



Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union Meeting of the Board of Directors

Location: Students' Union Boardroom, Waterloo
Date: October 21st, 2016, 3:00 PM

The Strategic Ends of the Students' Union

The Organization exists to represent, advocate for, and support the primary stakeholders, the students of Wilfrid Laurier University, and to provide them with a holistic university experience and an enhanced student life. The costs of these benefits will be justified by the results.

In no specific order of priority, students will benefit from:

- An affordable, accessible, and high quality academic experience
- A safe, sustainable, and empowering environment
- Diverse and inclusive social interaction
- Products and services that cater to the financial needs of students

Start	Duration	Agenda Item	Type	Presenter
3:00 PM	3:00 PM	Call to Order	adm	Chair DeSumma
3:00 PM	3:01 PM	Adoption of Agenda	D	Chair DeSumma
3:01 PM	3:03 PM	Adoption of the Minutes: September 30, 2016	D	Chair DeSumma
3:03 PM	3:04 PM	Regrets	adm	Chair DeSumma
3:04 PM	3:05 PM	Conflicts of Interest	adm	Chair DeSumma
3:05 PM	4:05 PM	Presentation: President and Vice Chancellor of WLU, Dr. Max Blouw	fi	Dr. Blouw
4:05 PM	4:10 PM	Comments from the Chair of the Board & CGO	fi	Chair DeSumma
4:10 PM	4:15 PM	Comments from the President & CEO	fi	President VanHerzele
4:15 PM	4:20 PM	Comments from the Executive Director & COO	fi	ED Champagne
4:20 PM	4:30 PM	Senate Update	fi	Senator Brar
4:30 PM	5:15 PM	<u>Department Updates:</u> University Affairs Finance & Administration Clubs & Associations Programming & Services: Waterloo Programming & Services: Brantford	fi	VP Aitchison VP Wildish VP Jenkins VP Hutchings VP Gerlings
5:15 PM	5:25 PM	<u>Committee Updates:</u> Ownership Linkage Committee Finance Committee	fi	Director DeSumma Vice Chair Molkoski
5:25 PM	5:30 PM	New Business & Announcements	fd	Chair DeSumma
5:30 PM	5:45 PM	Incamera	D	Chair DeSumma
5:45 PM	5:45 PM	Adjournment	D	Chair DeSumma
Total	2hr45min			

REMINDERS:

- 1) Make sure to keep an eye out for the meeting evaluation form and **fill it out!**
- 2) The next Board Meeting is October 28th at **3:00pm** on the Brantford Campus
- 3) Happy Homecoming to those of you on the Brantford Campus!

LEGEND:

- fi, For Information
- fd, For Discussion
- D, Decision required
- adm, Administrative task

Present: Nick DeSumma, Nick Molkoski, Stephanie Bellotto, Matt DeSumma, Faraz Iftexharuddin, Kevin Jang, Shannon Kelly, Hubert Lee, Tarique Plummer, Jonathan Ricci, Colin Aitchison, Marley Wildish, Phil Champagne, Kaitlin Brown

Regrets: Genelle Martin, Ryan Price, Tyler VanHerzele

Guests: Derek Worden, Noah Churchill-Baird, Kanwar Brar, Anthony Zambito, Michael Del Bono, Marni Galir, Roman Resilyov, Jacob Driver, Armin Escher, Amanda Kohler, Zachary Rose, Marc Gurrisi, Jamie Cleary

1. Call to Order

The meeting is called to order at 3:39pm on Friday, September 30th, 2016 on the second floor of the Fred Nichol Campus Centre, Waterloo.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion 1 (M. DeSumma, Ricci): **Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.**

Vote: 9-0-0

Result: Motion Passes Unanimously

Chair DeSumma

We have begun live-streaming this board meeting. We wanted to test out this new feature to increase transparency to the students so that they can watch at home if they can't make it. If you have any feedback after the meeting, shoot us an email and we will try and work out the kinks for next meeting. Apparently there are over 30 people watching right now so that is impressive.

3. Adoption of Consent Agenda

Motion 2 (Jang, Kelly): **Motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented.**

Vote: 9-0-0

Result: Motion Passes Unanimously

4. Adoption of Minutes: September 16th, 2016

Motion 3 (Molkoski, Plummer): **Motion to adopt the minutes from the September 16th Board Meeting as presented.**

Vote: 9-0-0

Result: Motion Passes Unanimously

5. Regrets and Absences

Director Price couldn't be here today as he is New York and Director Martin is not feeling well.

6. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest to declare.

7. Presentation: Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance

Chair DeSumma

We begin today with a presentation from the Ontario Undergraduate's Student Alliance so thank you to all of you for being here. I hope you enjoyed your campus visit.

Zach Rose

Thank you for having us here today. The purpose of the presentation is to explain who we are and what we do for those of you who may not be familiar with us. I know some of you know us quite well and others are less familiar. We should have 30 minutes and we will keep it to that and leave room for questions at the end.

Jamie Cleary

I am Jamie Cleary, President of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance and I am also the Vice President of Student's Council at Western University. Zach Rose is the Associate Director of OUSA from our Toronto office. Thank you for having us and for hosting us on your campus today.

OUSA stands for Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance we are a student driven and student controlled collaboration of student associations. Your Student's Union is a part of this. It is an advocacy and research group that develops public policy, and we advocate for change for undergraduate University students. Particularly we focus on provincial advocacy, not institutional or federal advocacy. The main lobbying is to new Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development and any other Ministries based on the priorities we have identified. We are a not for profit corporation with a professional full time staff of 5 and we are governed by a student Board of Directors. We currently have 8 student unions, Brock, Laurentian, McMaster, Queens, Trent Durham (a satellite campus in Oshawa), University of Waterloo, Western, and Laurier. Our principles of the organization are that we are student driven. Through our general assembly the policies that we write and review all the policies we create and the priorities for direct lobbying are by students. We are evidence based; research is the foundation of everything that we do. It enables us to be credible and bring out well thought out policies and options to our provincial government. OUSA also contracts a lot of surveys every 2 years. Last year the survey was called the Ontario Post-Secondary Survey and the results will be published soon and that is really nice because it helps us to guide direction from our membership and in our policy. Another policy of ours is easy membership, we are easy to join, and we have 3 different statuses. You can be an observer, associate, or full membership. The 8 Unions I listed before are all full members. It is quite easy to leave, you just have to provide 90 days' notice to our board before referendum or however your union outlines bylaws. We also have large member autonomy so we don't write any policy that relates to how your Student Unions should be run and we also don't comment or involve ourselves during elections or internal matters. We are solely focused on the provincial level.

Moving on to our core activities, our core activities as I mentioned are conducting research specifically related to undergraduate students in the province of Ontario. We develop and inform substantial policy papers which outline our member principles, concerns, and recommendations on each of the topics. We lobby the government to enact these changes while also representing the student perspective throughout our sector and with other stakeholders and wherever discussions are taking place.

Supporting Activities- we also do various other activities as well. We present at conferences, we publish research reports, and think pieces on issues related to our policies. We try to stay connected in the sector with our membership unions by writing opinion pieces, maintaining a blog that some of you may have written and we engage with traditional and social media platforms. Finally, we also engage students in the broader public through campaigns on student issues which we will get to in a little bit. All of these things really raise OUSA's profile, prestige, and credibility. OUSA is effective when seen as the go to organization for student issues. We are the ones being contacted by various sectors stakeholders, and even campus newspapers that aren't even a part of the organization for comments and quotes on various issues. So we really are seen as a go to organization.

There is a large list of standing policies. We have a number on student issues all kind of related to the accountability, quality, accessibility, and affordability of post-secondary education in Ontario. Every topic is quite specific to a certain student issue. Our policies are updated and ratified at least once every 4 years to make sure they are up to date with what the membership is looking for. An interim policy expires after one year if not converted to a full standalone policy. We don't normally have an interim policy; we do have one currently. This is because of timeliness of Bill 132 coming out we didn't have time to do a full policy cycle but we did decide it was needed that we had some sort of policy stance on this issue. So we passed on interim policy at our last assembly and at the upcoming one we are hopefully passing a full policy on sexual violence.

This is the General Assembly; it is the highest governing body of OUSA. It is made up of delegates from each of our member associations and it is on a proportional representational basis. One vote is a representative of 3000 students; Laurier has 6 delegates and about 50 votes total. The General Assembly meets twice annually where we pass our policy, ratify and receive reports from the executive and staff. We set directions for the next meeting in the following semester and we approve all OUSA's fees and financial statements. From there we do have our Steering Committee which acts as our Board of Directors. We are tasked with all legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the organization. We are made up of one member from each member association, so myself and Colin sit on the board, myself as President and Chair of the Board. The eight student associations are sort of the Vice President, or core advocate organization or external advocate is the one most likely to sit on the board. At the board level we are a one member one vote structure. SC meets monthly and we are responsible for setting the direction of the organization in between our general assemblies, we approve the budget and prepare the policies for the General Assemblies. Each of us is tasked with writing one policy a year and some will write two. We also work on and approve all government admissions and are the lead advocates for the organization. From the 8 of us, the executive is elected, I am President, Kraymr from Laurentian is the VP of Finance, and Julia from Brock is the VP Administration and Human Resources. We each have specific responsibilities and collectively we provide a direction for the organization when the board is unable to meet. We represent the organization in various functions throughout the year. It is not just the three of us; Colin represents the organization quite a bit in Toronto. The three of us were elected by a majority vote of the board back in May. As president I am the executive head of the organization, a

chief student representative of the organization to decision makers, media, and stakeholders. Along with Zach I kind of set the day to day direction for staff in partnership. The VP of finance as it sounds is the financial head of the organization and makes sure that the board and general assembly is updated on all financial situations. Julia as VP in Admin and HR oversees all issues related to our employment for our 5 staff; she oversees all of our hiring procedures, conducts performance reviews of staff every 6 months, and maintains our bylaws and operating policies.

We have our home office staff of 5 as I mentioned. It is 5 full time employees who work in our downtown Toronto office. We also have a research interim over the summer months, which is a student position. I will let them introduce themselves:

Zach Rose

I am Zach the Executive Director and I have two sort of broad roles. The first is management of the staff and directing the day to day work, accountability, and taking direction from the steering committee to staff to support the lobbying activities and priorities that they set for us. My second role is to act as the primary lobbyist for the organization, we keep things student driven at the high level when it is the big meetings with the Minister or Premiere we will get Jamie or another member of the steering committee to come for that. Throughout the year there are many meetings and ongoing relationships that have to be maintained just check ins or a coffee here and there so that is my primary role to represent the organization in that ongoing way.

Amanda Kohler

I am the communications director for OUSA. I manage the external communication including social media and email blasts. I love the new redevelopment of our website as it is user friendly. I also am planning our annual campaign that will be that will come to your campus the end of November. I manage all of the PR, press releases, that type of thing. I am currently designing our annual magazine which will soon come to you.

Armin Escher

I am Armin and I am the Operations Director at OUSA. I have a lot of different responsibilities; primarily I do a lot of conference event planning so that is campus visits like this, large conferences, general assemblies, or annual meetings with MPPs. I also do a lot of the office admin stuff so small things like making sure there is paper but also helping with financials as well as document management. There are a lot of other duties assigned with policies, submissions, layout and all of those types of things.

Marc Gurrisi

I am Marc and I am the Research and Policy Analyst at OUSA. I just started the role a couple of months ago so I am fairly new to it. Danielle has been here a bit longer so essentially we share our roles. We split the load between all of the policies, there are 20 in total and we split that in half. She has her section and I have mine. Whenever we have our review of those policies each of us will hand out one of those papers to oversee the management of them to make sure that the authors are all submitting everything on time and that everything is looking good. We also do background research to help inform them of the policy and to make sure statistics and findings are correct. The OPSS data that we get, we go through that and make sure that we find

really good stuff to advocate on behalf of the students and to promote on behalf to the provincial governments. That is what we are doing right now. I am also working on the Rural and Women Studies Paper, the Ancillary Fees Paper and also the Sexual Violence Protection Paper. We are looking forward to getting those approved in the fall.

Jamie Cleary

One thing I forgot to mention when it comes to our policies is that they are outlined in our principle concerns and recommendations. Since it is passed by the membership, it directs the lobbying that Zach, myself, and the rest of the board do. If we are in a meeting and they are asking us something not directly in our policy, then we won't speak on it because everything that we do and lobby for is directly guided by our members. This ensures I am not answering with personal thought; everything is guided through our policy.

Timeline of what the year looks like. In May we had our Transition Conference where incoming student executives met in Toronto, normally it is the steering committee member and most likely the president of Student's Associations meet. It is a great opportunity for us to learn about OUSA if they have no previous experience. We do a lot of training and met a lot of sector stakeholders. We met some people from the Ministry Office and some people from various other parts of the sector that are good relationships to have. In July we headed away for a week to Collingwood for our strategic planning conference. This is where the board and our home office staff meet to kind of discuss what the year is going to look like and decide on our priorities for the year. This fall as we are doing right now we are doing campus visits so home office staff and president of the organization visit all the other campuses and it is a great opportunity to connect with the students and also for us to meet with University Administration to see what they are lobbying on is and if there is any areas where we can kind of work together. On Monday we had our volunteer training, it is a good opportunity for our staff to meet, learn about OUSA, and do some training when it comes to research policy and also to talk about campaigns. In the first week of November we will be having our General Assembly where our delegation will meet to hopefully pass the upcoming policy and it is hosted at Western which I am excited to host people at my home institution. In the winter we will have our Advocacy conference which is the steering committee will meet and we basically lobby for a week. It is an exhausting week but it is a lot of fun, last year we had about 60 meetings with various MPPs and Ministry staff. The Ministry looks forward to us coming and seeing what our priorities are. We will also be having our campaign on work integrative learning this year. In the spring we will have a second general assembly at Queens and apply if you want to come. We will wrap up the end of the year and celebrate the accomplishments that we have had and our Partners in Higher Education Dinner which is a formal dinner that we host in Toronto and hopefully some of you are able to attend. It is a great evening to celebrate our accomplishments and celebrate the organization. It is also really good for governor relations as well, to invite some sector stakeholders.

You are probably all listening to me and think that this sounds amazing; I want to be a part of this. You already have joined, our membership is \$2.99 per student and this fee

has been kept low over the years. We are one of the least expensive fees for Canadian student organizations by quite a wide margin.

Zach Rose

We are going to go over the specifics of our philosophy and how we advocate and how we do things. Having gone over the basic structure, now we can discuss some recent achievements of OUSA and show you the progress we have made on your behalf and with your help, so I hope you enjoy.

Our vision and mission is to start. In the vision we call are the four pillars: accessible, affordable, accountable, and high quality. That is the goal and we achieve these things and move towards it by developing what we call educated solutions. So evidence based policies that fix the challenges faced by our members. We take those solutions to the government to lobby to make it a reality. So how do we advocate? What is our approach? In a nut shell it is professional governmental practices bringing together constructive solutions and really coming to the table as a partner making sure we have that that access. Our approach allows us to be as effective as we can be while we are serving you. The partnership I am taking about and constructive suggestions that are evidence based and are incredible because they are coming from you, the members and that ongoing relationship management piece that I mentioned is a big part of my job. It is really about positioning ourselves so that your voice is heard by the right people at the right times to influence government decisions. All of our lobbying activities are done with that approach and philosophy in mind.

In terms of recent some recent accomplishments. What I want to highlight here is that our approach and the solutions that we come up with when we meet with you, they do work. The chart just goes through to show that something that we came up with our memberships when we were brainstorming solutions to financial aid troubles. These ideas made their way directly almost unchanged into the budget that was announced last year. So this is a component to the free tuition that the government has announced giving grants for most low income students in particular brackets, that was financed through a particular financial reallocation that we had suggested and then we gave them the numbers and the work. They took it very enthusiastically and included it in the budget so we thought that was pretty gratifying and the bottom there is Kathleen Wynne discussing and defending this position. She said it was the right thing to do by citing our press release. It is really fantastic when the work that we do with you all is seen as credible enough that that's how they defend decisions. Some of the recent accomplishments: The OSAP modernization is the reallocation of upfront no loan financial aid which is really fantastic. The OSAP modernization over the last few years has also included removing the in-study employment claw back from OSAP. As some of you may know, previously if you had worked too much while receiving OSAP during the school year your earnings would be taken off what OSAP would give you, there was a trade off, so you could only work a certain amount before that money was clawed back. This is no longer the case. We draw attention to some accessibility concerns on the OUAC and e-INFO websites and the changes were made. The MHIF extension is the Mental Health Innovation Fund. It is a pool of granting money for mental health projects that are being funded for \$12,000,000 over 4 years. Not only were we asked to help select the projects that would receive money, but we also lobby that they extend it for

double its life line and invest another \$12,000,000 into another 4 years which they did. Tuition regulation is something that we are always working on. As you may know now, tuition is allowed to increase by an average of 3% per year, originally the government was hoping for 5% per year so modest gains, but it has had its impact on students to restrict the amount that tuition is allowed to go up.

Our approach to advocacy and working with you all to come up with really student centric evidence based solutions really does work and we have enjoyed success over the last few years. Our recognition also flows into the media. Here we have a couple of examples from the CBC and the Globe and Mail saying these are solutions that students want to see, good things happening when the student advocacy is brought to the table.

Now, other than the big piece of lobbying where we go to Queen's Park and sit down with Ministers and demand things, there is a lot of work we do ongoing to keep the organization in that position. We make sure your voices are heard constantly not just when asking for something specifically. We have a permanent seat on the board for the Centre and Organization of Campus Mental Health which is an organization that works on providing resources and building partnerships between Mental Health practitioners on campus. We were recently elected Chair of the eCampus Ontario Student Advisory committee. It was Colin who was elected Chair of this committee, so this provides student directed guidance for eCampus Ontario which is an initiative to spirit that online learning in years to come and what that will look like. We are also the Chair on the ONCAT Student Advisory Committee; this is the organization that deals with credit transfer and pathways between Universities and Colleges. They too have a student focus advisory board for which we serve as chair. The advising funding transformation team are totally redoing how Universities receive their funding from the government, we have been heavily involved in that process making sure that student priorities are met throughout all of that. As well as advising on the governments initiatives in implementing sexual violence policies and what that will look like at Universities in terms of reporting climate surveys and all of the surrounding data for that. OSAP is being transformed as well; they invited us to their consultation sessions as well which was published on recently. In addition to the big policy operation things where we get students around and when we have our meetings, it is also about representing students in this role just at every table across the province where these sorts of discussions are taking place. It affects students and it is really important that the student voice is there, which is what we are here to do.

In a couple of recent publications, for example OSAP 2.0 is what we wrote to the government to provide some guidance and student perspective on how they can implement the new Ontario Student Grant and modernized OSAP to maintain fairness for students. We have the experiences of students with disabilities; this was ripple research we conducted through interviews and online surveys with students who have disabilities at our Universities to kind of highlight their experiences. These are available on our website and are fantastic to check out.

The year ahead and some things that are coming up as well as our policies and priorities we are going to be working on.

1. We recently heard in the last provincial budget the announcement of the reallocation of \$365,000,000 for the upfront tax credits and grant based system (Ontario Student Grant Implementation). The marketing is known as free tuition. Since this program is starting in 2017 and then the net building is starting in 2018. We want to make sure that this system is accessible for students and that makes sense because anything financially literacy wise behind it quite important that students know about it. We want to be sure that it works for students and is not hindering to their education at all. We have been going through consultations and this is a huge priority to make sure that this program that we have asked for follows through on the promises that have been made to students. You can see this is the OSAP 2.0 submission that we recently released.
2. Tuition framework, so this is the final year where we have an average of 3% of increases it is going to be the rule. Once they go back to the drawing board anything is possible, so our job is to make sure that tuition stays as regulated and predictable as possible. In addition to that there are all sorts of technical fixes that need to be made to tuition. Weird things when it comes to fees for the payments when OSAP doesn't come in, all these sorts of things have to do with the way tuition is charged and there is a lot of room for improvement there. Lastly the big piece is what is called the tuition set aside so in exchange for being allowed to raise tuition over the past million years the government has required a portion of raised tuition to be put aside and reinvested it back in student access. The problem is the amount of money they have been obligated to dedicate to that has not grown as tuition has grown. There are a lot of readjustments that can be made there and the time is right to get that back into wack. Then we can be more fair to students and proportionate to the actual costs and the revenues that are coming in.
3. We also have data collection and reporting. Basically the idea that we need accessible data from across the province on where students are doing really well and where they are lacking so that we can look across the sector and compare ourselves and look at where we are missing the mark. Things such as employment outcomes at different institutions, surveys, and the other part when it comes to mental health who is seeking the services, what are wait times, who is doing really well in providing service provisions, and how can that be compared and who is setting the standards and best practices. Unfortunately, we don't have that information, and sometimes institutions collect different data on different things but if they are not collected in the same way it is very difficult for us to compare across the sector.
4. Student Supports; here we are talking about anything from career services, mental health supports, accessibility centres, centres for international students and supports that are essential to the student experiences for so many of you. These are chronically underfunded across the province. The dollars always have to be stretched in different ways. There is a lot of investment and intention that needs to

be paid to these issues across the board to make sure that the student experience is set at a standard for everyone in Ontario to enjoy.

5. Sexual violence response and prevention so as I mentioned before each institution is now mandated by provincial legislation to have a standalone sexual violence policy. Laurier is currently working on this. Following the passage of this bill we want to ensure policies are being followed through at each institution, but also that they are working at the institution so that we are not hindering anything. We are seeing disclosures and survivor centred approaches to meet the needs of our schools. Following this we really want to put a focus on prevention based programming and by stander intervention training and what that looks like and the standard for these programs. This is to make sure that the province is investing in adequate prevention programming and not just support services.
6. We have board integrative learning, and not just co-op. It is pretty well documented at this point that there are many positive effects to incorporating experiential learning opportunities in student University experiences. What we hope to do is really broaden our understanding of what we are talking about there and not have people be discouraged that they can't or don't want to introduce a co-op system. We are talking about service learning, undergraduate research opportunities and there is a lot that can be done to bring in this aspect into student learning that will still have a positive effect of increasing the employment outcomes in enhancing your knowledge to your own learning. We are focusing really on the working with the private sector of employers and government to really broaden and explain what we mean. We are coming up with some suggestions to how to bring it to more students and to what kinds of programs in different formats.
7. We do have our upcoming General Assembly in November and just to go over what the policies will be hopefully that we will be passing. For example, ancillary fees, Colin is an author on that paper. We are looking at rural and northern student experiences and then lastly we have sexual violence response and prevention. If you are interested in those topics, keep an eye out because I'm sure Colin will be hosting some sort of consultation to overlook the policy and make sure that the student voice here at Laurier is heard.
8. The new website is out as Amanda mentioned so OUSA.ca and it is super cool. In Ontario post-secondary student survey which Marc mentioned, every two years massive 10,000 response survey of our membership. The numbers are in and the data has been crunched, we are coming up with some cool reports that are going to touch on topics from what are student's experiences with housing and with financial aid, what are their priorities. We are going to release it in three different reports: quality, affordability, and access. It is going to give a really great overview and snapshot of the experience of our membership. A lot of this information is not collected anywhere else so it is very original and very cool. We are excited to share this with everybody. There should not be a space between my will and is for the

campaign. It is all one word #mywillis so that is what we are going to be doing in our efforts and really pushing the boundaries on what we are talking about there and how we can broaden our understanding of this issue and bring more students. We are going to have a presentation to hear from students about their experiences with work integrated learning or aspirations with it, what they would like to get out of it and what they have got out of it. To showcase the sector and say students want this and to drive that momentum that we want to see for the private sector and the government.

9. Lastly, Educated Solutions is our annual magazine. This year its theme is the broadened environment so we have articles and columns written by students, administrators, politicians, and Minister Deb Matthews this year. It is a lot of interesting perspectives from the knowledgeable people in the sector plus a prestige piece for us.

If you want to keep in touch with us, there are many emails.

info@ousa.ca

president@ousa.ca

zachary@ousa.ca

Plus many more, Colin can assist in connecting you as well.

Thank you for listening to a lot of information really quickly and we will open it up to questions.

Director Ricci

Thanks for coming today and speaking with us and presenting. I know that Laurentian was the latest school to join OUSA and there was discussion around that at the General Assembly last year. Are you in talks with any other Universities to perhaps join OUSA?

Zach Rose

We are chatting with a couple who interested in OUSA, I would rather not reveal too much about that. We have an open invitation to anyone who wants to come to our General Assembly meeting as you know so we will be seeing a few observers at the next one.

Jamie Cleary

There will be some schools coming to Western to see what it is like because membership is important to us and we want to make sure we are growing the organization.

Director DeSumma

How does OUSA play a role in the strategic direction of our organization here at Laurier?

Zach Rose

Not much, part of the membership autonomy piece is that we try to leave your internal matters internal. The biggest way that we have a role is simply by Colin meeting students from the other associations. We have a lot of opportunities for best practice

sharing; we have a little event as well as we get some executive and staff together for that. We as OUSA do not really advise you there, we do provide some resources as requested and we provide those opportunities for those partnerships to form. There is a lot of learning that happens at that level but that is about as far as we go before we feel as if we are interfering.

VP Aitchison

Directly relating to our strategic plan, our approach is that advocacy does try back basically to how OUSA approaches stuff. So things that we have accomplished or working to accomplish relate to OUSAs accomplishments and you can directly see the relation between our organization strategic plan and how OUSA operates.

Jamie Cleary

This position is the only one that really has a monthly touch base in relation to other institutions which is really beneficial for us even to be working on at your home school that is not provincially focused. When Colin is talking about municipal affairs and I am talking about what I am doing at Western, which is a really good touch base when we meet once a month. This isn't just OUSA specific, but once the board meeting is finished it is great to see what everybody else is doing. It is great best practice sharing too.

Director Lee

I noticed in context there are 6 Ontario schools in the U6 research. I just took a quick look, of the 6, 4 are in OUSA. Can you speak on that relationship between those 6/4 schools, how it relates to that big group and why UT and UOttawa aren't apart of OUSA if they are big research institutions?

Zach Rose

We don't have an official mandate to go after big research institutions. One of the principles is easy membership so if people want to join us that is great, if we align with their priorities and if not they can leave hoping they come back sometime. We don't stress too much about what our membership combination looks like, we are willing to work with anyone who wants to work with us.

Director Lee

Can you speak on if there is a relation to OUSA compared to the U15 since obviously it is a big portion of you membership is a part of that, if there is any?

Jamie Cleary

I would say no, it is important to remember that the U15 or the U6 if you are talking provincially is advocating on behalf of University administration. If we make sure that we are advocating on behalf of students, for example tuition or funding the U6 is most likely going to be advocating for more tuition and funding so they can provide more resources and are more inclined to have access to open resources. We are on the student end to make sure that student services are being put in. Because of the diversity of our membership we make sure that our policies are outlining that. Things such as northern students and making sure that we have representation everywhere and that it is one vote per member, so we make sure that we have adequate membership at our level.

Zach Rose

The 4 pillars form the key of our mandate. Affordability, accessibility, and accountability are concerns for everyone regardless of size at the student level. I haven't personally noticed much of a grouping.

Jamie Cleary

We have never advocated to the U6 we focus on membership.

Director Kelly

At the beginning of the presentation you talked about full membership, is this different than the \$2.00 that all students pay? What are the benefits that students can seek from that membership?

Jamie Cleary

The \$2.99 is the full membership.

Zach Rose

The number one benefit that you are getting the value is the priorities of both of our organizations. With Colin as a member of steering committee, the things that are important to Laurier's Student Union become important to us. As well, we have pretty well established reputation for credibility and are invited to all discussions so it gives you access to decision making. Not only are you forming our priorities and advocacy goals, but you also get to use us to access decision makers much easier. That is the organizational answer, as well there are some benefits to individual students, we have an internship so keep an eye out for that, we have the blog on our website which is well read and we accept submissions from students who are interested, and email amanda@ousa.ca if you are interested if there is a topic you would like to talk about, we are happy to feature that.

Jamie Cleary

I think that the membership fee is quite low but you really get value for the fee even just seeing the major advancements that we have had in the last year and one thing that in the accomplishments because it no longer exists but the 30% off tuition grant was another accomplishment that we had. Obviously that has been rallied into the new grant. We have seen large scale changes over the years directly related to advocacy and the other thing that I can provide and I think Colin would agree is even being back at my home institution is the lobbying to administration that I am able to do. Additionally, the meetings I am able to get with local MPPs or even MPs just by nature knowing what OUSA is and the research basis out of it. I have noticed from my campus visits meeting with administration of University Provosts and student administration, knowing papers I have read about specific topics we have tried to implement that at our Universities so a lot of large scale changes from the membership fee have shown.

Director Bellotto

The \$2.99 fee you said that it is one of the lowest prices in Ontario, so I just wanted to know why exactly it is one of the lowest and how you came up with that number.

Zach Rose

I couldn't tell you why others are more expensive than ours. There is equivalence in Alberta that are low as well, other than that the other fees are probably close to double if not more. I am not really sure why, I mean our focused has been on keeping things very student focus and as efficient as possible as well as really narrowly focusing on our mission. That is how we have been able to keep it going with a staff of five so we pride ourselves thinking of a punch well above our weight and that has been the deliberate choice to keep it like that in terms of why others have gone another direction, I can't say.

Director Plummer

Apart from the accolades that associated, they are publically noted and apart from committees that OUSA has representation on, how does the alliance go about measuring success on an annual basis?

Zach Rose

We have a couple of internal and external measures. Internally, which is the most relevant to your question, we set out our goals at the beginning of the year at our conference with the steering committee. So we talk about what our lobbying goals, our momentum, and what we want to see knowing what it takes to get significant things done. What specific steps we would like to see, what we would consider success in lobbying roles as well there are internal goals of the organization. We want to improve on our staff retention or anything like that; it is all outlined in a document which we call the annual plan. It is approved and reviewed by the steering committee. At the end of the year we go through it at the second General Assembly to check it. If no, then why not? That is presented to the members at large at the General Assembly. It is a way to keep us focused and accountable in order to measure success. Other than that it is the eternal stuff when we receive recognition for things. Can we actually see that a specific policy has changed and does it look like it did when we were writing about it? We keep an eye out for that sort of thing and it is the little stuff, hiccups in media, papers, or pieces that are taken up by another organization. When advertised and run we consider that it to be a success when we clearly affect policy. The clearest way with the internal measure and the accountability piece.

Anthony Zambito

Are you in communication with other student alliances possibly in Quebec, Western Canada or in the United States?

Zach Rose

Not in the US but yes for elsewhere in Canada. There is the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations; they are national so we have a very good relationship with them they keep us up to date with things that are going on. At a federal level we don't advocate so it is very useful for us to have that information from them. National happenings will often affect provincial. We are in touch with our equivalence in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Alberta, and British Columbia to an extent. We also have a constant base camp chat and we are working on something right now. It is the Mental Health Fund, we all got together and decided it would be interesting if we each wrote a little article piece on what is going on with the state of campus mental health in each

of our derestriction. We have written that now and we are basically going to co-publish. It will be a big document to share nationwide and show everyone the situation when it comes to campus Mental Health. We do have those working relationships across the country.

Vice Chair Molkoski

When we were talking about the other groups throughout Canada, I am curious are the same topics the focus for each group or is it diverse across different sectors of Canada as far as the alliances?

Zach Rose

A little bit of both, it is pretty diverse in that higher education is a provincial issue as you know. The funding levels of priority is what we find what happens in one will affect the other as they are all looking to each other and comparing. We definitely see some overlaps, mental health for example is important for everyone which is why we decided to co-write a piece together. Broadly it is pretty different.

Jacob Driver

You mentioned earlier that you and Colin will talk after the meetings and see what goals you are working towards. You have also contacted the other associations in other provinces and it is likely that you will have similar goals. You also stated that you don't look at lobbying federally, is that maybe something you would consider in the future? Or do you take a solid stance that there is there no need to look at coalition federally?

Jamie Cleary

It would go back to membership autonomy so Laurier has decided to join OUSA since it was a provincial advocacy association. Colin does his own federal lobbying so it would be up to Laurier. CASA for example would be our federal equivalent and they focus only federally and have their own membership and fees. This is where the membership autonomy comes in, you guys have the choice, and we are solely focused provincial lobbying organization. We use the other associations to focus on what we are doing provincially and CASA keeps us in check so we know what is going on at the federal level. We focus provincially because higher education is mostly a provincially funded initiative.

Zach Rose

It is in our bylaws and goes back to founding. However, everything is up to the members, so if the members eventually decide to change or expand OUSA then the bylaws change and nothing is out of the realm of possibility.

Senator Brar

In regards to the membership fee is it tied with inflation? What is the procedure for increasing and decreasing is it referendum and how are the schools informed about that change?

Zach Rose

It is tied to inflation, which is the only thing that happens automatically. If there is going to be any other increase we would need to get approval from everyone on the

steering committee who would need to get approval from their own organizations so what that would look like on each campus. I think this would be a referendum for most. But what would happen for everyone they would have to do and then they would be authorized to come to us and say it is approved. Inflation happens automatically to increase it; it would be up to schools to approve.

VP Aitchison

At Laurier we take the OUSA membership out of our own operating budget for the Student's Union. Some other schools do have the \$2.99 paid as an auxiliary fee so each student pays that. Here you pay a Student's Union fee and that comes out of our operating budget. It all depends but if it was an individual fee you would have to referendum.

Director Ricci

My question is about the campus tours you were at Waterloo, Brantford, and Western, what is the vibe you are receiving from students? Is it different or what sorts of things do you hear from student who don't know what OUSA is?

Zach Rose

That is part of the reason we come is to chat with administration and students and get a sense of lobbying requests. The biggest part is to engage with the students. It is very interesting, some are knowledgeable, know who we are and happy to hear from us. The majority don't know who we are and aren't engaged but are very interested once they start talking to us and look at brochures that are important to them. I think we have pretty good engagement at the booth giving out literature and getting people to sign up for our mailing list. For those who have not heard of us before most seem interested after chatting with us.

Director Lee

Through your campus visits in the past what are some similarities and differences between the members in OUSA. As well as Ontario schools who aren't part of OUSA? Their Student Unions and what they do on a provincial scale.

Jamie Cleary

At Student Unions, everybody is different. For example at Western, I am the only Vice President and I was elected at large and Colin was hired and we have both council and the board. Student Unions everywhere is completely different and we get enjoyment of comparing what we all do and fighting about whose system is best. It goes back to membership autonomy that every institution really has their own way of governance. I have noticed on campus visits that as we mentioned we have the booth, but a lot of the time my time on campus visits is meeting with administration. We even notice the difference of University governance as well. Some have a Dean of students; some don't have a dean of students. Some report directly and it all creates different campus cultures that you have to be able to navigate through the political culture to get your lobbying across.

Zach Rose

We don't do tours at schools who are not members, so I can't make a comparison there. One thing is that they all seem to have in common is everyone is similarly concerned about the same issues. It is validating for us and a lot of these issues are across the province. Examples include affordability, job outcomes, financial aid, and sexual violence prevention. Even though we are going to some very different institutions in various locals, broadly speaking I am finding that the issues that concern students are similar.

Jamie Cleary

That shows through OUSA as well that there is a reason we are an alliance together because we all have the same priorities and it works better for us to be going to the province as 8 schools aligned on the same thing, rather than 8 institutions each doing their separate lobbying.

Director Plummer

What is the importance of the student experience being set at a standard so that everyone in Ontario can enjoy? I was curious because are international fees regulated? What is OUSA doing to help this process along?

Zach Rose

International fees are not regulated as some of you might know. They are also great deal higher than domestic fees and tuition is not the only problem, also health insurance. They don't have access to OHIP and have to go through UHIP which is a baring fearing system. So there are a lot of problems that international students face, you are quite right to notice that policy paper. It is something which we have policy on and it needs to be regulated and find a way to include them in OHIP. I am not too familiar with that policy off the top of my head. I am happy to follow up, but yes those are our policies. What has been done recently, the parliamentary students for the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development Han Dong has run a series of international student round tables. Here he has consulted with the sector on these and other studies. We were sure to be there to submit our thoughts to push that international tuition is regulated. We want the health benefits better and really kind of bring our policies to them.

Director Ricci

CFS is one of the organizations here in Ontario; I think Toronto and Guelph are part of it as well. My question is I asked this to Shawn when he gave his presentation, what is the relationship and how we are similar and different?

Zach Rose

The relationship is fine, the history of OUSA first started when a group of CSF members splintered off so that is how it was born in 1992. In '95 it formed officially from the loose cooperative to a non-profit organization. For a while I understand that their relationship was not great. Recently thought, the relationship has been pretty good. We sit at the same tables every now and again. Sometimes issues come up where our policies align nicely and sexual violence is a good example of that. We know each other by name and see each other at events. We are happy to be in touch with them. We are working closely on a Student Union autonomy effort has fallen by the way side for now. When

the need arises we are perfectly happy to work with each other when the policies overlap.

The services that are different are that we don't offer a service and they do. That is one reason why cost is different. They offer things such as ethically sourced agendas and we focus on the lobbying. That is reflected in the difference of membership fee. Their fee is around 16-20 dollars per student, so we are a very different organization. Broadly speaking the mandates are the same to serve students and effect policy of change, but other than that we are quite different. They are large we are small focused on government and lobbying. They are focused more on building a student movement broadly speaking. There is some interesting writing that has been done on the topic; generally speaking that would be the biggest difference is our focus rather than mobilizing a student movement.

Director Plummer

Based on your involvement over the years you have been involved with OUSA, what do you believe are three tangible things that can be done to maximize efficiency and transparency?

Zach Rose

Three tangible things to increase efficiency and transparency: For transparency, to consult membership and see in which ways are we not transparent if there are any. We post our minutes; our General Assemblies are on the live stream. I feel that we are pretty transparent, but if the numbers say otherwise we are open to that.

Jamie Cleary

For transparency it was an issue myself and Colin brought up back before we were on steering committee. Once there is a General Assembly upcoming, the assembly will view papers to be written for the next assembly. The problem we noticed is that the steering committee just brought forward three papers saying these are the papers we should write. Now we bring a list of five or six which the steering committee decides these are timely or about to expire but we want the General Assembly to pick. For transparency wise, that was a way OUSA really addressed it. The members really get to choose what papers are written. Transparency is important to us and we really let the members acknowledge where we see transparency or accountability is lacking. We work towards fixing any areas in an immediate way.

Zach Rose

On the topic of efficiency, given the nature of the organization and the student focus we have staff turnover regularly. It is something that is structured in, and all of our staff is on a two-year contract. There is possibility for a renewal for a third. I think one area that we do things a little bit maybe too ad hoc is transition. When we get someone new coming in, often there is a bit of a learning curve. If there was more of a process in place, we could get new OUSA employees up to speed faster without down time. I would also say that continuing to grow if we can. Since we started the full time office staff, we started with 1 then it became 3 staff members, then added a fourth and fifth. With each edition we found we have been able to do more. We have talked about some areas where another staff member would help if the cost is there. Continuing to

explore the option of growing the staff and adding capacity there plus spreading roles to have more dedication might help with this as well.

Chair DeSumma

Thank you for presenting to us and thank you for all the work you do as well. We really appreciate you coming here.

8. Comments from the Chair of the Board and CGO

Chair DeSumma

1. The SLL has now been open for applications. Applications are open until October 25th, the marketing team and I talked about how we can increase applications so there should be promotions soon. Tell your friends to apply!
2. Last Monday on the 19th I met with ICT on the Waterloo campus to go over election voting system and get the ball rolling on that. We discussed things like the potential candidate numbers, possibility for voting days, election days, and all those things so that they can be as ready as we are well in advance. We are focusing on it.
3. I was back in Waterloo last Wednesday for interviews for the ACRO position. We had three very fantastic applicants. We are happy to announce that Elizabeth Thompson is our new ACRO, she has been involved in many capacities such as ERT coordinator and she was in the office today. She begins on Monday, welcome her to the office she is excited, as are we.
4. On elections, Elizabeth and I met with Anne Lukin who is the Associate Secretary for the Board of Governors. Also we met with Rebecca Wickens who is the University Secretary, and Sarah Willey-Thomas who is the Associate University Secretary for the Senate. We went over things about engagement, materials for promotion, and to get the ball rolling on the Board of Governors and Senate positions for the elections. As of right now we have two Waterloo Senator vacancies and one Board of Governors vacancy in our next election. We are thinking of ways to promote that and not have acclimation, so that we have qualifies elections.
5. The last week has been prepping for this meeting and prepping for elections.

Anthony Zambito

When do you think you will be finished on the election policy?

Chair DeSumma

Colin, Elizabeth, and I are meeting on Wednesday to go over the policies and once we do we will be in touch with you in regards to sitting down to meet with you. Thank you for following up with us on that.

Director Plummer

Do you have an update in regards to the CRO capacity? The full time staff.

Chair DeSumma

The hiring process is still going on, but I am not too sure.

ED Champagne

The Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy first round interviews start next week. There are 5 candidates that have made it out of the application process that we interviewed. It is just a reminder that the former Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy was voted by the board to be the full time CRO. That doesn't necessarily mean that the successful candidate to fill that position will be the full time CRO, it will be a discussion that will take place after at this table.

Chair DeSumma

Once they are hired and we see fit, we will see if they are qualified and want to add it on to their portfolio then we will sit down as a board and decide on how to move forward. Expect for a new CRO for the winter term.

ED Champagne

It is something that we need to do and if that person's skillset aligns with that portfolio of the CRO they won't necessarily become the full time CRO, but will work closely with the interim to figure out policies. If the board approves that then the full time CRO will take over starting May 1st.

9. Comments from the Acting President and CEO

VP Wildish

You should have received an update from President VanHerzele and the VP staff team. I will go over my VP of Finance and Administration update:

1. Our first round of fall hiring closed early this week on Tuesday. We have finally finished marking all of the online applications. We got a good amount of applications this year. We got 200 applications on the Waterloo campus and just over 150 on the Brantford campus. That is good for our first month back at school getting all our first years involved with the Student's Union.
2. We start interviews today as well and they will be going until Monday afternoon as we have to finish after that and then we will be sending out the requests, the offers hopefully for interviews on Tuesday morning or Monday evening.
3. We have already started to send out the general offers today in Waterloo. On Wednesday next week on the 5th we also hope to reopen for any positions that are not full yet. By the looks of the numbers so far, there will be very few committees having to re-open.
4. The hiring website, if you haven't noticed we have a new upgrade and a new design on our hiring website. It is good for anyone applying for jobs, it is perfectly done. There are just a few tiny bugs that we are still working to fix up.
5. I have been working with Chris Baxter this past week to try and finalize last minute details and to make the hiring process as smooth as possible. He has been really nice at getting back to us the whole time.
6. Tonight we have our O-Week volunteer appreciation so all of our O-Week volunteers will be coming back to be appreciated for all the hard work they did earlier this month.

7. 2 weekends ago, our volunteers, coordinators, and Peer Connect volunteers from both campuses were officially Safe Talked trained.

**Director Plummer left the meeting for a TA commitment at 4:50PM*

10. Comments from the Executive Director and COO

Phil Champagne

1. Starting with Student Experience, the Club's and Association's Clerk- Kara Mosburger started this past Monday and her hours are 10:30-5:00 Monday to Thursday with a little bit of flexibility depending on when her kids have hockey. She is essentially there to be the primary go to resource for Clubs and Associations to help relieve pressure from the front desk but also Pat Miller's office.
2. The guidebook statistics are in for Waterloo campus there were 3363 downloads and in Brantford 937. They are currently in the process of developing a third guide that was purchased in order to better engage the students over the course of the academic year. They are also in the planning process for the leadership summit which took place on January 7th, 2017 that is in coordination with the centre for student life and engagement and the Dean of student's office as well as residence and alumni.
3. I updated on the Director of Policy, Research, and Advocacy, 5 candidates will be starting first round interviews next week.
4. With regards to Hospitality Services it is worth noting that the fall reading week hours at Williams in Brantford will be open Tuesday to Friday 7:30-3:30. Golden grounds will be closed for the week. On the Waterloo campus Wilf's will be open for lunch 11-3, Veritas will be closed.
5. Homecoming was this past weekend in Waterloo. It was very successful, although our numbers were slightly down from the previous year and program highlight for the regular Wilf's programming is BINGO. It is building a loyal audience as Trivia is going strong and Saturdays up in the Turret have been pretty solid.
6. Finance and Administration we have received an advance from the University on student fees to help our cash flow situation to the tune of roughly \$700,000. The audit is in its final stages and should be ready for presentation before the holidays to the Board of Directors.
7. This past couple of weeks has been busy with the onboarding process with regard to new staff in all 6 of our locations across campuses. Marketing is continuing to focus on accessibility, transparency, and Lead and Driven by Students Campaign, social media channels and the new website etc. are going strong.
8. The events calendar on the new website is up and committees are populating that calendar. There will be a new option coming soon where you can drag your mouse over an event and the details of the event will pop up.
9. Brantford Operations, Special Constables staff hiring is ongoing. I believe they are moving to second round interviews now. There is a community open house on the

Brantford campus this Saturday. It is an invitation to those members of the Brantford community to come in and ask questions in order to see how the University works and that it is engaging the community to dispel some of the myths that are going around on Brantford campus. They are also in the process of hiring an administrator to replace Mona Bal who left late summer. Hiring is currently open and will close this Wednesday at noon.

10. On my own front, OPA negotiations are still ongoing. We just had a successful meeting with physical resources to go over the utilities and how they are measured plus the exactly the number that they calculate get presented to us. We are bridging the gap between the discrepancy and what we owe. At this particular time, we owe a significant amount. The Aramark agreement as discussed at the last board meeting is ready to go we are just waiting for the Board of Governors to give the seal of approval to the University side of that agreement. We are not anticipating any problems. We are currently working on two major things, one is a performance appraisal package that will get rolled out the Director of Operations group level will follow and then it will slowly work its way down.
11. Finally, all is working with Chris Turner and Director Finance and Administration to complete payroll project.

11. Meeting Schedule Change

Motion 4 (Ricci/ Lee): **Motion to adopt the meeting schedule change.**

Vote: 8-0-0

Result: Motion Passes Unanimously

Chair DeSumma

This is to relocate the October 21st meeting, which was scheduled in Brantford to Waterloo and October 28th to Brantford. This is because Dr. Blouw is presenting on the 21st and since he will be in Waterloo it is just easier for all of us to be here instead of teleconferencing in during his presentation. We will just switch the 28th to Brantford.

12. New Business & Announcements

Chair DeSumma

Have a safe, happy, and very productive reading week. Good luck on midterms, it is going to be a busy time for everybody.

Anthony Zambito

I have an issue that I wanted to bring to the Board. Early in summer I requested certain emails from Wilf's and their HR Representative basically requesting documents that I signed for my employment last September. Wilf's did acknowledge this request and they know that I need this but requested a premature resource. I talked to Jeyas about this and he hasn't gotten back to me and Shawna as well. I have closed captioned President VanHerzele as well in some emails so you might be aware of the situation.

ED Champagne

I will take a look and get you an answer probably by the middle of next week.

13. Incamera

Motion 5 (Kelly/ Jang) **Motion to enter in camera with ED Champagne and Board Secretary Brown**

Vote: 8-0-0

Result: Motion Passes Unanimously

14. Exit in Camera and Adjourn the meeting

Motion 6 (Molkoski/ Bellotto): **Motion to exit in camera and adjourn the meeting.**

Vote: 8-0-0

Result: Motion Passes Unanimously

Meeting adjourned 4:58 at pm

Next Meeting Friday, October 21st at 3:00pm

fi, For Information

fd, For Discussion

D, Decision required

adm, Administrative task

The preceding reflects an accurate and complete record of the proceedings at the aforementioned meeting of the WLUSU Board of Directors.

Date Signed: September 30th, 2016

Date Signed: September 30th, 2016



Nick De Summa
Chair of the Board & Chief Governance Officer
2016-17 Students' Union BoD

Nick Molkoski
Vice Chair of the Board
2016-17 Students' Union BoD