



THE ALLIANCE OF NOVA SCOTIA STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

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ACTION PLAN 2011-2012

TO: ANSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: ANSSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- CREATE A STRATEGIC EXPANSION PLAN
- IMPLEMENT A SUCCESSION PLAN
- CONDUCT A REMIX TO TUITION
- MAKE LEADERSHIPS START HERE
- ENGAGE WITH BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEMBERS FROM EACH UNIVERSITY
- *DEVELOP RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE POLICY AS PRIORITIZED BY THE MEMBERSHIP*
- *UPDATE THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE GUIDE FOR REFORM*

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE MOU NEGOTIATIONS
- INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT AND ENGAGEMENT WITH ANSSA
- ADVOCATE ON PRIORITIES SET BY MEMBERSHIP AT THE PLANNING RETREAT
- PARTNER WITH PATHWAYS
- REVIEW INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS
- HOST A SUMMIT ON EDUCATION REFORM

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

CREATE A STRATEGIC EXPANSION PLAN

At the summer planning retreat, many ideas emerged that speak of an ANSSA with an expanded mandate and scope. Over the course of the next year, the ANSSA board will undergo a strategic planning exercise to solidify the transformation of ANSSA 2.0.

Key Action Items

- *Create an ANSSA opportunities document, highlighting the various areas for organizational growth and development including*
 - *Mission expansion*
 - *Special Projects*
 - *Leadership Training*
 - *Organizational Capacity*
 - *Sustainable Home Office Structuring*
 - *Home Office Capacity Expansion*
 - *Human Resources Expansion*
 - *Professionalism and Branding*
 - *Other areas to be detailed in report*
 - *Budgetary Growth*
 - *Fee increases*
 - *Alternate Revenue Streams*
 - *Membership Growth & Partnership Growth*
 - *NSSC Students*
 - *Other maritime groups*
 - *Explore opportunities to solidify our relationships with other groups in the education sector*

PROJECT LEAD: MARK COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIMELINE: OPPORTUNITIES REPORT PREPARED FOR LATE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

PLANNING FOR STRATEGIC EXPANSION WILL FOLLOW BOARD APPROVAL AND DIRECTION

IMPLEMENT A SUCCESSION PLAN

The current Executive Director will leave the ANSSA office following a month long transition period with his successor to take place beginning at latest during the Winter Higher Education Summit in February. Over the course of the next six months, the Executive Director in consultation with the board will develop a succession plan for the incoming Executive Director and Board.

Key Action Items

- A digestible report detailing the external and internal changes that have happened within ANSSA in the last three years
- A day-to-day and flow-of-the-year guide of the general administrative practises necessary to run home office.
- An exit review of the organization's advocacy practises. The review will include discussions with other advocacy groups in Nova Scotia, former Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Education and Advanced Education, and current representatives within government and political parties.
- A month-long transition between incoming and outgoing Executive Directors that will include meetings with key individuals inside and outside of ANSSA.
- A strategic process session with both incoming and outgoing Executive Directors, the Board and available incoming representatives
 - The session will include a review/discussion of how we ANSSA work together.

PROJECT LEAD: MARK COFFIN, KYLE POWER, HIRING COMMITTEE (OFFICERS)

TIMELINE: FEBRUARY-MARCH 2012

CONDUCT A REMIX TO TUITION

This working group will explore various options for tuition frameworks and models to be assessed in an ANSSA paper. For example some of these models likely to be included would be:

- The Ivy League Tuition Model
- High Tuition High Aid
- Free Tuition
- Our current model

We will recruit a crew of upper year, competent students & academics to conduct an economic and feasibility assessment of the various models and their impacts on accessibility, affordability, university funding and quality of education. Essentially these students will write the paper.

PROJECT LEAD: RYAN ROBSKI, DAGS

MAKE LEADERSHIPS START HERE

ANSSA will continue the leadership development program started in May 2010 of this year. We will also maintain a strong leadership development component in the fall student assembly.

Key action items:

- Plan leadership development components of the fall student assembly at Cape Breton University.
- Plan a Student Leadership Lab for all incoming student executives in May/June of 2012

PROJECT LEAD: MARIAH MACKEIGAN, WORKGROUP CHAIR; EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIMELINE: OCTOBER STUDENT ASSEMBLY IN CAPE BRETON

STUDENT LEADER LAB IN MAY/JUNE

ENGAGE WITH BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBERS FROM EACH UNIVERSITY

There is an important connection to be made between the research ANSSA does and the work members of university board of governor's members do. A working group has been formed to explore ways we can begin supporting student members on university boards of governors and engage with all university board of governors members.

Key Action Items

- *Host a meeting of Student Board of Governor Representatives in January of 2012*
 - *Identify the needs of student members of board of governors and how we can best support them in their lobbying efforts*
 - *Share ideas, experiences and ideas about the student experience on university boards of governor's*
 - *Brainstorm ideas for how we can support one another*

PROJECT LEAD: ALWYN GOMEZ, WORKGROUP CHAIR

TIMELINE: JANUARY 2012

DEVELOP RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE POLICY AS PRIORITIZED BY THE MEMBERSHIP

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

- Residential Tenancies Issues
- Professional Student Tuition (ED Recommendation)

Policies will be developed by staff and brought to the board for feedback and approval.

PROJECT LEAD: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIMELINE: POLICY WILL DEVELOPED BY MAY 2012

UPDATE THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE GUIDE FOR REFORM

In Nova Scotia's 2011 Budget, the government made significant changes to the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Program. Our document "Student Assistance in Nova Scotia: A guide for reform" has many asks that are still relevant, but needs updating to reflect the changes to the program and new learnings since our 2010 submission. Areas that require specific attention include:

- Debt Cap Administration
- College Student Debt Cap
- Unmet need and maximum assistance level growth

An update to the program will be made and brought to the board for feedback and approval.

PROJECT LEAD: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIMELINE: UPDATE WILL BE DEVELOPED BY DECEMBER 2011

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE MOU NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITIES AND THE PROVINCE

ANSSA has representation on the working group charged with renegotiating university funding and tuition policy agreements with the Province of Nova Scotia. This has been a key channel for ANSSA to ensure an accessible, affordable and quality university system.

Key Action Items

- Advocate for a continued funded tuition freeze and Nova Scotia Student Bursary program for all students
- Clearer rules around student consultation
- Ensuring student assistance policies and tuition policies are set in harmony with one another, so as to ensure the most accessible, affordable system possible.
- Ensure international students are paying only their share of the cost of education, given the provinces commitment to fund up to 10% of a university's international student population as their own.

PROJECT LEAD: KYLE POWER, CHAIR

MARK COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIMELINE: JUNE 2011 – JANUARY 2012

INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT AND ENGAGEMENT WITH ANSSA

The awareness and engagement workgroup will develop an engagement plan for the 2011-12 academic year. In

Key Action Items

- Plan on-campus ANSSA activities, including panel discussions
- Host ANSSA awareness events
- Plan an ANSSA tour of schools
- Create mini-video documentaries telling the stories of struggling students from each school
- Develop engagement mechanisms
- Create ANSSA promo materials and
- Brainstorm other ways of marketing our issues and organization
- Consider renaming ANSSA.

This group will likely enlist the support of outside partners and designers to assist in the creative development and design of materials.

PROJECT LEAD: BILLY CROWLEY, WORKGROUP CHAIR

SARAH BOUCHARD, WORKGROUP CHAIR

ALEX MACKEIGAN, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

TIMELINE: SEPTEMBER – MARCH

ADVOCATE ON PRIORITIES SET BY MEMBERSHIP AT THE SUMMER PLANNING RETREAT

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

PARTNER WITH PATHWAYS

ANSSA will forge a partnership with the Pathways-Spryfield early outreach program. We will recruit tutors for the organization from within the university student body at the ANSSA schools in Metro.

PROJECT LEAD: SARAH BOUCHARD, WORKGROUP CHAIR

TIMELINE: FALL 2011

REVIEW INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS

ANSSA will conduct a review of existing means of directing our messaging to our publics – the government, higher education stakeholders, and students themselves. The review will detail which groups are not receiving our message at all, and for which groups we need to change our medium of contact for.

PROJECT LEAD: ALEX MACKEIGAN, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

TIMELINE: DECEMBER 2011 (SEE PROPOSAL FOR DETAILS)

HOST A SUMMIT ON EDUCATION REFORM

In place of the traditional Winter Student Assembly, ANSSA will host a summit on education reform. Our scope of issues will be purposefully broad, so as to encourage participation from system stewards at every level of the education system.

Key Action Items

- Find Summit Sponsors
- Find Summit Partner Organizations
- Recruit Speakers and Facilitators
- Create Budget

PROJECT LEAD: MARK COFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TIMELINE: FEBRUARY 2011