

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

GROUP	Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU)
LOCATION	In-person (OTSU Office)
DATE & TIME	July 20, 2026, 6:04p.m. – 8:20 p.m.
NOTE TAKER	Alan Griffiths
ATTENDEES	Directors: Faculty of Social Science & Humanities & Chair, Keenan Howells; Faculty of Science & Vice-Chair, Alya Rasoul; Faculty of Education, Victoria Byrne; Graduate Studies, Nikkita Singh, Faculty of Health Science Ifra Khurram Executives: President & Kailey Haskell; VP Downtown, Ryan Stoddart; VP Student Life, Shariq Abdul-Wahid; VP Student Affairs, Anwoy Barua OTSU Staff: Interim General Manager, Josh Sankarlal, Financial Controller, Mayooraan Thuraiarah Guests: Alan Griffiths
REGRETS	Faculty of Business and Information Technology - Arjun Ariaran

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called into order at 6:04p.m. Moved by V. Byrne and seconded by N. Singh. Motion carried.

2. TERRITORIAL RECOGNITION-

The board Chair delivered the Ontario Tech University Territorial Recognition.

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

DISCUSSION

The agenda was amended to include the ratification of Director of Engineering and the addition of new business item to discuss downtown campus orientation budget.

RESOLUTION

Moved by N. Singh and seconded by A. Ariaran. Motion carried.

In favour - 5 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve approves the agenda as amended.

4. Ratification of Director of Engineering and Applied Science

DISCUSSION

The HR committee has recommended Mahathir Chowdhury for the Director of Engineering and Applied Science Board of Director position.

RESOLUTION

Moved by N. Singh and seconded by I. Khurram. Motion carried.

In favour - 5 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the ratification of Mahathir Chowdhury for the Director of Engineering and Applied Science Board of Director position.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes of the Board June 15, 2026

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

Moved by A. Rasoul and seconded by V. Byrne. Motion carried.

In favour - 5 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the meeting minutes for May 19, 2026.

6. Executive Reports

DISCUSSION

The president and executive team members reports were received by the board, highlights from the report are as follows.

The Board received the Presidents Report for July 2026. The President reported on advocacy and government-relations activities, including participation in the CASA PoliStrat Conference and committees, meetings with university leadership and local student associations, and outreach to MPs and municipal candidates. Committee work focused on recruiting student-at-large members for the Policy and Awards Selection Committees, with the Awards Committee considering graduate funding, merit-based bursaries, and community engagement awards.

The Board received the Vice President of Student Life's Executive Report for July 2026. The Vice President of Student Life reported on the development of a Clubs and Societies focus group, participation in the Alumo Summit, and management of Faculty of Education Student Association hiring activities. Ongoing projects included the bidet initiative, development of the OTSU NetWorks career networking and mentorship program, renewal and expansion of student discount partnerships, and recruitment for the Clubs and Societies Committee.

The Board received the Vice President of Student Affairs' Executive Report for July 2026. The Vice President of Student Affairs reported on student advocacy efforts, including supporting a student through an academic dismissal appeal, participating in the Pride Parade, and contributing to OUSA policy development focused on 2SLGBTQIA+ students. Government relations activities included meeting with local MPP Jennifer French to discuss issues affecting students and opportunities for continued provincial advocacy; no updates were reported from the Student Advocacy & Advisory or Student Success Committees.

The Board received the Vice President of Downtown's Executive Report for July 2026. The Vice President of Downtown reported on student-focused content creation, outreach with faculty and local businesses, and efforts to address gaps in resources for downtown students, including exploring access to Canva for Campus. Committee work included interviewing candidates for the Downtown Campus Advisory Committee and proposing changes to its Terms of Reference, including renaming it the Downtown Student Advisory Committee (DSAC), revising membership, and reducing quorum requirements to improve participation and student advocacy

There were no additional questions from the Board.

The Vice President of Downtown made mention of a potential confusion from his report and executive project budgets and the overall organization budget that was being presented at a later time on the agenda.

RESOLUTION

Moved by N. Singh and seconded by A. Rasoul. Motion carried.

In favour - 6 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve collectively the executive reports for the month of July, 2026.

7. PRESIDENTIAL EXPENSES

DISCUSSION

Presidential expenses during the past month were \$833.35

No concerns brought forward.

RESOLUTION

Moved by I. Khurram and seconded by A. Rasoul. Motion carried.

In favour - 6 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the presidential expenses of \$833.35

8. OPERATIONAL REPORT

DISCUSSION

The Interim General Manager provided an update on key operational priorities, including preparations for the fall semester, modernization of OTSU's communications and marketing strategy, development of new promotional and student-focused video content, and planning for OTSU Fest and other fall programming. Marketing initiatives include redesigning *The Rundown*, reviewing the OTSU website and social media strategy, and increasing the use of physical campus spaces to better reach the commuter student population.

Events and Engagement preparations are underway for orientation and fall programming, including Pints & Politics, Town Halls, wellness initiatives, and other student events. A comprehensive Emergency Management Plan has been developed for the September 17 Main Stage event, while Clubs and Societies preparations include updated training, risk-management activities and the launch of Societies Week following orientation.

Additional operational updates included an increase in academic appeals involving allegations of generative AI use, improvements and programming developments within the eSports program, and preparations for collective bargaining ahead of the July 31 expiry of the staff collective agreement. The Interim General Manager also reported positive discussions with Ontario Tech leadership, plans to begin recruitment for the Human Resources Generalist in August, and preparation of an RFP to engage an external consultant for the upcoming governance review.

RESOLUTION

Moved by N. Singh and seconded by V. Byrne. Motion carried.

In favour - 6 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the operational report as presented.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

DISCUSSION

i. Awards Selection Committee

The Board received the Awards Selection Committee report for July 2026. The Awards Selection Committee recommended updates to its Terms of Reference, including adding an additional Executive member to the committee, removing the Committee Limitations section, and making general formatting and grammatical revisions. The Board has been asked to approve the proposed Terms of Reference changes

ii. Clubs and Societies Committee

The Board received the Clubs and Societies Committee report for July. The committee is in the process of hiring members at large for the coming year.

iii. Downtown Advisory Committee

The Board received the Downtown Advisory Committee report for July 2026. The Downtown Campus Advisory Committee report recommended appointments to the committee for the 2026–2027 year and proposed several updates to its Terms of Reference, including renaming it the Downtown Student Advisory Committee (DSAC), revising membership composition and terms, and streamlining meeting procedures. The report also proposed reducing or removing quorum requirements to address previous difficulties achieving quorum and ensure downtown student advocacy can continue effectively throughout the year.

The Board approved the ratification of appointment of members, amended quorum at 50 % of the student members and 1 of 2 board members.

The Board approved the committee TOR amendments as presented.

iv. Elections Committee

The Board received the Elections Committee report. No report was provided as the Committee has not yet met.

v. Finance Committee

The Board received the Finance Committee report. The Committee met to review the proposed 2026–2027 operating budget and provided guidance to the Financial Controller and Finance team during its development. The proposed budget was subsequently brought forward to the Board for consideration and approval at this meeting.

vi. Student Advocacy & Advisory Committee

The Board received the Student Advocacy & Advisory Committee report. No report was provided as the Committee has not yet met. Next meeting on the 30th.

vii. Policy Committee

The Board received the Policy Committee report for July 2026.

viii. Human Resources Committee

The Board received the Human Resources Committee report. No meeting as the committee didn't meet.

RESOLUTION

Moved by I. Khurram and seconded by V. Byrne. Motion carried.

In favour - 6 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

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

10. GOVERNANCE & OPERATIONS REVIEW

DISCUSSION

The Interim General Manager presented the proposed Governance and Organizational Renewal Review, outlining a two-phase process focused on strengthening governance effectiveness, organizational stability, accountability, and alignment with OTSU's student-focused mission. The Board was asked to establish a committee to oversee a competitive RFP and consultant selection process, with an anticipated project cost of \$20,000-\$30,000 and the Board retaining final approval authority throughout the review.

The board approved the following motion.

THAT the Board of Directors approve the Governance and Organizational Renewal Review as outlined in this report;

AND THAT the Board establish a Governance and Organizational Renewal Committee comprised of:

Two (2) Board Members; One (1) Executive Team Member; The General Manager/Executive Director; and The Financial Controller;

AND THAT the committee be responsible for overseeing the project on behalf of the Board and provide monthly progress reports on project activities, timelines, and recommendations.

THAT the Governance and Organizational Renewal Committee be authorized to develop and issue a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for qualified consulting services to undertake the Governance and Organizational Renewal Review;

AND THAT the committee evaluate and rank all proposals received and present its recommendation to the Board of Directors for final approval prior to entering into any agreement with a consultant;

AND THAT the Board acknowledge the anticipated project budget to be in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000, with the final project cost to be determined through the competitive procurement process and subject to Board approval;

AND THAT the Board of Directors retain final approval authority over the selection of the consultant, project budget, project scope, major deliverables, governance recommendations, proposed bylaw amendments, and all significant implementation decisions arising from this initiative;

AND THAT any proposed amendments to the OTSU Bylaws resulting from this review be presented to the Board of Directors for approval prior to being brought forward to the membership for consideration at the **Winter 2027 Special General Meeting (SGM)**.

RESOLUTION

Moved by V. Byrne and seconded by A. Rasoul. Motion carried.

In favour - 6 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the governance and operation review project as proposed.

11. In-Camera

DISCUSSION

Motion into in camera at 7:17pm.

Move out of camera 7:52 pm

RESOLUTION

Moved by N. Singh and seconded by V. Byrne. Motion carried.

In favour - 6 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve moving in-camera.

12. NEW BUSINESS – Downtown Campus Orientation Funding

DISCUSSION

Downtown VP Ryan and President Kailey presented a proposal addressing the distribution of OTSU's orientation funding between the North and Downtown campuses. The proposal noted that Downtown students represent approximately 20-30% of the student population and recommended allocating the \$40,000 general orientation budget proportionally based on student enrolment, while maintaining the existing \$3,500 supplemental Downtown allocation. The proposed approach was intended to improve equity between campuses and establish a more transparent and consistent approach to orientation funding.

During the discussion, many Board members expressed support for the current budget process and noted that staff may have misrepresented or inadequately explained how the existing orientation budget is intended to operate. Board members emphasized that the orientation budget is intended to serve all Ontario Tech students and questioned the need to formally separate funding between the North and Downtown campuses. The Board also recommended establishing a Student Events and Engagement Committee to provide oversight and direction to the General Manager and events team in the planning and delivery of future events

RESOLUTION

Moved by A. Rasoul and seconded by N. Singh. Motion carried.

In favour - 6 | Opposed - 0 | Abstained - 0

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the executive team to draft a proposal for the establishment of a OTSU Events and Engagement Committee

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCUSSION

No discussion.

RESOLUTION

No resolution required.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.