- **FlemFlex Content Creation**

With the women's only hours at the FlemFlex now open, the VP Student Life, VP Downtown, and I, in collaboration with our communication team, recorded a few videos in the FlemFlex and raised students' awareness about this new service..

- **Communications Meeting**

The executives and I met with the Communications and Marketing team to review and go over the branding for our OTSU services. We reviewed the old designs and then the new ones that have been drafted up by our amazing Graphic Design, Josie. The executive also sat down with the marketing department to select merchandise for the 2025-2026 school year.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Awards Selection Committee Update**

Several applicants were interviewed, and three students at large were chosen to be members of the committee. A letter to the board has been written and will be presented at this meeting.

- **Clubs and Societies**

The clubs and society committee met to discuss and go over the new clubs and society policies for the 2025-2026 school year.

- **Elections Committee Introductory Meeting**

The election committee met to briefly go over the policies and to discuss next steps.

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VP of Student Life, Tuirani Kerfelec

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Food Insecurity**
This month, I have been working on the Nutrition Access Program (NAP) proposal to be presented to the board. A foundational initiative designed to support future executives in establishing a sustainable food insecurity service on campus. This project aims to create a sustainable, structured, scalable, and student-centred response that not only supports students through accessing food supplies but also prioritizes their overall wellness, dignity, and long-term success.
- **Too Good To Go on Campus**
I have been in contact with the Hunter's cafeteria to explore the possibility of implementing a "Too Good To Go" style program on campus. This initiative would be to reduce food waste while providing students experiencing food insecurity with access to low-cost, surplus meals at the end of the day. At this stage, I am still in the exploratory phase and actively seeking to establish a formal partnership with the cafeteria.
- **Clubs and Societies Policies and Procedures**
Throughout this month, we've focused on reviewing a number of existing policies and procedures. During this process, the committee provided valuable feedback and recommendations, which were carefully discussed and taken into consideration. Resulting in several revisions ensuring the policies are more effective, clear, and aligned with our current goals and operational needs.
- **Discount Hub**
I have successfully collected all the necessary information and logistical details from each of the businesses we are partnering with for the upcoming academic year. This includes the confirmation of the discounts, terms of use, and any specific requirements from the vendors. These student-exclusive discounts will be compiled and made accessible on the OTSU website at the start of the academic year.
- **ROADS Conference**
I have attended the ROADS conference hosted by Sleeve Advisory Group and McMaster Student Union. It was an excellent opportunity to gain insight into how other student unions, such as McMaster, Laurier, and Brock, operate their services. I was particularly inspired by some of their operational strategies and look forward to exploring how we can scale and adapt similar practices within our student union. In addition, the conference offered a variety of workshops focusing on challenges faced by student executives including increasing student engagement, food insecurity, building relationships with the university admins, large-scale event planning, stress management, Bill 33. These sessions were both informative and energizing, equipping us with practical tools and fresh perspectives as we move into the academic year.
- **Vendors List for Clubs and Societies**
In collaboration with our Finance Generalist, I have compiled a vendor list featuring businesses that the OTSU clubs

and societies have previously worked with and had positive experiences with. This resource aims to support new club and society executives in easily identifying reliable vendors across a variety of categories, including venues, catering, photographers, and photobooths. This list is dynamic and intended to be continuously updated over the years to reflect new partnerships and feedback.

- **Indigenous Presence on Campus**

On July 3rd, I attended a meeting alongside VP Student Affairs and other key stakeholders from the OTU and the Indigenous communities (see VP Student Affairs report for details). This meeting aimed to collaboratively explore the possibilities of hosting a Pow Wow on campus, including the operational logistics required to bring this event to life. This would be a culturally significant and scalable event, well-suited to our campus and its available resources. We are currently waiting for updates from VP Student Affairs regarding the grant application submitted to support this initiative.

- **Student inquiries**

As the ratification period approaches, I have received an increasing number of inquiries from student leaders regarding our platform transition, updates to club policies, and the reduced number of ratified clubs this year. Many have raised operational questions and complaints about the new process and how it affects their eligibility. I have been working to clarify details and support students through this transition.

- **Development of an Alternative Communication Stream**

In collaboration with Digital Media & Communications Coordinator, we are developing a podcast platform that highlights the diverse communities on campus and showcases student life. The podcast will feature events organized by various clubs and societies, along with updates from the OTSU, including executive reports and service highlights, presented in an engaging, new show-style format.

- **Wellness Kits**

To increase the presence of the wellness services on campus, I've been reaching out to various businesses to secure donations, allowing more students to benefit from wellness kits throughout the year. While a few brands have already expressed interest in collaborating with us, I'm continuing to build relationships and explore additional donation opportunities from both brands and institutions.

- **Transition to ALUMNO**

This year, our student dental and health plan provider is transitioning to ALUMNO. I've initiated communication with our Health Plan Coordinator to develop strategies that will help students navigate this significant change. ALUMNO is launching a mobile app to make accessing benefits more convenient for students. We are exploring ways to promote and integrate this tool into our broader communication strategy to ensure students can take full advantage.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Clubs and Society Committee**

I am presenting the final two members to complete the committee. This month, the CSC has dedicated significant effort to reviewing the Clubs and Societies Policies and Procedures, and has now submitted the revised version to the Board for approval.

- **OTSU x OTU Advisory Committee**

No comments

July 2025 EXECUTIVE REPORT

VP of Student Affairs, Justin Barrett

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Indigenous Presence on Campus**

On July 3rd, I attended a meeting alongside VP of Student Life, Nathalie Fitzsimmons; Catherine Davidson, University Librarian; Aimee Danis, Director of the Indigenous and Cultural Office (OTU); Kathy Beaver-McLeod, Lakeridge Health Indigenous Liaison and Elder; and Nathalie Fitzsimmons, Executive Library Assistant. The meeting centred on introductions, building rapport, and establishing stronger professional relationships to improve Indigenous presence on campus. We discussed strategies to facilitate closer collaboration between OTSU and OTU, as well as plans and timelines for powwow planning and engaging with indigenous communities and resources.

- **Race Relations Foundation Grant Application**

On July 4th, I completed and submitted an application to the Race Relations Foundation of Canada for a grant of CAD 10,000 to support a powwow planned for Spring 2026, in partnership with the Indigenous and Cultural Office. This powwow aims to enhance cultural awareness on campus, showcase Indigenous vendors, elders, and performers, and create a dedicated space to celebrate Indigenous culture while addressing issues faced by Indigenous populations in our region.

- **Authored a Pro-Food Drive Argument Paper**

I authored a position paper to affirm the importance of campus food drives as a form of mutual aid rather than charity. In it, I argue that food drives empower students to support one another without stigma, rooted in solidarity and reciprocity. Drawing on Indigenous teachings such as Mino-Bimaadiziwin (Anishinaabe) and Wahkohtowin (Cree), I highlight how these principles align with truth and reconciliation efforts and reflect community care in action. I also critique institutional resistance to food drives as an attempt to avoid exposing student poverty, emphasizing that student unions must prioritize honesty and direct support where institutional responses fall short. Backed by research on mutual aid's effectiveness, my paper frames food drives as a union-driven solution that fosters dignity, community resilience, and collective care over image management.

- **Ontario Tech Student Food Insecurity Survey**

I created a Food Insecurity Questionnaire for distribution through the Ontario Tech Student Union to gather anonymous student data on hunger, meal-skipping, and access to food supports. This survey is designed to strengthen our advocacy for improved campus food programs and to inform future initiatives like peer-to-peer food drives, community fridges, and confidential food support services. By collecting this data, we can better demonstrate the scope of food insecurity at OTU and push for concrete institutional action.

- **The Student Housing Crisis at Ontario Tech**

I authored a paper to examine the growing housing crisis facing Ontario Tech students, particularly international students. It highlights rising rents, predatory landlord practices, and gaps in tenant rights education that leave students vulnerable to exploitation. The paper situates these issues within the broader context of tuition inflation and cost-of-living pressures, arguing that housing insecurity is a structural crisis tied to systemic economic trends.

I outline how the OTSU can address these challenges through legal support, tenant education workshops, verified housing resources, and lobbying efforts for affordable housing and rent regulation. The paper also proposes initiatives such as mandatory tenant rights orientation for first-year and international students, expanded legal services, and long-term solutions like student housing cooperatives. It concludes by emphasizing that organized advocacy and student solidarity are essential to confronting these pressures and defending student welfare.

- **In Defence of Student Solidarity: Why the OTSU Matters in the Age of Bill 33**

I authored a paper to defend the Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) as a cornerstone of student democracy, equity, and advocacy in response to Ontario's Bill 33 and the revival of the Student Choice Initiative (SCI). I argue that student unions are integral to the historical legacy of organized labour and essential for preserving collective power, affordable services, and representation for students.

The paper traces the decline of union strength alongside rising inequality, positioning student unions within this broader context. I critique Bill 33 for undermining solidarity and reframing union participation as optional, threatening vital services like health coverage, food security programs, and equity initiatives. Drawing on Canadian labour history, economic data, and advocacy outcomes, I emphasize that defending the OTSU is not just about services but about resisting broader political trends that erode democracy and collective action.

In closing, I call on students to support their union through fees, elections, and participation, framing solidarity as both a practical necessity and an act of resistance against growing authoritarianism.

- **Student Survival Guide**

I created a new, condensed version of the Ontario Tech Student Survival Guide to provide students with an accessible, quick-reference resource. This "shortened edition" covers essential topics such as OTSU services, health and dental benefits, budgeting, housing, food security, mental health supports, accessibility services, and student life opportunities. Designed for easy distribution during orientation and campus events, this guide ensures students can quickly find the most relevant information and resources while linking to the full-length guide for more comprehensive details.

- **Nursing Faculty Leadership Engagement**

I engaged in ongoing correspondence with Dr. Janet McCabe, Associate Dean of Nursing, to strengthen and improve the relationship between the OTSU and the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences. This dialogue focused on enhancing collaboration, improving communication channels, and identifying opportunities for joint initiatives that better support nursing and health sciences students. We are planning to meet in person in mid-August to create a plan for the upcoming school year to address concerns of nursing students on campus.

- **Meeting with VP Strategic Infrastructure and Campus Safety**

I met with Rick Hutchinson, Vice President of Strategic Infrastructure and Campus Safety, to address concerns regarding the poor level of customer service, accountability, transparency, and support experienced by OTU students when dealing with IT staff and problem resolution. This meeting focused on identifying systemic issues impacting student access to timely and effective IT assistance and advocating for improved service standards, clearer escalation pathways, and greater transparency in IT support processes.

- **McMaster Roads Conference Attendance**

I attended the McMaster Roads Conference alongside the VP of Student Life and the VP Downtown. During the conference, I participated in workshops and discussion panels on conflict resolution, AI advocacy and ethics, student food insecurity, major events planning, and engaged in a political discussion with a local MP on student political engagement.

Additionally, I networked extensively with fellow delegates and shared several of my authored op-eds and position papers—including those on food insecurity, housing, and Bill 33—to build connections and highlight OTSU's advocacy work. This conference provided valuable insights and opportunities to collaborate with student leaders across the province.

- **Begun Authorship of Collaborative Paper With MSA.**

Making a connection with Skyla Heneberry, director of the Mohawk Students' Association, she has asked me to collaborate and contribute to an academic paper titled "An Indigenous Approach to Food Insecurity in Canada's Post Secondary Sector." Preliminary paper outlines and research are being completed with the goal of co-publishing and an advocacy paper.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Student Advocacy Advisory Committee (SAAC) Hiring Update**

I have successfully hired 4 out of the 5 positions for the Student Advocacy Advisory Committee (SAAC) following a strong response from applicants. This month, I conducted six interviews, selecting candidates with diverse levels of experience with the OTSU. I am extremely optimistic about their potential to serve as effective OTSU ambassadors.

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VP of Downtown, Kailey Haskell

GENERAL UPDATES

- **Downtown Campus Social Media Content Day: June 24, 2025**
Myself and the Digital Media & Communications Coordinator went to the downtown campus to film some social media content, where we got some supplemental B-roll footage and filmed one video for the OTSU social media page.
- **Downtown Campus Photo Shoot on June 26, 2025**
The executive team completed our team photoshoot at the downtown campus, taking shots of the team in spaces around the main downtown campus building, Charles Hall. These photos will be used in promotional materials, web and social media content.
- **Humanities Society Gala Planning**
In early July, I met with the President of the Humanities Society twice via Google Meet to discuss details and preliminary planning of the first downtown campus society gala. We are meeting with the OTSU events team on August 18th to begin the formal planning process.
- **Meeting with Dan Walters, FSSH Practicum Coordinator**
On July 3rd, I met with Dan Walters regarding plans for events on the downtown campus for the upcoming school year, as well as for my ongoing project for the creation of a downtown campus lounge space. During this meeting, I asked Dan to provide me with an impact statement in support of my project, which I was able to include in the presentation to the university administration.
- **Meeting with FSSH Dean, Dr. Peter Stoett, on July 10th**
On July 10th, I met with the FSSH Dean to discuss the downtown campus lounge space project, during which I shared details of my proposal with him and asked for his formal support in the form of an impact statement. The President of the Humanities Society was also present at this meeting, and we discussed the idea of having a downtown campus society gala and requested faculty presence and support for the event.
- **Downtown Campus Signage Visit on July 11th**
On July 11th, I met with the Executive Director, Manager of Communications, Marketing & Partnerships, Manager of Student Engagement, and the Wellness & Support Services Coordinator to discuss OTSU signage at the downtown campus. During this meeting, we came up with several ideas for signage solutions to better direct students to OTSU spaces, which ideally will increase engagement with our projects, events, and services. The final decisions on signage and table set-up will depend on the lounge space, as we may combine the lounge area with improved signage.
- **Meeting with the downtown campus Career Centre on July 17th**
On July 17th, I met with Selena Armstrong from the Career Centre. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss their plans for events throughout the year and how I can be involved through my role as VP Downtown. I will be attending the volunteer fair and some faculty-specific events, with specific dates and times to be determined shortly. We also

discussed downtown campus orientation events, and the Career Centre may be tabling at one of them.

- **Orientation Planning**

Through communications with the Ontario Tech orientation team, I was able to get involved with the downtown campus orientation events, which are taking place on Saturday, August 30th. I will be attending the lunch and socializing with students throughout the day, as well as participating in the campus scavenger hunt, before returning to the north campus to work at the karaoke event for students moving into the residence buildings.

- **Downtown Campus Lounge Space Project Updates**

Throughout the first couple of weeks of July, I created a presentation to share with university administration and faculty, which was formally presented to Brad MacIsaac, Vice President of Administration at Ontario Tech, on July 17th. This meeting also included a walkthrough of the proposed space in CHA 105. I received positive feedback and a tentative “yes” to my project, and am meeting with more university administration and staff alongside the Executive Director, President and OTSU management in the upcoming weeks.

- **Downtown Events and Experiences Survey**

Working collaboratively with the Manager of Communications, Marketing & Partnerships, I completed the Downtown Events and Experiences survey, which was sent out to students the week of July 21-25th. As of July 30th, there are 112 responses to this survey, which contain many insights as to the downtown student experience. This will be revealed in greater detail after the participant contest closes on August 8th.

- **Social Media Content for the DCAC and Downtown Events and Experiences Survey**

In collaboration with the Digital Media & Communications Coordinator and marketing team, I filmed two social media videos to promote downtown-related opportunities, which included the promotion of the Downtown Events and Experiences survey and a promotional post for hiring committee members for the Downtown Campus Advisory Committee.

- **McMaster ROADS Conference from July 24-25th**

On July 24-25th, I attended the ROADS Conference, which was extremely informative and relevant to my role as VP Downtown. I attended breakout rooms related to AI advocacy, leadership development, and how to be a good public figure. One of the most insightful takeaways for me was the importance of secondary campuses having a unique identity, demonstrated both through university and student union initiatives. After several discussions with executives from other student unions, I feel more prepared to advocate on behalf of downtown campus students and contribute to the unique identity of our downtown campus. Other learnings included the lack of separation between our identities and our formal roles as elected student leaders, the benefits of both in-person and online engagement, and the importance of perception in communicating and relationship building with students, co-workers and management at the OTSU, and university administration. This conference also gave me an amazing opportunity to network with and learn from other student leaders from various Student Unions.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Downtown Campus Advisory Committee (DCAC)**

Working with the Human Resources Generalist, I created a job posting for the DCAC on BambooHR. I have received one application for the DCAC, and will be reviewing additional applications in the second week of August, where I hope to have at least 4 student applications. I will also be updating the terms of reference again because I realized that graduate programs were not included in the original document, so I will be changing the program



drop-down to a short paragraph outlining that any students who are enrolled in dedicated downtown campus programs can apply, including those enrolled in graduate studies.