



January 28, 2025

Board Meeting Minutes

GROUP	Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) Board of Directors
LOCATION	Google Meet
DATE & TIME	January 28, 2025, 5:00pm
NOTE TAKER	Brian Robson
ATTENDEES	<p>Directors: Faculty of Science & Chair, Eloghosa Avenbuan; Faculty of Health Science, Kashaf Awan; Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Sifatul Mostafi; Faculty of Business and Information Technology, Arujan Parameswaran; Faculty of Social Science & Humanities, Lindsay Horner</p> <p>Executives: President, Rai Muhammad Ali; VP Student Life, Areej Fatima; VP Downtown, Matifadza Chidovi</p> <p>Staff: Executive Director, Brian Robson; Financial Controller, Mayooraan Thurairajah;</p>
REGRETS	VP Student Affairs, Zainab Hussain

OPENING PROCEDURES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called into order at 5:08 p.m. Moved by S Mostafi, seconded by K Awan

2. TERRITORIAL RECOGNITION (Chair)

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

DISCUSSION

No discussion. Or add content.

RESOLUTION

Moved by L Horner and seconded by K Awan. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the January 28, 2025, board meeting agenda.

4. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

See the full executive reports on the OTSU website

President:

- Elections have been postponed, working on a revised communications plan
- UPASS Referendum: Comms team are finalizing messaging
- End-of-Year Event Planning: Areej and I are planning this event
- Elections Committee: hired a third member at large; revised election dates

DISCUSSION

A Parameswaran asked for an update on the Print Shop and the Food Bank initiative. Rai is in contact with Brad McIsaac and another person who told us we could set up a registered charity and apply for funding. We haven't started this yet. Rai said we had a meeting today about the print shop and we are working on details. Still not opening as we are shorthanded on Jen N's team but plans are ongoing.

A Parameswaran asked about a timeline for the print shop opening. Rai replied that there is no timeline. When is the soonest we can provide a timeline? Not sure, when we know, we will report to the Board.

Financial Controller said he would discuss the print shop in the in-camera session.

VP Student Life:

- Winter Fest: events went well, spreading out the Club displays seemed to work well. Ski trip and party upcoming later this week.
- Carriage Cup: we participated in the puck drop with President Murphy and gave out pom poms
- Grand Opening of the Wellness Nook: heard great remarks from students and it is getting booked every day. Mary Bluehardt toured the Nook and is promoting it.
- Planning for Future Events: Pangaea and Clubs reception are two different events in the planning phase.
- Clubs & Societies Committee met this week to discuss challenges from this year, work on transparency and still some items that are being debated. Another meeting will follow. Recommendation will be presented to the Board.

DISCUSSION

A Parameswaran asked about funding to sub societies - is there an update? Yes, this was discussed at the committee meeting, further discussion is going on, trying to come up with something that works for everyone. All the members were asked to brainstorm and come back to the next meeting.

VP Student Affairs: (not present) Areej presented at her request and on her behalf.

- OUSA: working on co-authoring the paper for the Spring assembly.
- Winterfest: attending the dance party on Friday
- Durham Region Transportation: working on Upass referendum.
- Period Project - wrote a blog
- Student Success Committee

DISCUSSION

No discussion. Questions should be directed by email.

VP Downtown:

- Food Insecurity: I attended a summit with Senior Admin and downtown campus folk to discuss the framework. Finance Office offers financial support to struggling students, very discrete, not advertised. Work on other solutions. Faculty of Science got some data on Food bank usage. Over 800 new students used a Food Bank, nearly 3000 total. That we don't offer support is embarrassing. Mati will be working on a food resource guide, like using apps and discounts, coupons, etc. Since food is only one affordability item.
- OTSU Municipal Involvement: Looking at how to get involved, like committees. Trent told her the University would not support involvement in all these committees.

- Durham Region Transportation
- Frosh Week: attended most events, including the puck drop at the Carriage Cup.
- OUSA: I am also co-authoring the paper, we are looking into a third student and working with the OUSA team.
- Attending the Faculty of SSH committee meeting tomorrow.

DISCUSSION

Chair asked about the OUSA paper. She asked Rai if he is assisting them since they are full-time students. President replied that he is. Initially he was going to be the co-author, but Mati was suggested since it is in her academic work. Mati agreed. Rai has offered assistance.

L Horner asked how the recruitment process is for the third author, since the post is still up. Mati asked that there is a strong candidate who is being interviewed.

Chair asked the President if it would be more feasible for him to chip in instead of hiring a third student. VP Downtown said it is a good opportunity for student engagement and for a general student to get exposed to OUSA.

Chair requested that more detail be provided for the Executive Reports for the next Board meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved by K Awan and seconded by L Horner. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the executive report for January 2025.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

The update below is provided by the Executive Director.

Executive Director:

- Winterfest: Over 550 students entered our Winterfest contest for a \$200 grocery card and Magic Bullet blender giveaway.
- HR Matters: we are currently scheduling interviews for a Membership Engagement Coordinator
- Black History Month planning: this is a separate agenda item to follow

DISCUSSION

A Parameswaran asked about Rubric implementation timeline and update. This was provided.

RESOLUTION

No resolution required.

AGENDA TOPICS

6. BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The update below is provided by the Executive Director.

DISCUSSION

Executive Director asked the Board about their role in selecting winners for the Black Excellence in Leadership Award, since the Board was not involved last year. Chair clarified that because there were only two candidates for two awards, no selection process was necessary. This year, if there are more than two candidates, a committee will be formed to make recommendations to the Board.

7. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

DISCUSSION

Chair asked for Volunteers to serve as Vice Chair. L Horner and A Parameswaran volunteered. Chair asked each to give their pitch.

L Horner pitched first. A Parameswaran pitched second. There were no questions for either.

RESOLUTION

Moved by S Mostafi and seconded by K Awan. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve A Parameswaran to be appointed as Vice Chair.

8. IN CAMERA called at 5:46 pm Moved by S Mostafi, seconded by K Awan.

In camera session ended at 6:38 pm Moved by K Awan, seconded by S Mostafi.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A Parameswaran noted that the Board needs to ratify the communication sent out regarding the new Election dates.

RESOLUTION

Moved by L Horner and seconded by A Parameswaran. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors ratifies the new election dates.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elections are coming up, starting Feb 24th. Any current Executive or Board members looking to run will need to take a leave of absence during the election period.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m. Moved by L Horner and seconded by K Awan. Motion carried.