

# In Loving Memory of Armand Ahishakiye & Several Items

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To: SA-UPDATES@LISTSERV.SYR.EDU <SA-UPDATES@LISTSERV.SYR.EDU>

Cc: Timothy M Johnson <tjohns46@syr.edu>; Justine C Hastings <jchastin@syr.edu>

Hello Orange Family,

We hope you and your loved ones are healthy, safe, and well, especially during these difficult times.

First and foremost, The Student Association wants to send our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of SU senior Armand Ahishakiye as he recently passed away. Armand Ahishakiye was studying economics in the College of Arts and Sciences and Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs and he lived in Spokane, Washington. He was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity and he was involved in the American Barristers Club and intramural basketball (x). If you would like to

financially contribute to help his family and loved ones with memorial-related expenses, you can do so [here](#). We send our deepest thoughts and prayers to those who are grieving his death. We want to echo that those who would like to seek virtual counseling services could do so by contacting the Barnes Center at The Arch 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 315-443-8000. There are also plenty of mental health resources [here](#).

We are writing to you about a few items:

1. **Addressing Financial Inaccessibility in Regards to the Recent Quarantine Policies**
2. [2020-21 Action Plan \(First Edition\)](#)
3. [Student Association's 2020-21 Permanent Initiatives](#)
4. [Call For Cultural Organizations- Virtual Cultural Centers Welcome Fair](#)
5. [STOP Bias Peer Educator Opportunity](#)
6. [TuitionRelief](#)
7. [BeWellSU Social Media Resources](#)

# 1. Addressing Financial Inaccessibility in Regards to the Recent Quarantine Policies

We acknowledge that it is unfair to expect students to pay for reduced rates at local and regional hotels on top of their increased tuition, especially with such late notice. We also acknowledge that it is unfair that first-year and incoming transfer students must pay \$1000 to quarantine in Syracuse University residence halls. We are urging the University to seriously accommodate students in the most financially accessible way possible. This is a top priority and we are continuing to advocate for policies that help all students.

We, along with SA Representative Amanda Byrne have been in touch with Eileen Simmons, Director of Housing, Meal Plan & ID Card Services ([esimmons@syr.edu](mailto:esimmons@syr.edu)), J. Michael Haynie, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovation ([jmhaynie@syr.edu](mailto:jmhaynie@syr.edu)), Amanda Nicholson, Interim Deputy Senior Vice President Division of Enrollment and the Student

Experience ([agnichol@syr.edu](mailto:agnichol@syr.edu)), Rob Hradsky, Vice President for the Student Experience ([rhradsky@syr.edu](mailto:rhradsky@syr.edu)), Terra Peckskamp, Senior Director for the Office of Student Living (OSL) ([tlpecksk@syr.edu](mailto:tlpecksk@syr.edu)), and George Athanas, Director of Residence Life for OSL ([gathanas@syr.edu](mailto:gathanas@syr.edu)) about these issues.

Nonetheless, if you have financial concerns associated with your plans to meet the 14-day quarantine requirement, please use the financial assistance available. Here is [information about emergency funding](#) and please complete [the CARES Act Funding Request form](#) or [the International Student COVID-19 Emergency Relief form](#).

And for those who would like an informative, easy to understand, and digestible resource to understand SU's plans to resume in-person classes this fall, we recommend checking out [The Daily Orange's Q&A page](#).

## 2. [2020-21 Action Plan \(First Edition\)](#)

As promised in our last campus-wide communication, we are sharing the action plans for each issue we discussed during our campaign/ the election. This action plan is in its “first edition” because it will be expanded once SA is officially in session, when we have a confirmed cabinet and full assembly, and as student issues and concerns naturally arise.

For now, the action plan covers the following areas:

- Supporting the Demands of #NotAgainSU, International Students, Jewish Students, and Indigenous Students (under discussion)
- Student Vote on the Board of Trustees
- Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault by Implementing Callisto Technology
- Allow for Students to Declare Preferred Names on their SUIDs (now possible as of June 22, 2020 all due to Eileen H. Simmons)
- Physical Campus Accessibility
- Standardized Absence Policy That Supports Mental Health

- Housing Reform for Students With Disabilities
- Center for Disability Resources (CDR) Portal for Reporting Accommodation Violations
- Making American Sign Language (ASL) a Recognized Language
- Freeze Tuition (#NotAgainSU demand)
- Financial Aid Reform
- Bring Back Posse LA and Atlanta
- Student Employment Reform
- Textbook Affordability
- End Three Year Housing Requirement
- Expand the Free GRE Program
- Dining Contracts
- Code of Student Conduct Section 17/ The Student Leadership Clause

You can find the detailed action plan on the SA website at [sa.syr.edu/ActionPlan](https://sa.syr.edu/ActionPlan). The page will be continuously updated with progress notes (there are already some for the month of July). Again, this is an **evolving plan** and we are

always open to hearing your thoughts, comments, questions, and/or concerns.

### 3. [Student Association's 2020-21 Permanent Initiatives](#)

Permanent initiatives are initiatives voted on during the last meeting of every session by every assembly. These initiatives were voted on April 27, 2020 by the 63rd legislative session.

These initiatives include Cuse Otto Vote, the GRE Prep program, the Study Spot Index, the Non-Profit Community Engagement Fair, Spring Into Action (civic engagement promotion), Mental Health Awareness Week, and providing free menstrual products to students in bathrooms across campus.

Detailed information on the permanent initiatives for this upcoming academic year can be found on the SA website at [sa.syr.edu/PermanentInitiatives](https://sa.syr.edu/PermanentInitiatives) as well as continuous progress updates. Included on the page is the contact information for each SA representative associated with each initiative in

case you have questions, comments, concerns, and/or even want to get involved. You can also contact us.

4. [Call For Cultural Organizations- Virtual Cultural Centers Welcome Fair](#)

*“Call for Syracuse University and ESF campus organizations!”*

*Share your organization at the upcoming  
Virtual Cultural Centers Welcome Fair  
AUGUST 27, 4-6PM*

*Virtual Location: Zoom (and Facebook Live)*

*This event will feature a panel discussion and opportunity for students to learn about ways to get involved and find a home away from home at Syracuse University or ESF!*

In addition, we are curating a list of virtual resources that students can take away from the event - and that's where you come in! We are seeking information from student organizations and



cultural departments and offices that will help highlight what you do. If you would like to share information, here's what you should provide:

- **Virtual Introduction** - Recording on Zoom, cellphone, laptop, etc. that is uploaded to YouTube (No More Than 2 Minutes). The introduction should include:
  - Introduction of presenter(s)
  - Information about organization/department and how students (especially first-year students) can get involved
  - Please note that all Virtual Introductions have to be captioned. [Please follow YouTube's captioning instructions](#). Here is a [sample virtual introduction](#).
- **Website, social media and/or flyer**

- **Contact Person: Name, Title/Role, Organization/Department, and SU/ESF email**

[Please provide your information via this online form](#) by Friday, August 14. Please contact Huey Hsiao at [huhshiao@syr.edu](mailto:huhshiao@syr.edu) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
CCWF Planning Committee”

**5. [STOP Bias Peer Educator Opportunity](#)**  
“STOP BIAS is looking to hire undergraduate students as Peer Educators for the upcoming school year. Peer educators will facilitate educational and interactive trainings and programs that teach students about conscious and unconscious bias. Peer Educators also provide insight to university leaders about university culture and help to envision solutions to systemic and persistent bias related behaviors, environments, and practices. Given all that has occurred on our campus over the year, coupled with the national unrest we are

currently experiencing, this will be a critical student employment role. The ideal student for this role is confident, dependable, energetic, connected, team-oriented, and has some background and/or focus in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion related work.”

Here is the link for students to apply and view the job description:

<https://syr.joinhandshake.com/jobs/2964820>

## 6. [TuitionRelief](#)

SU student Feryal Nawaz would like to share an amazing platform that students can use during these financially difficult times. It is especially relevant with the recent tuition increase at SU. TuitionRelief is a sponsor-driven platform that matches “people who have the means and determination to help eliminate the student debt crisis with students who want to graduate debt-free, through a giving/mentoring program”. You can learn more about the platform [here](#). If you have any questions, you can contact Feryal (fnawaz@syr.edu).

For those waiting on an update on the Chancellor's Tuesday, July 14, 2020 meeting with the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees in regards to the suspension of this year's tuition increase, we unfortunately do not have any new updates to share. The Chancellor and his team are incredibly busy with the quarantine accommodations and thus they have been hard to get in direct contact with. Again, we will share with you once we know more information.

## 7. [BeWellSU Social Media Resources](#)

### [Pre-semester Connection Social Media Toolkit](#)

[@BeWellSU](#) has provided plenty of social media resources in order to highlight healthy habits, social distancing, wearing a mask and information on the COVID-19 virus. Starting now and into the first few weeks of the semester, we encourage you to share these social media resources on your own schedule and with peers.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments and/or concerns. Thank

you.

Stay well,

**Justine Hastings and Ryan Golden**

*President and Vice President*

Student Association

[sa.syr.edu](http://sa.syr.edu)

Syracuse University