



THE ALLIANCE OF NOVA SCOTIA STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

SUITE 233, 1657 BARRINGTON ST. * HALIFAX, NS * B3J 2A1 * (902) 422-4068 * ED@ANSSA.CA

ACTION PLAN 2010-2011

TO: ANSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: ANSSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1ST 2010

RE: **ACTION PLAN 2010-2011**

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- IMPROVE FINANCIAL PRACTISES
- IMPROVE THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY
- IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETENTION
- DEVELOP RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE POLICY AS PRIORITIZED BY THE MEMBERSHIP
- UPDATE EXISTING POLICIES AND DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY BOOK

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- SECURE SEATS AND PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING MOU NEGOTIATIONS
- DEVELOP AND EXECUTE A STUDENT-TARGETED CAMPAIGN PARALLELING MOU DISCUSSIONS
- ADVOCATE PRIORITIES AS SET BY MEMBERSHIP
- EXECUTE A SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO FILL REGIONAL DATA GAPS
- SEEK AND NURTURE PARTNERSHIPS WITH ORGANIZATIONS OF COMMON INTEREST

INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the activities that ANSSA intends to undertake in the upcoming year. New activities that have not been completed in years past, or activities that have not been successfully completed, are divided into external and internal affairs. Annual activities – such as council visits are not discussed in this plan. The recommended activities stem from discussions had during the ANSSA board planning retreat held in August of this summer.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Last year was a year of marked improvements for ANSSA on internal affairs. A financial records keeping system was established, institutional memory was maintained through low turnover rates on the board and through the maintenance of an executive director for longer than a year, something that has never happened before now. We went from recovering from a deficit to running a small surplus. We went from having several expired policies, to having several well researched and up-to-date statistics in policies with similar themes.

IMPROVE FINANCIAL PRACTISES

Following the receipt of our audit, the executive director and treasurer will take continued action to improve our financial control and records keeping systems.

- In 2010 ANSSA will move from our current excel spreadsheet tracking system to a quickbooks or similar record keeping system, at the recommendation of our auditors.
- The ANSSA treasurer and executive director will receive QuickBooks training from Bluenose accounting
- ANSSA will decide whether to undergo an audit or a “review” of statements for our 2010-2011 year
- The treasurer will submit monthly financial reports to the Board, containing year to date expenses and any information on pertinent issues.
- The treasurer will continue to review expenses from home office monthly and report to the board regularly.

PROJECT LEAD: MATT ANDERSON, TREASURER

MARK COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIMELINE: ONGOING

IMPROVE THE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Based on feedback from the 2009-2010 student assemblies and from the planning retreat, ANSSA will incorporate the following changes into or semi-annual student assemblies:

- The fall assembly will be held in Halifax to better accommodate guests and speakers from government and other organizations.
- ANSSA will incorporate a skills and development component to the fall student assembly as a “member-benefit” to students who volunteer their time. This will take the form of guest speakers, or workshops incorporated into the usual itinerary.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK COFFIN, JON COTTREAU

IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETENTION

In April 2010 the ANSSA board decided to retain the current executive director offering an employment contract that allows him to reduce his hours to half-time (or 20 hours/week) during the academic year.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIMELINE: ONGOING

DEVELOP RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE POLICY AS PRIORITIZED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

At the July planning retreat, the Board resolved that the following areas should be made policy development priorities for the upcoming year:

- Campus Infrastructure
- Youth Retention as a driver for the knowledge economy
- Increasing Access for Underrepresented Groups
- Detailed Student Assistance Policies (Nitty Gritty SFA)

Policies will be developed and brought to the student assembly for feedback. Several board members are involved in policy development, which will allow for the timely completion of policy drafts.

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS: MARK COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (SFA, INFRASTRUCTURE)

DAN SCRATCH, RESEARCHER (UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS)

TIMELINE: CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE AND UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS POLICIES WILL BE DEVELOPED FIRST (PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER). THE REMAINING POLICIES WILL REQUIRE MORE DETAILED RESEARCH AND WILL BE DEVELOPED BY MAY 2011

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SECURE SEATS AND PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING MOU NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PROVINCE AND THE UNIVERSITIES

In 2010 the government will begin discussions with the universities regarding funding arrangements for the next memorandum of understanding securing funding for the universities from the province.

In 2010 ANSSA will:

- Ensure we have as much or greater representation in the MoU negotiations as we did in 2008.
- Advocate for a continued funded tuition freeze and Nova Scotia Student Bursary program for all students
- Advocate for student approval on all fee increases, as defined by the student association of each institution.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROB LEFORTE, CHAIR

(OTHER MEMBERS, PENDING # OF SEATS ALLOTTED)

TIMELINE: SEPTEMBER – MARCH

DEVELOP AND EXECUTE A CAMPAIGN THAT INCREASES STUDENT AWARENESS AROUND THE UPCOMING MOU DISCUSSIONS

ANSSA will enlist the services of a marketing and communications firm who will provide ANSSA with creative development and a communications strategy for student outreach. The goals of the campaign are to:

- Promote the continuation of the existing funded tuition freeze, bursary trust program, and current levels of quality of education that exist in the university system of Nova Scotia.
- Create awareness among the student population of the importance of the decisions being made by government this year.
- Create an awareness among the student population about ANSSA, and the lobbying we do with government
- Motivate those targeted by the campaign to make an action upon receiving this information (e.g. letter or phone call to MLA, finance minister, premier, university president; sharing this information with their classmates etc.).

PROJECT LEAD: MARK COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SAM MASON, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

SELECTED FIRM – WILL FURTHER DEFINE ANSSA'S ROLE AND FIRMS ROLE IN CAMPAIGN EXECUTION.

TIMELINE: SEPTEMBER – MARCH

ADVOCATE ON PRIORITIES SET BY MEMBERSHIP AT THE SUMMER PLANNING CONFERENCE

At the summer planning conference, the ANSSA board reviewed and established the following advocacy priorities for the foreseeable future:

- Advocate for a continued funded tuition freeze
- Advocate for the continuation of the existing Nova Scotia Student Bursary Program and a cap on differential fees for out of province students
- Advocate for a progressive grants administered debt cap
- Advocate for effective youth retention policies, as a key driver of the knowledge economy (pending further policy development)
- Advocate for increased access for underrepresented groups

EXECUTE A SURVEY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO FILL REGIONAL DATA GAPS

There is a significant data shortage in the Maritime Provinces that identify the access barriers faced by students moving between secondary to tertiary education. National level surveys exist, but generally do not delve into specifics on trends in the maritime region or our provinces due to low sample rates. This research project would survey maritime high school students on issues affecting access to higher education, student financial aid literacy, and choices involved in getting to (or not getting to) a tertiary education. This project is being developed between the UNBSU and will be proposed to the UPEISU as well as other schools in the area.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK COFFIN, ANSSA

ANDRES FUENTES, UNBSU

TIMELINE: FALL 2010 – SUMMER 2011 (SEE PROPOSAL FOR DETAILS)