



OPEN BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE
DATE: Wednesday, January 31st, 2024
TIME: 4:00 -5:00 P.M
LOCATION:

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
VACANT	President (PRES)		-
Jeet Patel	VP Brampton Advocacy (BAV)		P- Virtual
Yug Modi	VP Brampton Programming (BIP)		P- Virtual
Minion Paul	VP SSM Advocacy (SAV)		P- Virtual
Andrea Ryall	VP SSM Programming (SIP)		P- Virtual

AUSU BOARD MEMBERS	TITLE	AUTHORIZED PROXY NAME	ATTENDANCE P- Virtual P- On the venue
Wayne Thompson	Timmins Campus Life Coordinator (TCLC)		P- On the venue
Adanko Mukhtar	International Representative (INT)		P- Virtual
Joanne Perrault	SASA Representative (SASA)		-
Qeila Mbonihankuye	Varsity Rep (VAR)		-
<i>VACANT</i>	Residence Rep (RESI)		-
<i>VACANT</i>	WUSC Rep (WUSC)		-
Somya Patel	Mature & Part Time Rep (MAPT)		P- Virtual
Mahima Choudhary	Queer & Trans Rep (QUTR)		-
Trishala Kulpesh Parmar	Women's Affairs Rep (WOM)		P- Virtual
Harleen Kaur	Accessibility Rep (ACC)		-
Sandra Kurian	Faculty of Cross Cultural Studies Rep (FCCS)		-

Nidhi Patel	Faculty of School of Business Rep (FBUS)		P- Virtual
Anamika Krishna	Faculty of Science Rep (FSCI)		-
Shawna Mornix	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Rep (FHSS)		P- Virtual

AUSU STAFF MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)	TITLE	AUTHORIZED PROXY NAME	ATTENDANCE P- Virtual P- On the venue



OPEN BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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TIME: 4:00 -5:00 P.M.

Chairperson: Ambika Veeran

- I. Attendance – (Board Members, Staff and Guest)**
- II. Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order at 4:12pm by the **Chairperson**, Algoma University Student Union (AUSU)
- III. 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.”

IV. Announcement:

AUSU Would like to Welcome to staff members:

- Zanzu Polycarp- Human Resource Manager
- Krutika Savla - Finance Coordinator

V. Approval of Previous Minutes: (motion to approve meeting minutes is requested)

■ **Open Board Meeting**

[Open Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes- Dec. 20, 2023](#)

VI. New Business:

- **Reports (Update):**

Discussion Item(s):	1. Equity Centre Report
Time Allotted:	13 Minutes
Information:	<p>The Equity Center Director provided a comprehensive overview of the center's ongoing endeavors and highlighted the proactive stance taken in the face of staffing constraints. Despite operational challenges, the center remains resolute in its commitment to meet the growing demands, particularly within the Food Pantry and People's Garden programs, which serve as crucial resources for marginalized communities. Efforts are underway to address programming pauses and ensure continued support for those in need.</p> <p>In tandem with addressing immediate needs, the Equity Center has embarked on strategic planning initiatives aimed at aligning services with evolving community requirements and fostering a culture of inclusivity. Notably, an equity audit has been initiated to assess the efficacy of existing policies and procedures, underscoring the center's dedication to promoting equity and diversity. These concerted efforts reflect the unwavering commitment of the Equity Center to cultivate an environment that embraces and supports diversity within the university community.</p>
Discussion:	<p>It was collectively acknowledged that meticulous planning and strategic approaches are paramount for ensuring the effective implementation of staffing adjustments and changes to board composition. This sentiment underscores the shared commitment to organizational excellence and financial prudence within the Algoma University Equity Center. Moving forward, the center remains steadfast in its dedication to promoting inclusivity and diversity, guided by principles of social justice and community well-being.</p>
Discussion Item(s):	2. Ombuds Report
Time Allotted:	5 Minutes

Information:	<p>The Ombudsperson delivered a comprehensive overview of pressing student concerns, notably addressing the surge in academic appeals stemming from elevated failure rates and grading discrepancies. In response to challenges within the appeals process, including case backlogs, the formation of additional review committees was proposed, with recommendations for their permanent integration to streamline operations. Recent protests have underscored the imperative for proactive measures, particularly in improving communication and accessibility of support services.</p> <p>Moreover, accommodations for students with medical needs and the handling of conduct complaints against professors were highlighted, signaling a necessity for bolstered faculty support structures and enhanced communication channels. Despite delays in official statements, AUSU's concerted efforts to tackle systemic challenges demonstrate a steadfast dedication to student welfare and upholding academic integrity. Moving forward, sustained collaboration and advocacy efforts will be pivotal in cultivating a more equitable and inclusive learning environment.</p>
Discussion:	By fostering collaboration and advocating for positive change, AUSU remains committed to promoting fairness, transparency, and inclusivity within the university community.
Discussion Item(s):	3. MCLC approval for staff position <i>(This item was changed from voting to discussion)</i>
Time Allotted:	5 minutes
Information:	<p>The discussion surrounding the proposal to establish a Mississauga Campus Life Coordinator (MCLC) staff position unveiled various perspectives among members. The BAV highlighted the pressing need for enhanced representation in Mississauga, pointing out the challenges faced by those commuting between campuses. However, the SAV expressed reservations about the proposal, particularly questioning the rationale behind it and its potential financial implications.</p> <p>Consequently, the conversation delved into the necessity of creating a new staff position without clear justification and the importance of considering financial aspects, especially given the pending financial statements. Despite differing viewpoints, the discourse underscored a shared recognition of the significance of equitable representation and efficient resource allocation within AUSU. Ultimately, the discussion highlighted the need</p>

	for further exploration and documentation before reaching a conclusive decision regarding the establishment of the MCLC staff position.
Discussion:	Consensus emerged as participants acknowledged the significance of illuminating representation gaps through the conversation. However, it was unanimously agreed upon that additional deliberation and comprehensive documentation are imperative to facilitate informed decision-making regarding the establishment of the MCLC staff position.
Discussion Item(s):	4. TCLC change to staff position <i>(This item was changed from voting to discussion)</i>
Time Allotted:	5 minutes
Information:	<p>The discussion revolved around the proposal to transition Campus Life Coordinator positions into staff roles, addressing concerns about representation and financial prudence. Participants expressed varied opinions, the TCLC advocated for the change to enhance representation in Mississauga and Timmins, while the Ombudsperson and the SAV stressed the need for more comprehensive financial planning before expanding staff positions. Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact of funding reductions, particularly in light of impending government caps on student enrollments, prompting a call for cautious financial management.</p> <p>Moreover, board members underscored the necessity of a strategic planning process involving input from various stakeholders, including financial considerations, staffing structures, and service provisions. It was emphasized that any changes to the composition of the board or staff roles should undergo a thorough strategic planning process and be subject to ratification by the student body during the Annual General Meeting, ensuring alignment with the organization's overall strategic goals and financial sustainability. Additionally, it was highlighted that board decisions must be made in awareness of governance procedures and with careful consideration of long-term organizational objectives.</p>
Discussion:	Everyone highlighted the importance of thoughtful planning and strategic decision-making to ensure organizational effectiveness and financial stability in navigating potential changes to staff roles and board composition.

- **Voting Items:**

Item(s):	1. Amendment to elevate interim president and voting items 4 and 5 to discussion items		
Motion:	The proposed amendment involves elevating the interim president's status from a discussion item to a voting item, alongside voting items 4 and 5, which pertain to MCLC approval for staff positions and TCLC change to staff position to a discussion item, respectively.		
Mover:	SIP	Seconders:	BAV
Discussion:	None.		
Vote Count:	In Favour: 6	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0

Item(s):	2. Yug Modi be appointed Interim President Following Isaac Withers' Resignation		
Motion:	Given Isaac Withers' resignation from the position of president, it is hereby resolved that Yug Modi assume the role of interim president, as no other member has volunteered for the position		
Mover:	SIP	Seconders:	BAV
Discussion:	Isaac's resignation as AUSU president was acknowledged by the board with a sense of understanding and appreciation for his dedication to the organization's goals. Expressing gratitude for his service, the board members wished him well in his future endeavors, recognizing his contributions and the challenges he faced. The unanimous agreement among all parties underscored the mutual respect and acknowledgment of Isaac's decision, reflecting a commitment to professionalism and the organization's broader objectives.		
Vote Count:	In Favour: 4	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 3

Item(s):	3. Policy Committee Approval		
Time Allotted:	5 Minutes		
Motion:	Where as there is a need for AUSU to update and create new policies and procedures be it resolved that a policy committee is approved		
Mover:	SIP	Second:	FHSS
Discussion:	Through extensive discussion, it's evident that enhancing and creating new policies is essential for organizational effectiveness. This decision underscores everyone's agreement on the imperative nature of bolstering AUSU's operational framework		
Vote Count:	In Favour: 6	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 1

Item(s):	4. Approval of AGM Date a. Exec Recommended date Saturday March 2nd		
Time Allotted:	5 Minutes		
Motion:	Be it resolved that AUSU AGM date is Saturday March 2nd		
Mover:	SIP	Second:	FHSS
Discussion:	Everyone agrees that it's evident that scheduling the AUSU AGM on Saturday, March 2nd, presents challenges due to members and students' weekend commitments. Unanimous agreement emerges to shift the AGM to a weekday, enhancing accessibility and participation, aligning with stakeholders' availability.		
Vote Count:	In Favour: 0	Opposed: 7	Abstain: 1

Item(s):	5. Approval of board meeting a. Exec Recommended Date Friday February 23		
Time Allotted:	5 Minutes		
Motion:	Be it resolved that AUSU next board meeting if Friday February 23rd		
Mover:	BIP	Seconders:	BAV
Discussion:	The motion has been passed, signifying the collective agreement to proceed with selecting a date for the upcoming meeting. The point was put forward that further delay would serve no purpose, and as such, it is imperative to expedite this process without unnecessary hesitation. In the interest of efficiency and ensuring timely deliberations, all involved parties are urged to cooperate in finalizing the scheduling arrangements promptly.		
Vote Count:	In Favour: 5	Opposed: 4	Abstain: 1

Item(s):	6. Motion to extend the meeting		
Motion:	Resolved hereby that the meeting's duration be extended by an additional 20 minutes to allow for the comprehensive discussion and resolution of pending matters in a thorough and efficient manner.		
Mover:	BAV	Seconders:	SIP
Discussion:	None.		
Vote Count:	In Favour: 8	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0

VII. Other Matters:

Voting Item(s):	Motion to move into in-camera session		
Motion:	Be it resolved that the meeting move into an in-camera session.		
Mover:	SIP	Seconders:	BAV
Vote Count:	In Favour: 6	Opposed: 1	Abstain: 1

VIII. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled on *23rd February 2024.*

IX. Adjournment:

Voting Item(s):	Motion to Adjourn		
Motion:	Be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned.		
Mover:	BAV	Seconders:	SIP
Discussion:	The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.		
Vote Count:	In Favour: 5	Opposed: 0	Abstain: 0

