

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

GROUP	Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU)
LOCATION	Virtual (Google Meet)
DATE & TIME	Jan 26, 2026 , 5:12 p.m. - 7:54 p.m.
NOTE TAKER	Katie Lapp
ATTENDEES	<p>Directors (in-person): N/A</p> <p>Directors (online): Faculty of Graduate Studies & Chair, Sergio Maljuf Suarez; Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science & Vice-Chair, Sifatul Mostafi; Faculty of Business and Information Technology, Craigton Corda; Faculty of Education, Cherryl Morgan; Faculty of Social Science & Humanities, Keenan Howells; Faculty of Health Science, Ifra Khurram</p> <p>Executives (in-person): N/A</p> <p>Executives (online): President, Eloghosa Avenbuan; VP Downtown, Kailey Haskell; VP Student Life, Tuirani Kerfelec; VP Student Affairs, Anwoy Barua</p> <p>Staff: Executive Director, Brian Robson; Financial Controller, Mayooran Thurairajah; Administrative & Governance Coordinator / Chief Returning Officer, Katie Lapp</p> <p>Guests: N/A</p>
REGRETS	N/A

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called into order at 5:12 p.m. Moved by K. Howells and seconded by I. Khurram . Motion carried.

2. TERRITORIAL RECOGNITION

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

- The President requested that agenda item #5 (Approval of Executive Reports) be moved to follow item #7 (Appointment of Chair), as they were commuting home and preferred a quieter space to present their portion of the Executive Reports.

RESOLUTION

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by President . Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve ▾ the agenda for Jan 26, 2026 .

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The update below is provided by .

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

Moved by and seconded by . Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the meeting minutes for Dec 2, 2025 .

5. OPERATIONAL REPORT

The update below is provided by . The full report is included in the operational report.

- The Financial Controller presented a financial update covering the period from May 2025 through November 2025.

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

No resolution required.

6. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The update below is provided by .

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

- The Executive Director noted the vacancy of the Chair position and explained that the Vice-Chair was unable to assume the role due to academic commitments. They proposed appointing Serigo Maljuf Suárez as acting Chair for the remainder of the semester (February, March and April) and for the AGM Part 2 on January 29.

RESOLUTION

Moved by and seconded by . Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve Serigo Maljuf Suárez as acting Chair for the remainder of the semester (February, March and April) and for the AGM Part 2 on January 29.

In favour - 4 | Opposed - 1 | Abstained - 0

7. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

See the full executive reports on the OTSU website.

DISCUSSION

No Discussion

5.1 President

- The President tabled at the University Winter Orientation on January 8 to connect with incoming undergraduate and graduate students. Planning for Black History Month is underway, including the Black Student Spotlight, the \$300 Black Excellence in Leadership Scholarship and a black-owned board games event on February 25. Work continues on a Tuition, Ancillary and Incidental Fees policy paper for OUSA's Spring General Assembly. They also participated in Frost Week events starting January 13. The second Society President Council meeting was held, where society presidents shared updates and discussed preliminary gala planning.
- Committee updates were also reviewed and included in the executive report.

DISCUSSION

No Discussion ▾

5.2 Vice President, Student Life

- The Vice President of Student Life met with Sienna Smith from the Health Promotion Program and with Debra White and Steeve Thickett from the Financial Aid Office to explore collaboration opportunities and potential funding for the Nutrition Access Program. The OTSU Influencer Program was relaunched this semester, although engagement was lower than in the Fall. WinterFest concluded with positive student feedback despite lower participation, with suggestions that scheduling earlier in the semester could improve future engagement. Mid-year check-ins were conducted with society presidents, who are in the early stages of planning annual galas and other major events. Planning continues for the Clubs & Societies Awards, tentatively scheduled for April, maintaining the tradition of recognizing student leaders. Wellness-focused programming for March, now called Pause & Reflect Week, is being developed to encourage student reflection, creativity, and wellbeing. Pangea Week will be reformatted as Student Highlights Week to increase engagement through interactive community activities. Preparation for AGM Part II included finalizing the Nutrition Access Program presentation, refining key messaging, and anticipating member questions.
- Committee updates were also reviewed and included in the executive report.

DISCUSSION

No Discussion ▾

5.3 Vice President, Student Affairs

- The Vice President of Student Affairs began reviewing transit data from the DRT survey and a formal presentation is being prepared with the Trent Durham Student Association for the Transit Executive Committee to advocate for improvements addressing reliability, overcrowding and commuter barriers including higher-capacity buses on more high-demand routes. During WinterFest, support was provided to enhance student engagement and foster community, particularly among commuter students. Work also continues on the tuition and ancillary fee policy paper for OUSA, refining recommendations to support student-funded services, improve transparency and reduce financial barriers.
- Committee updates were also reviewed and included in the executive report.

DISCUSSION

No Discussion ▾

5.4 Vice President, Downtown

- The Vice President of Downtown organized the first Downtown Winter Prom, held on January 16, which sold 75 tickets, with approximately 30–35 students and several faculty attending. The event facilitated networking and engagement, with attendees enjoying food, activities and a photo booth. The Downtown Lounge project is progressing, with the vending machine relocated and the space expected to be mostly set up by the end of January and follow-up with Communications & Marketing regarding the glow sign is ongoing. A new, larger bulletin

board was installed above the OTSU table for improved event promotion. The December Downtown Faculty Council meeting was attended to update faculty and staff on the gala and encourage future collaboration.

- Committee updates were also reviewed and included in the executive report.

DISCUSSION

No Discussion ▾

RESOLUTION

Moved by I. Khurram ▾ and seconded by C. Corda ▾ . Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve ▾ the executive reports as presented.

8. AGM FINAL PREP

The update below is provided by ▾ the Executive Director ▾ .

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

- AGM Part 2 will take place in person on Thursday, January 29 at 7:00 p.m. in room BIT2080, with over 130 students pre-registered. The Executive Director noted that a virtual option could be considered if quorum is not met, though in-person attendance is preferred. Agenda items include the Special Resolution on Bylaw Amendments, the Nutrition Access Program Ancillary Fee and six students who submitted resolutions to be presented at the event.

RESOLUTION

No resolution required. ▾

9. ELECTION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The update below is provided by ▾ the Executive Director ▾ .

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

- The Executive Director reported the departure of two Board Members, including the Chair from the Faculty of Science and another from the Faculty of Education, both previously on the Elections Committee. Craighton Corda and Vice-Chair Sifatul Mostafi volunteered to serve on the committee on an interim basis.

RESOLUTION

Moved by C. Morgan ▾ and seconded by K. Howells ▾ . Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve ▾ the election committee appointments.

10. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The update below is provided by ▾ the S. Maljuf Suárez (Chair) ▾ .

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

- The Board Meetings for the next three months are scheduled for February 26, March 26 and April 23, each at 5:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION

No resolution required. ▾

11. STRATEGIC PLAN

The update below is provided by ▾ the Executive Director ▾ .

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

- The Executive Director explained the importance of the new Strategic Plan and suggested finalizing it by the end of the semester. Board Members were reminded to review and provide feedback on the document in a timely manner. The Chair recommended that all members review the proposed Strategic Plan prior to the February Board meeting.

RESOLUTION

No resolution required. ▾

12. IN-CAMERA

Moved *in-camera* at 6:13 p.m. Moved by S. Mostafi (Vice-Chair) ▾ and seconded by K. Howells ▾ . Motion carried.

In-camera meeting minutes stored separately. CRO and Executive Director have a copy of in-camera meeting minutes.

Moved *out-of-camera* at 7:53 p.m. Moved by C. Corda ▾ and seconded by S. Mostafi (Vice-Chair) ▾ . Motion carried.

13. NEW BUSINESS

The following announcement is from ▾ the S. Maljuf Suárez (Chair) ▾ .

DISCUSSION

No Discussion ▾

RESOLUTION

No resolution required. ▾

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcement is from ▾ the S. Maljuf Suárez (Chair) ▾ .

DISCUSSION

No Discussion ▾

RESOLUTION

No resolution required. ▾

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Moved by S. Mostafi (Vice-Chair) ▾ and seconded by I. Khurram ▾ . Motion carried.