



# AGM 2022 MEETING MINUTES

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<b>GROUP</b>	Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) General Members
<b>LOCATION</b>	Ontario Tech University, UA 1350
<b>DATE &amp; TIME</b>	November 24, 2022, 6:17 p.m. – 7:59 p.m.
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Human Resources Generalist & Chief Returning Officer, Kylie Zamora
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<p><b>Directors:</b> Chair and Faculty of Social Sciences &amp; Humanities, Samantha Brown; Vice Chair and Faculty of Science, James Lisondra; Faculty of Graduate Studies; Juan Carlo Alicaway; Faculty of Business and Information Technology, Amy Lee; Faculty of Education, Raagavi Parathan; Faculty of Health Sciences, Manisha Peters; Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Sujith Santharuban; Graduate Studies</p> <p><b>Executives:</b> President, Josh Sankarlal; VP Student Affairs, Corey Law; VP Student Life, Meaghan Good; VP Downtown, Dakoda Cluett</p> <p><b>Staff:</b> Executive Director, Erica Britton; Human Resources Generalist &amp; Chief Returning Officer, Kylie Zamora;</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Baker-Tilly</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Attended by 150+ Ontario Tech Student Union general members</p>
<b>REGRETS</b>	Financial Controller, Mayooran Thurairajah
<b>NOTES</b>	To view any of the documents included in the meeting material mentioned below, please contact <a href="mailto:otsu@ontariotechu.ca">otsu@ontariotechu.ca</a> .

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## OPENING PROCEDURES

### 1 CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called into order at 6:17 p.m. Moved by Nevil A. and seconded by Tejinder R. Motion carried.

Quorum is met with 150 attendees.

### 2 TERRITORIAL RECOGNITION

### 3 AGENDA APPROVAL

#### DISCUSSION

No discussion.

#### RESOLUTION

Moved by Hadi A. and seconded by Angelique D. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Tech Student Union approve the agenda for the 2022 AGM.

## AGENDA TOPICS

### 4 2021-2022 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Moved by Hadi A. and seconded by Emma A. Motion carried.

*Baker-Tilly shared their screen and presented the financial statements..*

#### DISCUSSION

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No discussion.

#### RESOLUTION

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Moved by Moved by Nick E. and seconded by Salma D. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Tech Student Union approve the financial statements as presented. (80 votes for approve. 16 votes for reject. 5 votes for abstain.)

### 5 CONFIRMATION OF 2022-2023 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

#### DISCUSSION

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- Marion W.: The revenue over expenses being not for profit, where is that one of the options for the upcoming year?
- President: Our surplus was \$500,000 last year. Similar to the years that we were operating in COVID-19, there were some unintended savings as a result of that and we also had some staffing changes resulting in retained salary. Some of the surplus is spent on Health and Dental plan.
- Blake P.: Specific plans to use the surplus this year?
- President: It is part of what we have. It is wrapped into the annual budget.
- Hadi A.: How is the exact pricing decided in the Health & Dental plan?
- President: We work with an insurance company, called Gallivan. They also work with a lot of students. Basically, we tell them what we are looking for. They [Gallivan] basically act as our broker and handle talks with the insurance provider [Canada Life]. Any bargaining we have and the price they give us back is essentially what they demand to bargain
- Blake P.: Is there a specific breakdown of what cost goes to our budget?
- President: Financial audits are available on the OTSU website.
- Dia K.: How do you decide where we allocate or what benefits we're looking for?
- President: Some benefits are for yourself based on what the insurance plan provided. This is also something that falls under the portfolio of myself and the VP Student Life. In the previous years, there was an increased coverage in birth control making it a 100% coverage. If there is something we find that you need, reach out to me on that matter.
- Tanya: Why were students charged less tuition during the online semester?
- President: The OTSU is a separate organization. There is an upcoming workshop budget. We will be advertising it. You can pass through us during budget workshops. Cannot speak on behalf of the university.

Amanda: Can you potentially include other services like invisalign / orthodontist moving forward?

President: We'll take that concern into consideration.

#### RESOLUTION

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Moved by Hadi A. and seconded by Nick B. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Tech Student Union confirm Baker-Tilly as the 2022–2023 auditors.

(87 votes for approve. 11 vote for reject. 2 votes for abstain.)

### 6 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Moved by Tanya M and seconded by Aman Z. Motion carried.

#### DISCUSSION

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No discussion.

#### RESOLUTION

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Moved by MaryCae S. and seconded by Kiara D. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ontario Tech Student Union approve the 2021 AGM minutes as presented.

(92 votes for approve. 6 vote for reject. 3 votes for abstain.)

### 7 BYLAWS

*The president presented proposed changes to the Bylaws as shown below.*

#### NON-MATERIAL BYLAW AMENDMENTS:

- 1.1.34 change “studen” to “student”;
- 1.136 change “service” to “serving”;
- 2.5 erroneously refers to sections 2.9, correct to reflect section 2.14 and 2.15;
- 2.9 change “proscribed” to “prohibited” and change reference to 8.7 to 8.8;
- 2.6 clarify cessation of part-time non-voting membership is to occur at the end of the academic year;
- 3.7 including that the proxy form be included in the contents of notice;
- 5.1 change wording to clarify that the board chair does not cast a tie-breaking vote during board meetings;
- 5.6 add wording to say both the member and the proxy must sign the same form when registering the proxy and also add section detailing how proxy forms will be dispersed;
- 6.5 redirection section reference from 6.9 to 6.10;
- 6.6 clarify language that board members can be elected to two terms of two years each;
- 6.7 include language referencing third party investigators;
- 7.3.8 remove June 30 deadline;
- 8.1 adding that electronic meetings are permissible plus extending notice of meetings to board meetings from 72 hours to 1 week;

#### DISCUSSION

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Taha S.: Board members could be elected for 2 terms of two years each? Why only 2 years?

President: Board as a governance body requires additional context to make decisions. Second guaranteed terms allow the board to have experienced members guide new board members in our meetings.

The two term maximum aligns with the 2 term maximums for executives.

Blake P.: Why are you implementing third party investigators as it can be very expensive?

President: Having those independent investigators assures transparency and accountability if something does happen. It's a best practice if it becomes necessary.

Motion to adopt the non-material changes to the by-laws moved by Hadi A., seconded by Rish V.

#### MATERIAL BYLAW AMENDMENTS:

Notice of meetings of members

3.6.1 and 3.6.2 removing the sections that obliges notice of AGM to go through mail and replacing with provisions that notice be sent through university email Also adding a section that allows the executive to communicate in any other method that they deem appropriate

Board composition change it from 8 members to 7 members as a result of the university amalgamating two faculties

Motion to approve and adopt the material Bylaw amendments as presented moved by Nick B. and seconded by Suhaman S.

#### RESOLUTION

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Moved by Hadi A. and seconded by Rish V. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the non-material changes to the Bylaws. (81 votes for approve. 11 votes for reject. 8 votes for abstain.)

Moved by Nick B. and seconded by Suhaman S. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve approve the material changes to the Bylaws. (79 votes for approve. 13 votes for reject. 8 votes for abstain.)

## 8 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

*The executive team prepared a slideshow with their reports and each executive presented their respective reports.*

*President topics included:*

- *Governance and Representation*
- *OUSA Participation*
- *Student Advocacy Committee*

#### DISCUSSION

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Hadi A.: What do they do for students and how does it benefit students?

President: Will go in depth later on. OUSA represents 150k students across 10 student unions. Impact - have a seat in the table voice concerns relating to policy development. Goes to government - takes OTSU recommendation

Hadi A.: Do we have a fee? Are you guys paying OUSA?

President: Observership - we don't pay for fees. We can't make a vote in decisions that they make.

*VP Student Affairs topics included:*

- *Advocacy Library*
- *Period Project*
- *Policy Development and Amendments*

## DISCUSSION

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Dia K.: Are there any thoughts on creating a food bank that students can donate to?

VP Student Affairs: This is something that we can definitely re-visit.

Tanya: Is there a limit for how many period bank packages a students can pick up?

VP Student Affairs: Yes, there is a limit.

Arthika K.: I have a question about campus safety and transportation.

VP Student Affairs: Reached out to Campus Safety Officer. First thing is to create a reform that can remodel the transit system. This is definitely on my radar. We have also been doing some pedestrian recommendations.

Dia K.: Are there any thoughts on improving accessibility outside the university campus so that students who have disabilities can board wheelchairs and can access campus safety?

VP Student Affairs: Campus should be compliant - AODA.

Arzika K.: Our main campus to SIRC is a bit far which can take about 10-15 minutes walk. Is it possible to adjust the time between classes?

VP Student Affairs: Not sure if we can do anything about this matter.

Sam C.: Pathways aren't always cleared during inclement weather, can we help people get there?

VP Student Affairs: Acknowledges that one of the entrances is potentially unsafe area.

Tish S.: Requests possibility of additional crosswalk.

VP Student Affairs: Town and gown committee can meet; if there is sufficient interest it can be submitted at this forum.

*VP Student Life topics included:*

- *Fall Orientation Week*
- *Frost Week*
- *Multi-faith Calendar*
- *Advocacy Empowerment*

## DISCUSSION

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- Hadi A.: O-week was successful. Congrats on that. Are you looking for ways to make the communication between club executives and the team better?
- VP Student Life: We are looking for ways to communicate to C&S on campus. To this day, I do hold the presidency with our society's presence. There is a lot of communication but there is still a gap between our clubs. If you email me directly, I try to respond as much as possible.

*VP Downtown topics included:*

- *Downtown Campus Resource Guide*
- *The Housing/ Rentals Project*
- *Downtown Engagement*

## DISCUSSION

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- Chantal M.: There is a lack of parking in Downtown parking. We need to pay another fee if we wish to go to North Campus. Are we doing anything about this?
- VP Downtown: From my knowledge, parking downtown is not running for the university. The control of the OTSU is limited. We advocate that there is a parking garage at the British Park. However, at this time, there is no solution yet but we communicate with the university about that.
- Kiara D.: Parking - have worked with ymca or other rec spaces? To ensure DT students have the same access to the equipment?
- VP Downtown: Unfortunately, it didn't go through and there was no demand. However, the university is looking for some sort of progress.
- Arzika K.: Some students feel unsafe, how do you plan on making the downtown campus safe?
- VP Downtown: We work a lot with campus safety. There's a number of advertisements. You call a number or security will walk you. Blue light station - 61 Charles St. campus walk program.

## RESOLUTION

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Moved by Kiara D. and seconded by Kaushuk K. Motion carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the OTSU Board of Directors approve the executive reports as presented.. (87 votes for approve. 11 votes for reject. 2 votes for abstain.)

## 9 UPASS

*The item below is presented by the President.*

- Voiced transit concerns. We'd like to get a pulse from you about how you feel about the UPASS and transit.
- Note that mandatory nature of UPASS due to contractual obligation between Trent Durham, Durham College, Ontario Tech, and Durham Region

## DISCUSSION

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- Blake P.: Is there a separate portion for parking?

- President: For the sake of saving some time, if you have any questions regarding parking, feel free to email myself or Corey.
- Tanya: Is there a possibility of bringing back buses that previously passed on campus? 915 used to come before, is there anything happening with that?
- President: We met with a counselor from Durham. Conversations are still on-going.
- Zedd W.: In addition to bringing back bus lines, it is not only for convenience, but also a physical safety for students. Myself and some friends are disabled, we had instances where we couldn't get on to buses. This for me is a matter of safety.
- President: Sorry you had that experience. Definitely part of our conversation was about the capacity and how that is especially for students with disabilities.
- William C.: The app that we had to use is very slow to load. Is there a reason why we can't load the funds into our existing Presto cards?
- President: Aware of the UPASS issue. Passed on to Student Life is in charge of that. Brought concerns to that. Regular bus passes and load into the presto pass.
- Sam C.: Some are not loading into the machine and bus driver ends up waving half of the people on the bus.
- Arzika K.: It is a bit frustrating because the app is always glitching.
- President: I think it is because of the issue with the app itself.
- Dia K.: QR scanning to ride the bus - barrier for people to buy.

#### RESOLUTION

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No resolution required.

## 10 OUSA MEMBERSHIP

*President outlines that OUSA is a coalition of 10 student unions representing 150,000 students across Ontario that advocates for more accessible, affordable, accountable, and high quality post-secondary education. It delivers policy recommendations to the province based on papers written by members.*

#### DISCUSSION

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- Hadi: Do we currently have observer status?
- President: Yes, full membership would mean \$3.24 fee increase per student. This will be put forward as a referendum.
- Sara E.: How can a student join OUSA? What is the first step to be able to get involved?
- President: The first step is to pass full membership through the referendum - lots of opportunities to be involved, general assembly participation; write for OUSA on their blog or other publications, and many other opportunities
- Referendum will be a yes/no vote during the general elections in February 2023.

RESOLUTION

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No resolution required.

**11 NEW BUSINESS**

DISCUSSION

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- Zedd W.: As someone who uses mental health services regularly, is there a possibility to advocate for more counselors? I feel that the current ones are not enough to adequately support students.
- VP Student Life: We acknowledged the shortfall. MyWellness is under Gallivan that one can utilize online. Talking to the admin how we can introduce more counselors. Can advocate but cannot force them to do it. Very easy to use.
- Christian R.: Will it be possible to have the SHA building open on the weekend to run an event? Security fee is not sustainable for a lot of clubs. SHA is a good space for events. It is the nicest place we have on campus. It also allows students to work.
- President: I agree with you. Pre-covid UA was open.
- VP Student Life: For weekend events, you can utilize the UA Building because it is open 24/7. It is not the best place but it is free to access because it's connected to Durham College. If you are a club that cannot afford the \$700 security fee, UA is a good alternative.
- Angelique D.: 55 questions on slide. Can we follow that post-AGM?
- President : Did not realize the Q&A was live. If the questions were not addressed during the course of the AGM, they will be addressed afterwards by social media or other communications.
- Blake: Why isn't SHA open 24/7?
- President: We'll follow-up.

**12 ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. Moved by Ali R. and seconded by Danielle B. Motion carried.