

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

GROUP	Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU)
LOCATION	Virtual (Google Meet)
DATE & TIME	Feb 26, 2026 , 7:05p.m. - 10:21 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 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 and 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 7:05 p.m. Moved by C. Corda and seconded by I. Khurram . Motion carried.

2. TERRITORIAL RECOGNITION

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

- The Board, Faculty of Business and Information Technology, requested an amendment to the agenda to add two in-camera motions, pending Board approval.

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

Motion #1: To add two additional items to the in-camera session.

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by I. Khurram . Motion carried.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the two additional in-camera items.

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by I. Khurram . Motion carried.

- The President requested to move Agenda item #9 to an in-camera session.

Motion #2: To move Agenda item #9 to an in-camera session.

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by C. Corda . Motion carried.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve to move Agenda item #9 to an in-camera session.

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by C. Corda . Motion carried.

Note: The agenda was amended after this motion was passed.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by S. Mostafi (Vice-Chair) . Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the meeting minutes for Jan 29, 2026 .

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

See the full executive reports on the OTSU website.

5.1 President

- On Monday, February 2nd, the President attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new residence to be constructed behind the Campus Ice Centre and delivered a speech on behalf of OTSU. The event was attended by several community leaders, including Dr. Murphy, as well as other community partners. During February, OTSU hosted several initiatives to celebrate Black History Month, including a Black-owned board games event in collaboration with the Black Visionary Program on February 25 and continued to promote the Black Student Spotlight and the Black Excellence in Leadership Scholarship. In preparation for OUSA's Spring General Assembly, the President hosted a training session for delegates to familiarize them with OUSA and the policy writing process, while the VP Affairs continued to make edits to the Tuition, Ancillary and Incidental Fees paper. The Clubs and Society Committee also met to discuss BioSoc's new constitution and share updates for the second semester, with further details provided in the VP Student Life report. Additionally, in response to ongoing changes in OSAP funding, a strategy was developed to advocate for and support students, including responding to email inquiries and engaging with government officials.
- Committee updates were also reviewed and included in the executive report.

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

5.2 Vice President, Student Life

- During the month, the NAP team met with Odd Bunch to explore a potential collaboration to increase student access to affordable and nutritious food. A strategic communications plan was implemented for the NAP referendum, including email campaigns, social media, tabling and informational materials, to ensure students were informed. Health Promotion partnered with NAP to distribute soup vouchers across both campuses, increasing access to warm meals. In preparation for the OUSA Winter General Assembly, they reviewed policy materials and drafted amendments to represent the student union's priorities. On February 23rd, they met with society presidents for mid-year check-ins, providing guidance and support for ongoing initiatives. Following the resignation of the Science Council President, a new President was elected and supported to ensure continuity of leadership. Discussions were held regarding a proposal to install bidets on campus to improve accessibility and hygiene, with feasibility still under review. With the end of the term approaching, comprehensive transition documents are being prepared to maintain institutional knowledge and support a smooth handover to the incoming Vice President of Student Life.
- Committee updates were also reviewed and included in the executive report.

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

5.3 Vice President, Student Affairs

- Throughout February, ongoing monitoring of provincial post-secondary developments took place, including changes to OSAP grant and loan balances and broader affordability pressures affecting students. Preparatory work was undertaken to support a coordinated Student Union response, including gathering student impact considerations and aligning with sector advocacy partners. Work also progressed on sector advocacy priorities, including the completion of the first draft of the Tuition, Ancillary and Incidental Fee policy paper, which will support upcoming advocacy efforts and continued collaboration within the OUSA policy development process. Engagement with the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee (TEC) continued, with advocacy focused on improving service reliability, frequency and overall student access to transit, guided by student feedback and ongoing transit advocacy priorities.
- Committee updates were also reviewed and included in the executive report.

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

5.4 Vice President, Downtown

- Planning for the Downtown Social continued, with the event intended to become an annual signature event for students at the downtown campus. The event was scheduled for March 27th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., pending university approval. Preparations included coordinating with local bakeries to provide desserts and discussions with the LivingRoom Community Art Studio to facilitate a community mural. The Downtown Lounge Project is ongoing with furniture scheduled for installation on March 2nd with support from the university's Facilities team. Discussions with the Office of Campus Infrastructure and Sustainability were ongoing to determine the best method for securing the TV during installation. Most lounge items had been purchased, with setup expected to be completed by the end of March. The downtown faculty council was informed about the Downtown Social event and provided with the date and time to facilitate faculty and support staff attendance. Plus a brief update on the downtown lounge project was also shared.
- Committee updates were also reviewed and included in the executive report.

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

RESOLUTION

Moved by C. Corda and seconded by K. Howells . Motion carried.

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

6. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

The update below is provided by the Executive Director .

- The Executive Director recapped Part 2 of the AGM held on January 29 2026, noting that while not all student proposals were addressed due to a loss of quorum, the bylaw review and NAP referendum review were completed. They acknowledged OTSU staff contributions during the voting period (February 23–25) for the General Elections, highlighted the upcoming Grand Iftar hosted by the Muslim Student Association and noted an upcoming meeting on March 5 with the VP Student Life and the university to address food insecurity. They also reported that OTSU will be hiring an Events and Engagement Coordinator to fill a current vacancy.

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

No resolution required.

7. ELECTION RESULTS

The update below is provided by the Administrative & Governance Coordinator / Chief Returning Officer .

- The Administrative & Governance Coordinator / Chief Returning Officer requested that the VP Downtown and VP Student Affairs temporarily leave the meeting due to their participation in the elections, noting this presented a conflict of interest and that official results are not announced until ratified by the Board. The VP Downtown requested to leave early to catch up on school work, which the Board did not oppose. The VP Downtown and VP Student Affairs left the meeting at 7:33 p.m.
- The Administrative & Governance Coordinator / Chief Returning Officer provided a high-level summary of the 2026 General Elections and presented the unofficial results to the Board of Directors and Executive Team. They noted that recommendations and a full report for both the General and Society Elections will be provided at the April Board Meeting. The Board had no objections and ratified the results of the 2026 General Elections.

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by C. Corda . Motion carried.

Motion #3: To ratify the election results.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the ratification of the 2026 General Elections results.

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by C. Corda . Motion carried.

- The VP Student Affairs rejoined the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

8. POST ELECTION PLANNING

The update below is provided by the Executive Director

- The Executive Director reported on positions that were not elected during the General Elections and that are vacant including one Executive position (Vice President, Downtown) and Board of Director positions (Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Faculty of Business and Information Technology, Education and Graduate Studies). The Executive Director additionally brought forward a section of the Ontario Tech Student Union's General Bylaws under section 13.8, which states the following:

13.8 Election of Less than Required Number of Directors

"Notwithstanding the foregoing Bylaws, if there has been a failure to elect the minimum number of Directors required by the Articles, the Directors then in office will without delay call a special general meeting pursuant to section 6.9 of these Bylaws."

- The Executive Director sought approval from the Board Members to move forward with posting vacant Board of Director positions before the end of the term. They also reminded the board that according to bylaw 13.8, the board is permitted to call without delay a special general meeting. However, it was noted that achieving quorum may be challenging toward the end of the term, particularly during the exam period.

DISCUSSION

- The Chair requested clarification on what would occur if no applications are received for the vacant positions and quorum is not met to hold a special general meeting. The Executive Director confirmed that, under the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, the Board must have at least four directors beginning May 1, 2026. Currently, three directors remain on the Board going into the next term.

RESOLUTION

Moved by K. Howells and seconded by C. Corda. Motion carried.

Motion #4: To start the hiring process for additional Board of Directors positions in order to meet quorum.

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the hiring process for additional Board of Directors positions.

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

9. RULES FOR IN CAMERA SESSIONS

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

- The Chair noted that for any in-camera session, everyone needs to be mindful of including specific people that should be present given the topics that may be discussed. Additionally, if someone is asked to leave an in-camera session, a valid explanation must be provided for their exclusion.

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

No resolution required.

10. GOVERNANCE AUDIT/MODEL REVIEW

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

- The Executive Director suggested having a third-party expert conduct an audit of the Ontario Tech Student Union's current governance model. They explained that there could be other governance models that should be reviewed and considered by the Board of Directors and the organization could benefit from an objective third party expert review and provide further recommendations. They further asked for permission from the Board Members to start seeking quotes for their review and consideration.

DISCUSSION

- The Board, Faculty of Social Science & Humanities, asked the Executive Director to outline the main concerns and challenges with the current governance model. The Executive Director explained that issues have persisted over the past few years and suggested that reviewing practices from other student associations could help improve the organization, enhance operational efficiency and better serve the Ontario Tech Student Union.

RESOLUTION

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

Motion #4: The Executive Director to proceed with obtaining quotes or resources to perform a governance audit and review for the organization.

In favour - 3 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve ▾ the Executive Director to begin the process to seek quotes for a governance model review.

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

11. IN CAMERA (PRESIDENT)

The update below is provided by ▾ *the* President ▾ .

Moved *in-camera* at 8:08 p.m. Moved by C. Corda ▾ and seconded by S. Mostafi (Vice-Chair) ▾ . Motion carried.

In-camera meeting minutes stored separately. CRO has a copy of in-camera meeting minutes.

12. IN CAMERA (TWO ADDITIONAL APPROVALS)

The update below is provided by ▾ C. Corda ▾

13. IN CAMERA (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)

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

Moved *out-of-camera* at 10:21 p.m. Moved by K. Howells ▾ and seconded by I. Khurram ▾ . Motion carried.

14. NEW BUSINESS

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

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

RESOLUTION

No resolution required. ▾

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

DISCUSSION

No discussion. ▾

RESOLUTION

No resolution required. ▾

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

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