

Hello OSCA and Oberlin community,

We hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and doing as well as possible during this challenging time. We write with an important update regarding OSCA's operations for the coming year.

Since Oberlin College transitioned to remote learning for the remainder of Spring 2020, OSCA Officers and OC Administrators have been meeting weekly to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on 2020-21 housing and dining operations for both the College and our co-ops, as well as to continue conversations surrounding any agreements between both parties. In these scenario discussions, OSCA leadership clearly communicated the values most important to co-op members and community further informed by the results of our membership-wide survey sent on May 12th, 2020.

As the pandemic progressed, Oberlin College and OSCA leadership reviewed steps the institution was taking to resume safe operations in the fall and identified areas of risk within OSCA's operations. We worked collaboratively to mitigate these risks, but it became increasingly clear that operating OSCA's co-ops in 2020-21 would present too great a safety concern for both institutions to eliminate in time for a safe return to campus. Ultimately, we determined that OSCA could not operate during the Fall 2020 semester.

While we are disappointed that OSCA will not function as usual next semester, we acknowledge the necessity of this decision to ensure the longevity of OSCA. Both parties have committed to continuing negotiations, as circumstances evolve, regarding the resumption of OSCA activity as soon as it is possible to do so safely as well as long-term agreements to ensure OSCA's ability to thrive into the future.

We recognize this is a significant decision, and we did not make it without fully considering and communicating the impacts of it on our membership and the Oberlin College community. This is certainly an unprecedented moment in history and we made this decision in the long term interest of both OSCA and Oberlin College.

OSCA offers financial affordability, dietary accommodations, and other avenues of accessibility to students. OSCA leadership and the College have agreed to consider ways to expand the College's resources in these key areas. Both OSCA and Oberlin College will send out more information regarding these avenues of support in the coming weeks.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out and send us an email (*please don't respond to this email directly!*).

Thank you for your commitment to OSCA, and take care!

Love and Cooperation,
Teagan Webb | President
Rian Szende | Chair of the Board
Sheng Kao | Treasurer
Bhairavi Mehra | Membership Secretary
Philip Swigon | President-Elect
Pearl Puzak | Chair-Elect of the Board
Derek Liemohn | Treasurer-Elect
Mia Fox | Membership Secretary-Elect

In collaboration with,
Vice President and Dean of Students, Meredith Raimondo
Vice President of Finance, Rebecca Vazquez-Skillings
Assistant Dean of Business and Operations, Jessica Bayer-Crissman
Chief of Staff, David Hertz
Office of the General Counsel, Justin Younker

Leah Modigliani, OSCA Alumni Advisor