



BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE
DATE: Thursday, July 25th, 2024
TIME: 11:00 - 01:00 pm
LOCATION: Virtually- Zoom Apps

Note: Please ensure to add the attendance if they are attending virtually or at the venue and the Proxy name and title if being represented.

AUSU BOARD MEMBERS	TITLE	AUTHORIZED PROXY NAME	ATTENDANCE P- Virtual P- On the venue
Minion Paul (V)	AUSU President		P- Virtual
Abdul Hayyi (V)	VP Campus Affairs		P- Virtual
Nidhi Patel (V)	VP Student Life		P- Virtual
Cheryl Toulouse (V)	VP Indigenous		A
Anvi Thakkar (V)	Brampton Representative		P- Virtual
Wayne Thompson (V)	Timmins Representative		P- Virtual
Pushya Patel (V)	Accessibility Representative		P- Virtual
Karma Gurung (NV)	International Representative		P- Virtual
Ashwin Sharma (NV)	Business Representative		P- Virtual
Pushp Magoo (NV)	Cross Cultural Representative		A
Ryan Mwaura (V)	Queer & Trans Representative		A
Nina Toulouse (V)	SASA President/ Rep		P- Virtual
Vani (NV)	Faculty of Science Representative		P- Virtual

AUSU BOARD MEMBERS	TITLE	AUTHORIZED PROXY NAME	ATTENDANCE P- Virtual P- On the venue
Harleen Dhillon (NV)	Faculty of Humanities and Social Science Representative		A
Vidhi (V)	Women's Affairs Representative		P- Virtual
Sierra Macslaac (NV)	Residence Representative		A
Vacant	Mature & Part time Representative		-
STAFF NAME	TITLE		
Teresa Placha (NV)	Ombudsperson		P- Virtual
Marissa Ditoro (NV)	Equity Centre Director		P- Virtual
Matt Trainor (NV)	General Manager		P- Virtual
Hunter Greer (NV)	Finance Manager		P- Virtual
John Holland (NV)	Food Service Manager		A
Brenna Tomas (NV)	Communication & Marketing Lead		A
Gurwinder Chawla (NV)	Food Pantry Coordinator		A
Arjan Suri (NV)	Brampton Facilitator		A
Keila Kontulainen (NV)	Media Coordinator		A
Alma Bau (NV)	Admin Assistant		P- Virtual

Legend:

V- Voter

NV- Non Voter



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, July 25th, 2024

TIME: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Chairperson: Andrea Ryall, AUSU Board Chair

1. Land Acknowledgement:

“As members and employees of Algoma University Student Union (AUSU) of Algoma University (AU), we acknowledge that we are on Robinson-Huron Treaty, treaty 19, and Treaty 9 territory, and that the land on which we gather is in the traditional territory which spans across Sault Ste. Marie (Bawating), Brampton and Mississauga (Mississaugas), and Timmins (Cree) campuses respectively.

We also acknowledge that we serve the community based on sacred lands set aside for education as envisioned by Chief Shingwauk for our peers, children, and for those as yet unborn. Let us embrace that vision and commit to working towards bringing this vision into creation through the work that we do together.”

2. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 am, by Andrea Ryall, AUSU Board Chairperson for this year.

Motion:	Be it resolved that the July 25th, 2024 meeting be called at 11:09 am.		
Mover:	President	Second:	Brampton Rep.
Discussion:	None		
Vote count:	In favour: 6	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0
Action:	Approved unanimously		

3. Attendance – (Board Members and Staff)

Andrea took everyone's attendance

4. Approval of the Agenda (2024/00:000)

Motion:	Be it resolved that the July 25th, 2024 meeting agenda be approved as presented.		
Mover:	Faculty of Science Representative	Second:	VP Campus Affairs
Discussion:	None		
Vote count:	In favour: 6	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0
Action:	Approved unanimously		

5. Approval of Previous Minutes (2024/00:000)

[Minutes of meeting dated June 20, 2024](#)

Motion:	Whereas meeting minutes dated June 20, 2024, have been pending approval; be it resolved that minutes are approved as presented.		
Mover:	President	Second:	VP Campus Affairs
Discussion	Minion requested all the board members to go through the minutes from the last meeting and take a look at their respective parts, so that if there are any corrections to be made, they can be resolved.		
Vote count:	In favour: 7	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0
Action:	Motion has been carried.		

6. Adoption of Reports: (2024/00:000)

6.1. Executives' Skills Report - Presentation

- [Skills Report](#) - Abdul Hayyi
- [Skills Report](#) - Karma Gurung
- [Skills Symposium](#) - Vani

- [Skills Symposium](#) - Anvi Thakkar
- [Skills Symposium](#) - Vidhi
- [CFS Report](#) - Pushya Patel

Abdul, Wayne, and Anvi prepared a slide show as the executive team that was on the skills symposium this year.

VP Campus Affairs, Abdul Hayyi talked about their trip to York university, where they represented themselves as the board. He presented his part, talked about what campaigns are, why student campaigns are important, and how do you organize a campaign? These were the different questions that were raised, and were answered in the Skills Symposium.

He then explained a chart that presented different steps to effectively organize campaigns and conduct research before launching a campaign. Abdul also stated that the success of any communication and media engagement depends on how well one can create, control, and share the message with students and members and also to the general public and the decision makers. He talked about the importance of learning the do's and don'ts of engaging your membership. "The key to a successful campaign, event or movement are people who organize and support the work that you are putting in." A core value of student organizing a concept of strength in numbers where students are stronger together, then they are alone. He said that AUSU, as the organizer of the campaign, should make sure that the campaigns are outliving them.

Timmins Representative, Wayne Thompson presented his part titled: Our Core - Not Our Core. He talked about one of the topics, which was, who is our core, the people that can help us, and who is not our core. To begin with, Wayne stated, the "core" is made up of different people, namely the "Activists", these are the ones on our side, they're ready, they're willing to help us out, and these are the people one can count on, "Supporters", those who agree with the campaign but do not want to engage. These people can be used in other roles such as, for making posters, drivers, volunteers, etc., "Disengaged", they are part of the student body that says they are busy, but they are potential supporters and/or future Activists.

Wayne further talked about other potential cores, such as other student unions- Lakehead, Laurentian, Sault College, and the association with the Northern College Student Association where the Timmins campus is. There's local unions such as Steelworkers. He talked about AUSU's good relation with AU Teachers' Union and Canadian Federation of Students which also have great resources to help.

Wayne explained about the people that are "not our core". One needs to define who has the power, and who makes these decisions to understand who is not our core. When things happen at AU, the President and the Board of Governors have

the power to decide what they are going to do. Wayne also cautioned about some right-wing organizations that look like student unions but they will hop onto the campaign simply to promote their own message. He further stated that there are some MPPs/MPs and Media who are not going to like what AUSU is doing, but there are some who are there to help, and one needs to research this in order to be careful and decide who of those groups are with us and who are not. He briefly mentioned the importance of basic communication around the campaigns. A lot of campaigns will fail because the people in the campaigns, the volunteers, supporters, the advocates are not updated on what is actually happening. One needs to make sure that all of the volunteers know what the campaigns are about, their role and how they can help.

Brampton Representative, Anvi Thakkar proceeded with the action plans and strategic planning needed for effective campaigns. She talked about 4 main parts, namely goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics. Beginning with Goals, she explained that goals are the ultimate destinations of the campaigns, outlining what one hopes to accomplish. She stated that in order to create an effective campaign, it is important to distinguish between all the 4 steps and know what is important in what steps.

The 1st step in any campaign is to define the goal and the sub goal. The 2nd step would be the Objectives. "Are the specific actions taken to achieve these goals within a specified time frame, serving as a roadmap, outlining the plan of action?" She further explained about the 3rd step Strategies, which are the overarching plans that guide our campaign to achieve the objectives, whereas Tactics on the other end are the specific tools or actions. She mentioned that it is very important to avoid focusing solely on tactics without understanding their role in the overall strategy. Effective campaigns integrate tactics that support a well-defined strategy allowing all the resources to be channeled more efficiently, and goals to be met faster. Anvi also stated that understanding and distinguishing between these elements will allow for more strategic thinking that each action contributes meaningfully towards campaign success and that there is no misrepresentation happening in other ways.

In addition to that, she mentioned that any campaigns must need a very strong message in order to guarantee that the membership is aware of its goals. In absence of storyline, the campaign runs the risk of being distorted and the risk of misrepresentation. Hence, membership engagement and tabletop skills are essential for effective outreach to give enough information without overwhelming potential supporters. A balanced strategy is required.

Wayne then took over. **Educate - Agitate - Evaluate - Document.** Wayne mentioned how it is important to assign an AUSU member as a recordkeeper for the campaigns, and this needs to be done at the planning stage. At the same time, it is crucial to communicate to Our Core regularly - schedule an AM and PM info

release. He also stated that all the documents and daily records need to be reviewed each day and retained in AUSU secure archives.

Furthermore, Wayne talked about how some students might think that Algoma University is this powerful entity, and one can't go against them. But he mentioned this line presented by the 2 ladies at the presentation, that *“Students are not victims; they're capable of making the student movement powerful!”* So, our successes may seem small, but they are steps forward. The Exec and Board may not finish the task, it may not be done by the stated deadline, but hopefully they will leave a pretty good strong groundwork for future executives and staff to move forward.

Abdul requested other board members, who were also in the skills symposium to add their thoughts and experience.

International Representative, Karma Gurung talked about how AUSU as a union should be upholding. He suggested that AUSU should have a map of all the goals for the students to have a bigger picture of a certain goal that needs to be imposed on the university, and also how to break down that goal into strategies. He then briefly explained about 'Analyzing the power in the University'.

Accessibility Representative, Pushya Patel mentioned how he was moved by the Slogan presented at the start of the seminar i.e., “Students united will never be defeated.” He mentioned the Campaigns run by CFS - Fight for Fees for the past 7 years. He also acknowledged the SSM members for giving the Brampton folks to express their concerns and discuss some common ideas and grounds which played a dynamic role in shaping the thoughts of students as well as the Board members.

Faculty of Science Representative, Vani stated that sometimes students might mistake us as one of the authorities from the university. It is our duty to win Students' trust and support and make them believe that AUSU stands with the students.

6.2. Equity Centre Report - Marissa Ditoro

Equity Centre Director, Marissa Ditoro did a quick run through of the food pantry, people's garden and pride center.

She stated that from January 2024 to date, the Food Pantry has received approx. 9,500 visits, with around 1,500 visits taking place in the month of June. She mentioned that the food pantry is quite a far-reaching service, which is great, but also not great, seeing that these many folks are in need. Access has dropped slightly throughout the summer months, but is expected to rise sharply in fall as more students arrive back to campus. The recent announcement of caps on international students is not expected to affect Food Pantry services, and the team expects the same trends and access numbers to continue, despite a projected

drop in student enrollment. Marissa said that they are expecting a rise at a rate of approximately 15-25% each month, which is why the Food Pantry is seeking out additional space, inventory resources, and partnerships.

In terms of local organizations, Marissa noted that there is a great support to the food pantry, especially from Harvest Algoma, which provides them with a large bulk of donations on a weekly and a monthly basis. Community connections have been a large focus the past couple of months, which includes Hearterra, a local organization that focuses on sustainability. She stated that a large majority of what Food pantry is sourcing is local, which then reduces costs, builds relationships, and helps connect students to the community as well.

The volunteer program continues to grow and is developing further. So, the volunteers that are joining have a larger opportunity to develop skills, and other opportunities, like taking part in projects, advocacy, campaigns, helping with the food pantry app, and so on. This gives them a lot of real life experience in a setting that is safer, affirming, and they have opportunities to make mistakes without having high risk of making those mistakes out in the courses, job field.

Marissa briefly talked about the ongoing campaign, called “Rock the Jar”, where students are requested to bring their own jars or containers to pick up items instead of sectioning out into individual plastic bags which contributes to waste. She mentioned that this is where a large chunk of money is spent on.

Marissa also gave a big shout out to the Food Pantry team.

She talked about the plans to expand food security services and support in Brampton and Timmins.

People’s Garden: Marissa mentioned that People's Garden is currently thriving - new beds installed last summer that weren't able to be used as much - off to a good start. Facilitating about 10 volunteers for the team, and working very closely with the pantry to make sure that there's an overlap between what is grown in the garden, and what's being offered in the pantry. She mentioned about the medicines that have been planted in the garden, namely tobacco, sage, and sweet grass. She also mentioned moving towards indoor planting in the winter, making sure that those medicines will be planted inside as well and cared for in a good way.

Using good practices. There have been some issues with invasive species, but making sure about not using pesticides, but using things like oil and soapy water. Making sure that any type of waste from the food pantry or garden is used in a good way, whether it's composting, making sure that every part of the plant is used.

Pride Center: Marissa mentioned that visits to the Pride Centre ranged from an average of 30- 50 individuals a week, with the majority of students as visitors, with the next biggest group being staff and faculty looking for resources or information, particularly those from Brampton, virtual emails looking for information. And while this is great to see the space that is being used so much, unfortunately, the space is not always used by queer, trans folks as a safer space, often it tends to be co-

opted by folks that are not using it for the intended purpose, which is to act as a safer space for queer, trans folks and to access resources. She stated that they are trying to develop a plan to address that while other people are welcome as well. Marissa also talked about other issues in the center, including theft of items. Cameras have been installed in the Pride Centre to partially address this issue, and Food Pantry and People’s Garden staff will support office hours in the Pride Centre as available until staffing is provided. She further mentioned the events and programs offered. Recent events have included a large number of drag events, some service drop in spaces, and thrifting events with the food pantry and garden. She stated that priority focus areas of the Pride Centre have been to continue to develop relationships and partnerships with local Queer and Trans organizations, which include the Two-Spirit Organizing Committee, PFLAG SSM, Bawating Babes, Haus of Gore, and more.

Lastly, Marissa briefly talked about one of the ongoing campaigns through the Pride Center, which is an educational and engagement campaign with the use of the software platform, “Queering the Map” interactive map, in which sections of the map have been printed off, framed, and posted around the Sault Ste. Marie campus. Folks using the map are able to drop pins on a location and leave a message of their Queer and Trans experience, which seeks to build connection and understanding on a global level, as well as provide an opportunity to learn in a different format and method.

7. Voting Items: (2024/00:000)

7.1. Program Service Agreement

Motion:	Whereas the Program Management Service Agreement from the Student VIP has been completed and services have been delivered to AUSU. Be it resolved that the Program Management Services Agreement be extended for an additional 5-year term upon completion of the Initial term.		
Mover:	President	Second:	VP Campus Affairs
Discussion:	Minion mentioned that this is the agreement that they have at renewal, and it has basic terms and conditions. She also stated that this is just a procedural step.		
Vote count:	In favour: 7	Opposed: 0	Abstain:0
Action:	Motion has been approved.		

7.2. AUSU x Student VIP - Virtual Clinic

Whereas AUSU would be introducing a new service with Student VIP for the year 2024-25;

Whereas the new service would be the Virtual Clinic on all campuses;

Whereas the first-year cost for the service is to be incurred by AUSU;

Motion:	Be it resolved that AUSU would approve the service agreement and cost of \$446,040 for the virtual clinic.		
Mover:	President	Second:	VP Campus Affairs
Discussion:	<p>Minion stated that the board has received the agreement between Student VIP and AUSU. Student VIP is working actively with the Cleveland clinic to operate a new service called Virtual Clinic, which will be implemented on all campuses, from SSM to Mississauga, Timmins, and Brampton. Minion mentioned that she is aware that the devices used for the virtual clinic are not mentioned, and she did bring that up, and those will be included in the cost that we incur and they will be installed in all the places. AUSU is making sure that there are spaces for students where they can go safely and use the Virtual Clinic.</p> <p>She also mentioned a recent demo on SSM & Brampton Campus, which was successful.</p> <p>Minion stated that AUSU is taking the initiative to cover the cost for the 1st year, and students who were auto enrolled into the student VIP would benefit from the service. They will be enrolling this in the month of September, as the fall term starts, so that students can see how the service works and the Student VIP team will be on campus to show how to download the app to access virtual clinics and virtual healthcare.</p> <p>Andrea mentioned that the number that is stated above is, if all students do opt into the service of Student VIP.</p> <p>Minion stated that the numbers that are proposed are not the actual numbers that are estimated in the budget that was introduced last month, and the number definitely goes higher than that. After the estimation from the accurate number that has been received from the Student VIP Team on their enrollment as well as our own, and the received list from the Registrar Office, the numbers are a little higher. She stated that Hunter would be able to add more on how much higher AUSU is going above the budget. She also mentioned that this is a note for everyone in the board to review and ask questions about approving the service.</p>		
Vote count:	In favour: 7	Opposed: 0	Abstain:0

Action:	Motion has been approved.
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7.3. August Board meeting: August 29, 2024

Motion:	Be it resolved that the next scheduled Board meeting will be on August 29, 2024.		
Mover:	President	Second:	VP Student Life
Discussion:	Minion stated that the purpose of scheduling this meeting beforehand is so that AUSU can prepare as well as the student body is well aware about the next meeting. She acknowledged the few students who joined the meeting, and hoped for more members to show up.		
Vote count:	In favour: 5	Opposed: 0	Abstain:0
Action:	Motion has been approved.		

8. Discussion: (2024/00:0xx)

8.1. Lobby Week - President

Minion mentioned that Lobby week is regularly held by the CFS, so all the members as well as the board members are invited to join the Lobby week. The registration is open to all board members. She mentioned that everyone can register, but there will be an eligibility criterion and the CFS will have the right to choose or deny the registration. Minion stated that the form is open until August 13th, and all the information needed can be found in the provided document, and if anyone has any questions, they can either ask the CFS associates or they can email AUSU or the President herself.

8.2. Presidents' Vacation dates: August 14th to 19th & September 4th to 6th.

AUSU President, Minion Paul mentioned that it is important for the Exec and the board members to know that she will be out of the office during the above-mentioned dates. But she mentioned that she would be available for any questions or concerns to be answered or any assistance that would be needed from her side. In her absence, she will be delegating some of the work and some projects to the VPs and the Executives.

8.3. Townhall: August 28, 2024

- Theme: Fall Events & Campaigns

Andrea, the Board Chair, mentioned that the August Town Hall meeting will be on the 28th, and more information on the time and location will be shared by the executives to both the board and the student body.

VP Student Life, Nidhi Patel gave a brief overview on the fall events and campaigns. She prepared a sheet showcasing the events that they are planning for SSM and Brampton Campus. She mentioned that since no students have been registered in project management, considering that they are not planning anything for the Mississauga Campus. Also, Timmins Campus would be taken care of by Wayne.

Starting off with Brampton, previously it has been noticed that not many students are engaging in the club day and to address that, a collaborative event with resource and club day has been planned. Next is the Scavenger Hunt, followed by a Toronto Zoo trip, and an Outdoor Movie Event. She also mentioned about having an Indian cultural festival which will be hosted by a Malayali Club.

Nidhi further discussed the events planned for the SSM Campus, which includes Scavenger Hunt, Arcade Night, a collaborative event with resource and club day, Beach Day, etc. In addition to that, they have also planned a dance party, a neon dance party. Nidhi then briefly talked about the Cultural Festival Day with the city of SSM that they have planned, but is unsure about it since it depends on the city of SSM, if they are willing to do something.

Abdul Hayyi briefly talked about the campaigns and town halls. He mentioned that for the campaigns and town hall, it's just going to be an explanation on how AUSU is running different campaigns for the benefits of the students, and campaigns like that have already been approved by the board members. Some of the campaigns include Plastic-Free Campus, and working on the interest on the tuition fees.

Andrea mentioned that Timmins Events for orientation are in the works, but there is a picnic scheduled at the end of August.

9. Yummy Board Inc.

9.1. Meal Plan Policy

Motion:

Whereas 1000653146 Ontario Inc provides the meal plan for residence students

Whereas a policy is required to administer the meal plan

Whereas 1000653146 Ontario Inc has drafted a meal plan policy based on student feedback and business needs.

Motion:	Be it resolved 1000653146 Ontario Inc approves the Meal Plan policy for implementation during the 2024/25 academic year and will ensure the policy is reviewed annually.		
Mover:	Brampton Rep.	Seconded:	Timmins Rep.
Discussion	<p>Andrea mentioned that since this agenda item is only for board members, those who are not on the AUSU Board would have to leave the meeting.</p> <p>Cross Cultural Representative, Pushp Magoo shared his thoughts on how the meal plan is a benefit for the students. He stated that all the people living in residence, every time they have a meal plan, it is very helpful for them since they won't have to worry about going out of the campus for food.</p> <p>No more discussion</p>		
Vote count:	In favour: 5	Opposed: 1	Abstain: 0
Action:	Motion has been carried		

Having no questions and discussion the chairperson proceeded with the next agenda item.

10. Adjournment (2024/00:000)

Motion:	Be it resolved 1000653146 Ontario Inc approves the Meal Plan policy for implementation during the 2024/25 academic year and will ensure the policy is reviewed annually.		
Mover:	Brampton Rep.	Seconded:	Timmins Rep.
Discussion	<p>Andrea mentioned that since this agenda item is only for board members, those who are not on the AUSU Board would have to leave the meeting.</p> <p>Cross Cultural Representative, Pushp Magoo shared his thoughts on how the meal plan is a benefit for the students. He stated that all the people living in residence, every time they have a meal plan, it is very helpful for them since they won't have to worry about going out of the campus for food.</p> <p>No more discussion</p>		
Vote count:	In favour: 5	Opposed: 1	Abstain: 0
Action:	Motion has been carried		

Recording Secretary:

Humaira

Humaira Ughradar
Recording Secretary - AUSU

01 / 10 / 2024

Date

Approved by:

A. Ryall


Andrea Ryall
Board Chair - AUSU

26 / 09 / 2024

Date

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