



Special BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE
DATE: Friday, August 2nd, 2024
TIME: 1:00 - 2:00 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		A

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		-
Marissa Ditoro (NV)	Equity Centre Director		-
Matt Trainor (NV)	General Manager		-
Hunter Greer (NV)	Finance Manager		P- Virtual
John Holland (NV)	Food Service Manager		-
Brenna Tomas (NV)	Communication & Marketing Lead		P- Virtual
Gurwinder Chawla (NV)	Food Pantry Coordinator		-
Arjan Suri (NV)	Brampton Facilitator		-
Keila Kontulainen (NV)	Media Coordinator		-
Alma Bau (NV)	Admin Assistant		P- Virtual

Legend:

- V- Voter
- NV- Non Voter



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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.

We aspire to create a community that honors the land we reside and work on and build a community based on respect, and honesty. We remind ourselves to come with clean and positive intentions as we work together to make AUSU a better place.

We remind ourselves about the land and space we are in, so we continue to respect and honor it.

2. Call to Order: 11:xx AM

The meeting was called to order at 01:05 pm, by Andrea Ryall, AUSU Board Chairperson.

3. Attendance(Board Members and Staff)

4. Approval of the Agenda

Motion:	Be it resolved that the August 02, 2024 meeting agenda be approved as presented.
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Mover:	VP Campus Affairs	Second:	Brampton Rep.
Discussion:	None		
Vote count:	In favor: 5	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0
Action:	Approved unanimously		

5. **Voting Items: (2024/00:0xx)**

5.1. **Media Release Vote of no Confidence**

Whereas Algoma University Faculty Association (represented in bargaining by OPSEU Local 685) has recently voted in no confidence in the Algoma University President, regarding the depleting quality of education, lack of student support services, and lack of transparency in governance, as students continue to suffer from the negligent behavior of the Algoma University Administration.

Whereas AUSU shares the concerns as Algoma University Faculty Association (represented in bargaining by OPSEU Local 685)

Motion:	Be it resolved that AUSU releases a media statement “Algoma University Students’ Union (AUSU) stands with the recent vote of no confidence in AU President”		
Mover:	President	Second:	VP Campus Affairs
Key Takeaways:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board Chair, Andrea Ryall noted about the staff concerns. She stated that there will be no staff’s name included in this media release. • SASA decided to abstain from voting on the media release, focusing on core objectives of supporting First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students. • Main discussion focused on a media release supporting a no - confidence vote in the AU President. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minion: Detailed the process of leading up to the media release, meetings with AU, and the lack of university response to student concerns. • Abdul Hayyi: Emphasized commitment to board decisions despite personal risks. • Brenna: Staff advice and concerns. • Motion passed to send out the media release. 		
Vote count:	In favor: 5	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 2
Action:	Motion passed, the media release will be sent out		

Main Discussion:

SASA: SASA President/ Rep, Nina Toulouse stated that SASA has met recently in regards to the No Confidence Vote in AU President, and they have decided to maintain a neutral stance regarding this topic. She mentioned about issuing a letter (she would forward it to the board later), which states about SASA formally informing AUSU about their decision to abstain. The letter further emphasizes on their core objective, which is to provide support and advocacy for the First nation, Metis, and Inuit student population. In conclusion, Nina mentioned that their decision to abstain from voting will enable them to continue providing services to all students without any kind of bias or prejudice.

AUSU President, Minion Paul expressed her gratitude and respect towards Nina and SASA.

Minion mentioned the Special BOD meeting held on June 21st, where AUSU as a team discussed many issues, and a majority of board members communicated the need to share the media release. The action items that were presented:

- Providing the first step, a letter of support to the board of governors of AU, as well as the faculty union, which Minion mentioned is done.
- Meeting with the Chair and the Vice Chair of the AU Board Governors. Met them on July 22nd.

Minion mentioned how they faced pushback when they requested the Faculty Union's spokesperson, Alice, to be in that room.

Another reason for the delay was due to the change in the fee structure, which pushed back a little bit on the work that was asked to be done.

Minion further mentioned their meeting with the AU administration, where they met Kramer Rousseau, Asima Vezina, Ilham Panjani, and Ken scullion and discussed the fee payment structure with them.

Also discussed a lot of concerns with them, i.e., issues about students expressing their feelings and their suicidal thoughts.

Didn't receive any answers or even support from the university side. The AU president chose not to speak on that topic or even offer support to the students or even release a statement from her office to show or provide mental health support to the student body, which again gave an idea that the students' mental health is not a priority to AlgomaU.

Minion briefly gave an overview of their meeting with the Chair and the Vice-chair, where they had a discussion over the decision to move forward with the removal of the AU president, as there have been issues with the leadership. She mentioned how they were given the same, cold behavior and were not given a lot of answers and no clear directions.

Currently, the AU board stands in support of the AU president, and they are very stern on their decision at this point, regardless of all the concerns that have been brought forward by the Faculty Association and AUSU.

Hence, Minion herself, and other executives continued to work on the media release, which took a little while to get back with all that was also underway. She stated that they have finally reviewed it, and have shared it in the executive chat for everyone's review, as well as with some of the staff members, who were present at the June 21st special meeting. As decided and requested by the board, a clear statement is provided for approval and it is now the board's decision on how they would like to move forward.

She mentioned that the names on the letter are of herself and Abdul. Minion also made it clear that going ahead with this statement, it does become the statement of AUSU. So if this is released, then whoever is a part of AUSU cannot contradict the statement because this is the decision of the board. Hence, if anyone does speak to go against it, that's acceptable, it's their decision, and they're allowed to have opinions from all sides.

Brenna's message:

[In response to the last-minute board meeting with the press release. This has not been endorsed or reviewed by staff, therefore it must only come from the students and their position titles. It cannot be released on behalf of the entire Algoma University Students' Union.

There are proper avenues to have this completed which were not explored. Staff does not want to be associated with the individual work of the student board and passed off as AUSU work if not consulted, with best practices methods properly followed.

At this time, 40 days from the first release, mediation has begun. This release will only show dishonestly on behalf of AUSU in what has been represented to the Task Force that is actively working towards solutions.

More consultation would be required for endorsement of the release.

Thank you.]

Minion addressed Brenna's concerns regarding her statement of staff not being consulted, which is not true, as she mentioned that Matt has been in the meetings and he should be the one sharing it with all the staff members.

Abdul encouraged the staff members to provide their thoughts and advice.

Andrea and Abdul asked Brenna, AUSU Communication & Marketing Lead about the chat that was sent in the zoom meeting about including her and staff advice in the report, and to clarify what that means.

Brenna responded that it's to be associated with the presentation.

Minion mentioned that it is the board's decision, and it was her job to create this as requested by the board. She further clarified that it is not her personal opinion, it's touched by the board. She received revised statements from Matt, Lisa, and Alice. She again clarified that it is the decision of the board, and they can choose to vote against it, if this is something that's going to cause issues to them personally.

Minion and Abdul emphasized their commitment to the board's decisions despite personal risks.

"My name is personally attached to it. I will be affected by it for sure as I'm graduating soon, next year. And I will be contacted as the first person.

My name is there, and as an executive, the President of AUSU, I do speak for AUSU and on behalf of AUSU. So, I am putting myself out there as a person of added contact when I do speak up."

Abdul further added to Minion's statements regarding their names on the media release. He said that he personally would not want his name on the letter, since he is still a student and it may affect his future as well. But, he further added, that one thing to understand when working with AUSU, is that he has to go by what the board says, since it's his job to abide by the board's decision and he is more than happy to do so. Abdul further stated that the same goes for the staff too.

Andrea clarified Brenna's request for not including the staff's name.

Wayne: Why was the communication officer not aware of this?

Minion clarified that she did share it with Matt, and then since he is higher than her, he could've shared it with anyone that he would have wanted. She further stated that she did ask him to look for any bigger perspective, any legal obligations that we may have.

6. **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn:	Whereas there is no further business for discussion. Be it resolved that this meeting be adjourned.		
Mover:	VP Campus Affairs	Seconded:	President
Vote count:	In favor: 9	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0
Time Adjourned	01:36 PM		

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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26 / 09 / 2024

10:19:03 UTC-4

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VIEWED

26 / 09 / 2024

13:03:58 UTC-4

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13:04:33 UTC-4

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01 / 10 / 2024

17:18:37 UTC-4

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17:18:53 UTC-4

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COMPLETED

01 / 10 / 2024

17:18:53 UTC-4

The document has been completed.