



Special Meeting Minutes 2026		
Date: 03-24-26		Time: 2:00 P.M.
Location: Arnie, Fennell Campus		
Board Members in Attendance:		
Pedro Nemezio President	Madison Filax-Orr Director, External Affairs	Bashi Ali Director, College Affairs
TJ Beckham Director at Large	Des Heneberry Director at Large	Chris Yendt Board Chair, non-voting
Board Member Regrets:		
N/A		
General Members in Attendance:		
22 members in person (currently enrolled students) 5 voting Board members		
Guests in Attendance:		
Hecel Odon, Ty Howie, Natalie Fisher, Sandy Tepsic, Hibo Ahmed, Alister Sadaghyani, Ismail Ibrahim Badar, Emily McGregor		
<p>Land Acknowledgement Presented by Christopher Yendt</p> <p>As part of Mohawk Students' Association commitment to truth and reconciliation, we want to acknowledge and show respect to the land in which Mohawk College and Mohawk Students' Association is situated on. These lands are the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabeg Nations, within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Agreement and is currently home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. We honour and pay respect to these lands, and to all First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples throughout Turtle Island, as the land we currently stand on has a strong, spiritual significance and a rich history to the Indigenous peoples who have called Canada their home for thousands of years. I would like all of us here to recognize the Indigenous peoples as the traditional stewards of this land and pay respects to their Elders, both past and present. We should also learn and understand the ongoing impacts of colonization and the loss of language, culture, and traditional practices that Indigenous peoples have suffered. We should all work towards restoring and preserving the relationships between Indigenous peoples and their land, and we should all be committed to learning about and respecting Indigenous histories, cultures, and perspectives. I hope we can all work together to create a more equitable and just society, where Indigenous peoples here in Canada and all over the world are honoured, respected, and valued as the original inhabitants of the land they and we, call home.</p>		



Part I: Open Session	
1.0 INTRODUCTION	
Item 1.1	<p>Call to Order by Chris Yendt at 2:07 p.m.</p> <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expressed gratitude for each Member in attendance - Discussed how voting works for Members and proxy holders - Discussed each motion needs a mover and seconder - Discussed show of hands - Discussed rules of order and decorum of speaking turns
Item 1.2	<p>Attendance and Quorum Call by Christopher Yendt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quorum was established at 27 voting members present, meeting the Simple Majority threshold of 50% + 1
Item 1.3	<p>Conflicts of Interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Des Heneberry noted a COI with item 4.2 - Paramveer Tomer noted a COI with item 4.2 - Yhana Tumaliuan noted a COI with item 4.3 - Anna-Liesa Proc noted a COI with item 4.3
2.0 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL	
Item 2.1	<p>BIRT the Members approve the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the Members, dated March 24, 2026, as circulated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moved by Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva, seconded by Madison Filax-Orr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No questions or discussion - CARRIED unanimously
Item 2.2	<p>BIRT the Members approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members, dated October 8, 2025, as circulated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moved by Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva, seconded by Bashi Ali <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No questions or discussion - CARRIED unanimously
3.0 OLD BUSINESS	



<p>Item 3.1</p>	<p>Business Arising from the Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - N/A
<p>4.0 NEW BUSINESS</p>	
<p>Item 4.1</p>	<p>General Ballot Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented by Christopher Yendt - Discussed the results of the General Ballot Elections for the roles of President, Vice President College Affairs, and Vice President External Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 9.2% voter turnout o No major candidate infractions o Voting ballots facilitated by SimplyVoting o Elections were found to be fair, run with integrity, and transparent - Madison Filax-Orr was voted in to be President for the 2026-2027 term - Bashi Ali was voted in to be Vice President College Affairs for the 2026-2027 term - Ramiro Sadaghyani was voted in to be Vice President External Affairs for the 2026-2027 term <p>BIRT the Full Members of the Mohawk Students' Association (MSA) hereby accept the certified results of the 2026 General Ballot Elections for the positions of President, Vice President, College Affairs, and Vice President, External Affairs, as presented.</p> <p>Moved by Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva, seconded by TJ Beckham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No questions or discussion - CARRIED unanimously
<p>Item 4.2</p>	<p>Ratification of Vice President Equity & Inclusion and Vice President International Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented by Christopher Yendt - Discussed the proposed candidates to hold the roles of the remaining vacant Executive roles for 2026-2027 - Discussed the process of selection - Asked members for formal ratification of the proposed candidates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Des Heneberry for Vice President, Equity & Inclusion o Paramveer Tomer for Vice President, International Affairs



	<p>BIRT the Members of the Mohawk Students' Association (MSA) hereby ratify the appointment of Des Heneberry to the position of Vice President, Equity & Inclusion for the term May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moved by Bashi Ali, seconded by Madison Filax-Orr <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No questions - CARRIED; 1 abstention <p>BIRT the Members of the Mohawk Students' Association (MSA) hereby ratify the appointment of Paramveer Tomer to the position of Vice President, International Affairs for the term May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moved by Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva, seconded by TJ Beckham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No questions - CARRIED; 1 abstention
<p>Item 4.3</p>	<p>Ratification of the 2026-2027 Board of Directors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented by Christopher Yendt - Discussed the recruitment process - Discussed the proposed candidates to hold the positions of Director-at-Large on the MSA Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term starting May 1, 2026 until April 30, 2027 - Discussed a proposed opportunity for these candidates to hold interim terms effective March 24, 2026 until April 30, 2026 as Directors at Large for the remainder of the 2025-2026 term - Asked members for formal ratification of the proposed Director-at-Large candidates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Yhana Tumaliuan o Rebecca (Beki) Lantos o Anna-Liesa Proc o Xinyu (David) Xia o Minaal Ahmed <p>BIRT the Members of the Mohawk Students' Association (MSA) hereby ratify the appointment of the following individuals to the position of Director-at-Large for a one-year term from May 1, 2026, to April 30, 2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Yhana Tumaliuan o Rebecca (Beki) Lantos o Anna-Liesa Proc o Xinyu (David) Xia o Minaal Ahmed - Moved by TJ Beckham, seconded by Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o There was clarification on the pronunciation of names



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No other questions - CARRIED, 2 abstentions <p>BIFRT the Members of the Mohawk Students’ Association (MSA) approve the appointment of the above-named individuals to serve in an interim capacity as Directors-at-Large effective immediately upon ratification until April 30, 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moved by Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva, seconded by Des Heneberry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No questions - CARRIED; 2 abstentions
<p>Item 4.4</p>	<p>2025-2026 MSA Advocacy Priorities Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented by Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva - Discussed the MSA advocacy pillars and framework, Accessibility, Affordability, and Equity - Discussed current advocacy wins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secured funding from City of Hamilton for the construction of a sidewalk at Aviation Campus to increase safety of students utilizing HSR starting summer 2026 ○ Secured dedicated lactation room winter 2026 ○ Bill 33 Consultation with the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security to provide information of student association use of funds to service, support, and advocate for student wellness, success, and benefit ○ OSAP change consultation with Official Leader of the Opposition, Marit Stiles, to provide data from Mohawk College students and to support a motion on the reversal of changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marit Stiles also used direct quotes and research from Mohawk College students [provided by MSA] in their “SAVE OSAP” campaign, and in question period ○ Championed the reversal of cuts to Canada Student Grants & Loans and shared a petition [organized by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations – MSA is a member] to extend the COVID guarantees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liberal Government reversed the cuts and reinstated the COVID guarantees - Discussed MSA’s continued investment in student leaders advocating on behalf of the larger population of students at Mohawk College, ensuring their voices are a part of decision making affecting them
<p>5.0 CONCLUSION</p>	



<p>Item 5.1</p>	<p>Concluding Statements and Appreciation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christopher Yendt and the current Board of Directors thanked everyone in attendance for their participation and desire to learn more about the MSA and how the MSA works for and on behalf of students at Mohawk College
<p>Item 5.2</p>	<p>Questions and Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was noted once the Special Meeting is adjourned, the MSA will move into a Townhall
<p>Item 5.3</p>	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>BIRT the Members adjourn the Special Meeting dated March 24, 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moved by Madison Filax-Orr, seconded by Des Heneberry - CARRIED unanimously <p>Special Meeting adjourned at 2:42 P.M.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">TOWNHALL</p>	
	<p>Member: There are less opportunities for bursaries and scholarships for international students – is it possible for the incoming Executive Team to continue advocating for increased financial aid in this area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Madison Filax-Orr: Yes; our VP International Affairs will explore this in detail and work collaboratively with the college to ensure international students have equal and equitable access to financial aid and supports that domestic students do <p>Member: Can you explain in more detail the specific actions the MSA is taking regarding the OSAP changes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pedro Nemezio de Campos Silva: Yes; we are working with all government parties to discuss the impacts to student finances, educational outcomes, educational attainment, wellness both physical and mental, and how these cuts to essential funding are going to harm current and incoming students at Mohawk College. We are continuing to gather data and feedback from Mohawk College students and share it for greater impact and change-making. We are also working collaboratively with provincial advocacy and lobby groups, ensuring Mohawk College student perspectives are also considered in any recommendations for the government to review and hopefully undertake. However, we still need student voices like yours to help us champion this area. Let’s connect after this so we can get your story and insight.



There were no other questions from members in the audience other than to connect privately with the outgoing and incoming President to continue the conversation of OSAP and bursaries for international students.

Signatures of Acknowledgement and Approval

Date of Approval:

Signatures:	Christopher Yendt Chair	
	Marc Iturriaga Executive Director and Secretary	