

Algoma University Student's Union

January 11th 2009

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Volume 2 Issue 7

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AUSU Meeting
Jan 11 2009

1) Call to Order (6:40)

AUSU Members- Jakob Bauer, Jennifer Perron, Jordan Gillier, Ashleigh Sauve, Matt Shoemaker, Jason Pino, Vanessa Gastaldo, Cristina Guzzo

Guests: Rebecca Stuebing, Sarah Broad, Mark Allard, Dawn Elmore, Katie Barsanti

2) Adoption of Agenda and Minutes from November 23rd and 30th

- Adoption of Minutes November 23rd
- Mover- Jason
- Seconded- Jen
- Adoption of Minutes November 30th

Mover: Jason

Seconder: Jakob

Adoption of Agenda

Mover: Jason

Seconder: Jakob

3) Powderpuff Football/ Board Room Booking (Chris)

- Mover- Jason
- Table this discussion to the next meeting b/c he is not here
- Seconder- Jen
- All in favor
- Motion Carries

4) Proud Algoma (Sarah/ Rebecca) (look budget to sheet attached)

- Helping with queer voices of the north film festival- are doing a number of things this year
- Benefit for students
- Asking from AUSU is \$200
- Have grown away from AUSU funding and have gone to outside donations as well
- It would be great for AUSU to be a sponsor
- Jason- when is this?
- Feb 19th
- Jason- could we get the AUSU logo on this?
- Yes
- Jason- Motion to grant proud Algoma \$200 to assist with their Queer voices of the north film festival
- Seconded- Jakob
- All in Favour
- Motion Carries

5) WUSC Referendum (Rebecca/ Andy)

- The WUSC committee on campus has been at Algoma for a number of years and has been able to fund a refugee student
- Costs approx 26,000.00 per year to fund one student
- Will be holding a referendum this Thursday from 10-5
- Set up a space outside of the security desk
- Need a scrutineer from AUSU and someone from WUSC
- Be sure to get an updated list of students attending

6) Fair Trade (Rebecca) – look to sheet attached

- There are fair trade bananas at Romes
- Have created a bunch of fair trade partners
- Are coming to AUSU to support one of the events during Fair Trade Week
- Have been collecting pledges to support the food bank
- Asking AUSU to support Fair trade with \$400
- Jen- where did you get the numbers for the bannock breakfast
- Got the number from a catering business from Margaret Neveu
- If it costs less than that they will have receipts
- Will be doing some fundraising on the teach in- they will be catering the teach in to make some money from this
- Andy- fire keeper and drumming group is what AUSU will be providing?
- Rebecca- could be to cover this cost, yes
- Vanessa- Motion to fund fair trade week for the \$400.
- Secunder- Jason
- All in favour (Ash had to abstain from the vote)
- Motion Carries

7) Outdoor Recreation Budget (Tammi and Steph)

- Jason- Motion to table this to the next meeting
- Seconded- Ash

8) Diversity Club- (Dawn and Mark Allard)- look to attached budget

- Were going to ask for \$2200 for the budget but have looked internally instead since AUSU is strapped for cash
- Jason- Motion to fund \$1000.00 towards black history month.
- Secunder- Ash
- Vanessa- the dj is covered by AUSU regularly so it will be provided already by AUSU
- All in favour
- Motion Carries

9) Temporary election date is March 19, 09 -Thursday (Vanessa)

- Vanessa- would like to ratify the date for the election
- Mover- Vanessa- Would like to ratify that March 19th is the date for the election of 2009-2010 board.
- Secunder- Ash

- Feb 2nd nominations will open and nominations close at 5:00 on the 5th or march and the election date on March 19th and the CRO can decide the date of the debate
- All in favour
- Motion carries

10) AGM will be scheduled for the following Tuesday (March 24). (Vanessa)

- Vanessa- Ratify the date of the AGM for 2008- 2009 to be on March 24th.
- Seconded- Jason
- All in favour
- Motion Carries

11) Bookings for Speak Easy '09 (Cristina and Erin and Vanessa)

- Booked on Feb 2nd for Black History Month 3 comedians Dana Alexander, Cedric Newman and was supposed to be Trixx but AUSU could not get quorum so we have Arthur Simeon
- Inner City Surfers for Feb 13th
- Pat Robatiale for Feb 27th
- Prices for these all will be \$8 for students
\$10 for non students
\$12 at the door
- Jason- what does this all cost?
- 7000.00
- Vanessa- the direction of the speak easy is changing so have developed the subcommittees.
- Marketing and promotion (Jakob)
- Logistics committee (Matt)
- Decorating committee (Matt Scott)
- Will send out an e-mail to everyone
- Jason- understand why club pubs are moved, but getting people here at the bar on Saturday is difficult, but should be taking into consideration
- Vanessa- rational to move the pubs – if we could make enough money on Thursdays we would be bale to pay for the week as well as the student clubs

12) Teaching Forum (Cristina and Melissa)

- Will be a chance where students and professors can interact in a safe and comfortable space
- Vanessa- Motion to provide coffee and donuts for the teaching/student forum.
- Seconded- Jordon

Motion to recess for 2 mins

13) AUSU's fees going-up in conjunction with the 4% increase in university fees (Andy)

- Wanted to ask how our fees that we get from students? Thinking we need to increase fees of the AUSU members
- Ash- if we do this we are going to continue to tap the students of their money
- Maybe need to sit down and look at our budget to see where new money can be allotted
- Andy- feels like students need to keep up with the growth maybe there is another alternative to get more funding from the university to support the students
- Jason- not speaking in favour or against anything, but we also have put on the table a \$5 increase to be put in for WUSC, shouldn't be something that we should turn away from, so is not out of the ordinary but to justify the means
- Matt- we are not for profit, but we should break even but that is what we should be doing, don't think we should raise our fees

14) 'Ratification of officer removal- residence representative (Vanessa)

- sent a letter to Sima for missing 7 meetings and we need to decide on how to replace this position
- Vanessa-Motion to remove the residence representative.
- Seconded- Jen
- All in favour
- Motions Carries
- Jason- thinks we should just hire one
- Andy- how long it would be for b/c would it be worth it?
- Until the end of the year
- Cristina- we need to have a position filled b/c there are a lot of people who feel that they are not being represented by no residence rep so this is important
- Mover-Vanessa- Motion to send out the minutes to all of the students starting from tonight's meeting, after they have been approved to provide more awareness.
- Seconded- Jen
- Andy- will spearhead a committee with Jason and Ash to pick a new residence rep

15) Additions

- Matt- the lounge that has been
- Vanessa- Motion to name the furnished lounge the T-bird Two
- Seconder- Jakob
- Motion Carries
- Katie- put a picture of the original T-Bird and the new

- Jason- Shouldn't we have it shown that we have paid for this lounge
- Matt- will also have it sponsored by AUSU and Algoma U
- We need to make a logo for it as well
- Ash- logo competition for all students
- Ash- Motion to provide \$150 to the students
- Seconded- Jakob
- All in favour
- Motion carries
- At the board of governors meeting, Krista Pearson brought up the price of the health plan and she is going to look into it
- Christine Bourque is coming up this week and is the rep for the CFS to talk about the health plan
- Katie- have to make these decisions quickly in order to have these new plans take place
- Should consider to take off the massage therapy of the health plan

16) Adjournment (8:11pm)

**Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students
Association Budget 2008 2009**

**Projected
2007 2008**

Revenue

Carry Over 2007 2008	\$6,080.64
AUSU Contribution	

Expenses

Fixed

Investment Fund	\$5,000.00
Anishinaabe Scholarships	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	\$10,000.00

Other

Events	\$5,000.00
Travel	\$3,000.00
Meetings	\$500.00
Marketing	\$1,500.00
Powwow	\$5,000.00
Election	\$250.00
Graduation	\$2,000.00
Bank Charges	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00
	<u>\$17,300.00</u>

TOTAL	\$27,300.00
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Proud Algoma Funding Request – Queer Voices of the North Film Festival

January 18, 2009

The Queer Voices of the North Film Festival Coordinating Committee was founded in 2005 by a network of invested partners for the primary interest of developing and delivering educational and informational material to the queer and queer-friendly audiences of Sault Ste. Marie. The committee members recognized a gap in the available information and positive space where insightful and thought provoking queer topics are introduced and discussed. Seeking to fill that void, the Committee brings intriguing and refreshing media to Sault Ste. Marie and develops thoughtful local dialogue on questions of sexuality, culture, and society.

Benefit for Students and Algoma University

Providing a queer-positive space for the discussion of issues identified above, Queer Voices has been identified by both students and faculty as an important event to attend. In addition to providing this space and content, films from the festival will be donated to the Algoma University library on behalf of Proud Algoma. This has been done in the past and has proven benefit as these films have been screened in a variety of classrooms. We also plan to film the panel discussion following the Queer Voices screenings – as was done in a past Proud Algoma event – and donate a copy of this to the library.

Expenses

Theatre Rental:	\$400
Films:	
<i>Patrik, 1.5</i>	\$500
<i>Books of James</i>	\$125
<i>First Stories: Volume III – Two Spirited</i>	\$75
<i>Debwewin Gekendamaan – Our Place in the Circle</i>	\$100
<i>Destiny in Alice</i>	\$100
Shipping Charge:	\$60
Tax:	\$150
Total:	<u>\$1510</u>

The festival incurs other costs for promotion, artist fees, and travel which will be covered by other sources of revenue. The following is an approximation of those costs for this year's festival:

Travel for panelists	\$600
Fees for panelists	\$400
Poster design and reproduction	\$200
Total for other expenses:	\$1200
Total festival cost:	<u>\$2700</u>

List source(s) of balance of budget and amounts received from other sources.

The list of revenue sources below is based on committed dollars from partnering committees and patrons, and will be collected over the course of the next month.

Donations

City of SSM Cultural Assistance Grant	\$400 (pending approval)
Sault Ste. Marie Unity & Diversity Committee	\$700
Algoma Pride	\$200
Sault Ste. Marie Gay-Straight Alliance	\$100
Personal donations	\$550

Cost Recovery Initiatives

At the door of the festival*	\$250
Popcorn sales	\$100

Total from other sources: \$2500

Requested Funding: \$200

*Screenings are offered to the public at a sliding scale to provide the greatest amount of accessibility as possible. The amount listed is based on past revenue.

Fair Trade Week 2009 Overview & Budget

Fair Trade Week Events:

- Friday Jan. 16: Spanish music, dance, speaker event in Speakeasy
- Sunday Jan. 18: World Religion Day event at the Water Tower Inn
- Monday Jan 19 – Friday Jan 23: Free Fair Trade coffee in student services
- Thursday Jan. 22: WUSC Referendum
- Thursday Jan. 22 – Friday Jan. 23: Fast to End World Hunger
- Friday Jan. 23 – Saturday Jan. 24: Algoma University Teach-In: Understanding the Economic “Crisis” and Where to Go From Here

Fair Trade Week Partners:

We are receiving support from the following organizations for Fair Trade Week through partnership in events as well as monetary and in-kind donations. We are requesting that AUSU cover a portion of the costs of one of our events.

- First year Spanish class
- Unity and Diversity Sault Ste. Marie
- WUSC
- Indigenous Student Services/Shingwauk U
- NORDIK Institute/CESD/Algoma University
- Cinema Političa
- AU Student Food Bank

Fair Trade Week Budget

Fast to End World Hunger Costs

Firekeeper and drumming group	\$425
Speaker honoraria	\$50
Tea, juice, coffee all night	\$25
Bannock breakfast	\$300

Total cost: \$800

Funding From Other Sources

Indigenous Student Services	\$50 (pending)
NORDIK/CESD	\$250

Total funding: \$300

Difference: \$500

Funding Requested: \$400

INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ALGOMA UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 8, 2009

STUDENT FEES FISCAL 2009-2010

Issue

Board of Directors' approval of an increase in student fees for fiscal 2009-2010, as outlined below, is being requested.

Background

Student fees are comprised of two amounts, tuition fees and compulsory ancillary fees. Tuition fees for domestic students are regulated through the Ministry, but tuition fees for international students are at the discretion of each university

Undergraduate domestic tuition fee background

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) ended a two-year tuition freeze and announced a new tuition framework in March 2006. (It is important to note that the government gave the universities compensatory grants for the two years of tuition freeze – these grants were discontinued when the tuition freeze was lifted.) The 2006 framework approved a maximum average annual tuition fee increase of 5%, with 4.5% for first year undergraduate Arts & Science students and 4% for upper-year students undergraduate Arts & Science students allowable each year for four years starting 2006-07. This tuition agreement expires after 2009-10.

Algoma University ("AU") has raised tuition fees by a flat 4% each year of this agreement. Based on *MacLean's Magazine*, November 24, 2008 (see chart at end of this report), for the academic year 08-09 of the 19 Ontario universities, AU has the:

- 3rd lowest tuition fees, at \$4,666 – 98.7% of the Ontario average;
- 3rd highest ancillary fees, at \$951 – 123% of the Ontario average; and
- 4th highest total fees, at \$5,617 – 102% of the Ontario average.

Fiscal year 2009-2010 will be the last opportunity to raise tuition fees under the current MTCU directive. All Ontario universities who have made multi-year tuition fee decisions during this period have either chosen the maximum increase possible or the 4% flat increase. It is probable that all remaining Ontario universities will opt for at least the 4% increase for next fiscal. Tuition fees are a vital part of university revenue, not least because MTCU has not increased basic operating grants since 2005-06. Increasingly, tuition revenue is what permits universities to maintain quality access to professors, learning resources and equipment.

Tuition fees were last discussed at the February 2008 Board meeting whereby it was agreed to a one-year increase of 4%.

Our formal communications with the Ministry have indicated that there will be no year-end funding this fiscal. Since 2006-07, it has been year-end funding that has allowed universities to balance budgets given the lack of increase in operating funding. Given that AU is expecting to run a deficit of at least \$500,000 in the current fiscal year, and that transition funding received this fiscal was \$500,000 less than expected, administration believes a tuition fee increase is required.

If we increase tuition fees less than the maximum permitted in any one year, the Ministry does not allow us to “catch up” the increase in subsequent years. Also, expectations are that additional funding will not be forthcoming from the Ministry if we have not taken advantage of raising funds where permitted – which would be the tuition fee increase route.

The increased tuition fees will play an important role in maintaining academic quality at Algoma as we move into a period of extreme fiscal restraint. It is anticipated that cuts will be required across the board next year to maintain a functional university budget. It is the university's intention to have these cuts affect the student experience as little as possible. Maintaining the current faculty complement, an acceptable range of course selection, adequate student services, library ordering and electronic resources, etc., depends on revenue keeping pace with costs. This same scenario is playing out in all of the Ontario universities.

Compulsory Ancillary Fee Background

AU's ancillary fees are at the 'high end of the pack'. This is a result of:

- Higher health insurance costs, as AU covers a very small group of students.
- A component within the ancillary fees that includes repayment of the student centre part of the ICT building.
- Higher costs associated with AU athletics programs and facilities as the costs are spread over a relatively small student body.

Exercising restraint in the ancillary fees, i.e. a 0% increase, will bring AU's fees down to the 'middle of the pack'. This does make it harder for ancillaries such as the George Leach Centre to break even, but we will address this difficulty through internal planning processes.

The Health Insurance coverage plays a vital role for those students who are not covered by their parents or their own health coverage – the latter group can opt out of the Algoma Health coverage. Before we had a good health plan for students, there were many requests for additional assistance for students who had medical needs for themselves or for their dependents. We are currently working with those students who have not opted out to see if our coverage meets their needs, and we are also again investigating alternative coverage that might be less expensive.

International Tuition Fee Background

Algoma University (“AU”) has raised international tuition fees by a flat 4% each year since 2005-06. Based on our survey of international fees charged by Ontario universities, for the academic year 08-09 of the 19 Ontario universities, AU has the:

- 3rd lowest tuition fees, at \$11,326 – 87% of the Ontario average

Students coming to Algoma from abroad consistently ask about scholarships. Without a scholarship program to recognize and acknowledge excellence, we are much less competitive on the recruitment front (all other Ontario universities run a scholarship program for international students). We are therefore proposing a substantial 10% increase to the international fees for all first-time registrants, with most of the increase allocated to a scholarship program to recognize excellence (as well as a small bursary allocation for unexpected needs during the academic year). For all continuing international students, we propose the same increase of 4% as for domestic students.

Our SPELL program (English-as-a-second-language) is run on a break-even or profit basis. Every year, several SPELL graduates return to Algoma U for degree programs. SPELL also welcomes groups of students from countries such as Mexico and Japan; their presence enriches campus life. We propose an increase of 3.6% so that SPELL continues to meet the mandate of being a “cost recovery” program. Under this proposal, SPELL fees would rise from current \$2,800 to \$2,900 per term.

Student Assistance

The Ontario government has established Principles of Student Access in partnership with provincially-assisted universities. These principles state that:

- ✓ No qualified Ontario student should be prevented from attending Ontario’s public colleges and universities due to lack of financial support programs, and;
- ✓ Students in need should have access to the resources they need for their tuition, books, compulsory fees, equipment, and supplies.

The Student Access Guarantee (SAG) program guarantees students that their OSAP assistance will cover the full cost of tuition and books. If OSAP does not meet that full cost, then SAG automatically tops up their allocation. Algoma University, as all Ontario universities, is responsible for the SAG component, and meets this responsibility largely through tuition fee increases.

The following excerpt from the Ministry’s SAG guidelines explains the Ministry’s and universities’ commitments to student aid:

“The Province is participating in the student access guarantee initiative by providing improved financial aid to Ontario students, through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). It has made major improvements and new investments in government student aid each year since 2003-04 to enable OSAP to better support access. The number of students receiving aid and the level of support provided both have increased substantially.

These improvements will continue as the student access guarantee initiative continues to be developed. Over a five-year period from 2004-05 to 2009-10, the Ministry’s annual student aid

expenditure will double. OSAP improvements to date include new access grants for first-year and second-year students from lower and lower-middle-income families, reductions to parental contributions, updated loan limits, and updated book and supply allowances.

Universities and colleges deliver institutional financial aid that supplements government aid in a variety of ways. Institutions' required Tuition Set-Aside fund expenditures for need-based student aid totalled about \$188 million in 2005-06. The amount of these required expenditures will increase to reflect enrolment growth. In addition, the Ministry has been supporting institutions' development of further financial resources for needs-based aid. In 2007-08, endowments raised with matching through the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) and Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund (OSOTF) programs will generate about \$59 million in funds available for institutional student aid.

To participate in the student access guarantee, institutions are expected to draw on these resources, and on other institutional resources, as needed.

The tuition framework does not mandate a specific set aside from additional tuition revenue levied on each student under the framework. This follows the institutional recommendation to provide flexibility. It does, however, require institutions to direct additional resources for student aid, as required, to ensure that the terms of the student access guarantee are met. The student access guarantee recognizes the relationship between institutional decisions to increase tuition, the student call on OSAP, and the student need for additional resources above OSAP."

As part of Algoma's participation in the SAG program, we provide a "Multi-Year Accountability" plan to the Ministry, with our commitment to ensure that all students have full access to SAG. Tuition fee increases will assist Algoma in ensuring that we have adequate funds available to meet these student aid commitments.

Recommendations:

1. **MOTION: That undergraduate domestic student fees increase by 4%**
2. **MOTION: That international undergraduate student fees for all continuing students increase by 4%.**
3. **MOTION: That international undergraduate student fees for all first-time registrants increase by 10%.**
4. **MOTION: That SPELL (English as a 2nd language) tuition fees increase by 3.6%**
5. **MOTION: That the Accelerated second degree program fees increase by 4% for domestic students and by 10% for international students**

The accelerated second degree program is run in Brampton. Students must have a first undergraduate degree to enter the program, then they can earn a second undergraduate degree in Computer Science over a 12 month period. Since this is a compressed program (one and a half years of credits delivered over 12 months), its fee structure is somewhat different from on-campus fees. We are proposing similar increases to fees for the Accelerated program as for on-campus.

Ontario University Tuition Comparison for 2008/09 Academic Year

University	Tuition	Compulsory Ancillary Fees	Total
University of Toronto	\$4,776	\$963	\$5,739
York University	\$4,774	\$915	\$5,689
University of Guelph	\$4,774	\$906	\$5,680
Wilfred Laurier	\$4,774	\$831	\$5,605
Algoma University	\$4,666	\$951	\$5,617
Western	\$4,724	\$859	\$5,583
McMaster	\$4,717	\$866	\$5,583
Queen's University	\$4,785	\$775	\$5,560
Waterloo	\$4,788	\$743	\$5,531
Lakehead	\$4,670	\$825	\$5,495
Nipissing	\$4,510	\$965	\$5,475
Trent	\$4,774	\$699	\$5,473
Ryerson	\$4,775	\$617	\$5,392
Windsor	\$4,660	\$726	\$5,386
Brock	\$4,752	\$630	\$5,382
Ottawa	\$4,751	\$595	\$5,346
Carleton	\$4,738	\$551	\$5,289
Laurentian	\$4,706	\$531	\$5,237
Ontario Average	\$4,729	\$775	\$5,503