


Students Nova Scotia	Board of Directors	students 
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>		

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	October 1, 2012		
Meeting Time:	1:30PM, AST		
Venue:	Call-in (Gaboogie)	City:	
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Kyle Power (Chair/ASU), Nick Head-Peterson (SFXUSU), Matthew Rios (ASU), Jamie Arron (DSU), Robert Bossler (ASTSU), Mike MacDonell (SMUSA), Alana Lawrence (CBUSU)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director - ED), Alexis Zederayko (Volunteer recorder).		
Absent:	Aaron Beale (DSU) (regrets), Michelle Lahey (Vice-Chair/CBUSU) (regrets), Kat LaFortune (DAGS) (regrets), Patrick Carruthers (Treasurer/SFXUSU) (regrets), Jared Perry (SMUSA) (regrets)		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): Yes			

1) Call to order

2) Roll call

3) Approval of Agenda

Nick Head-Peterson (SFXUSU) **moves**, and Robert Bossler (ASTSU) **seconds the motion** that the reports of the members henceforth be reported before reports of the staff.

Motion **carried by general consent.**

Agenda **approved by general consent.**

- 4) Approval of September 10, 2012 Minutes
Minutes circulated, no amendments.
Minutes **approved by general consent.**

REPORTS

- 5) Reports of the members
- a) ASTSU
 - i) Meeting of the student body this Thursday. Getting into the swing of the first semester.
 - b) ASU
 - i) Recently held By-Election; four counselors, one senator, and several officers elected.
 - ii) Ramping up for the Municipal Election: campaign preparation; encouraging as many students to vote as possible; voter registration is scheduled for October 9.
 - c) CBUSU
 - i) Student Representatives Election will be in two weeks.
 - ii) Mayoral debate will be in 3 weeks. Two candidates are coming to speak with students and answer questions.
 - iii) Town hall session is coming up. The plan is to have 1 or 2 per semester for Students NS.
 - d) DSU
 - i) Working hard on the Municipal Election. The district debate is tonight, and the mayoral debate is tomorrow.
 - ii) JA (DSU) circulated a draft invitation to an event at the end of October; it would be great to have representatives from other schools.
Chair: Requested that JA (DSU) discuss the open space debate held by the DSU.
JA (DSU): It was called "Check It Out". The idea was that, since every Dalhousie student pays \$120 to the SU, they would be able to indicate what they want the money spent on, what their priorities are. It was an open-space format where students could propose topics of discussion. Topics included a large human vs. Zombies game and issues regarding prayer spaces. It was a good starting point for discussion, and some projects are resulting from it.
 - e) SMUSA
 - i) Encountered some battles of administration over minor issues, but overall things have been going pretty smoothly.

- ii) New projects launched: had to rebuild databases; met with ED about referendum questions.
 - iii) Will hopefully be back to full membership in StudentsNS soon.
- f) SFXUSU
- i) Homecoming was last week, so was busy with alumni. The SFXU Board of Governors attended.
 - ii) Working on Municipal Elections; early voter registration did not have a great turnout. Planning a question and answer period on the 15. Request that, if other SUs have questions drafted, that they forward them.

Chair: ASU is happy to share their questions. He will send them as soon as they have been finalized.

6) Reports of the Officers

- a) Chair – Kyle Power (ASU)
- i) Working out of home office. Reviewed first draft of the Funding Formula Systems View Paper – it is excellent. Will discuss it further with ED when Chair is in Halifax this week.
 - ii) Will be in HRM tomorrow to meet with Minister More at Government-Student Roundtable, and will stay in the city on Wednesday for another meeting.
 - iii) Concerning International Students Health Insurance policy: had a discussion with home office staff, and liaised with different members of government.
 - iv) Had a meeting with the Partnership of the MOU and CFS; laid out priorities for the year regarding partnership board activities.
- b) Vice-Chair - Absent
- c) Treasurer – Absent

7) Reports of the staff

- a) Executive Director: Jonathan Williams
- i) Preparing the monthly reports. Board can contact ED if they require more detail than is provided. Reports will be ready tomorrow, pending the media review.
 - ii) Website may be finished at the end of this week, although it may be next week. ED is happy with rebranding products, and will send them out to Board members: report templates, business cards, etc. Development of the campaign template will be started after the website is completed.
 - iii) Met with N H-P (SFXUSU) and a representative of the Department of Transportation, who indicated that the government will make the legislative and regulatory changes needed to allow an operator of a bus line to earn a profit in NS. There is an understanding that Trius will be taking over from Acadian Bus Lines; there should not be a break in service. Trius will make deals with van companies to service routes that can't support a bus. Acadian backing out prompted government changes that should have taken place years ago, but lacked impetus.

- iv) Brian Foster (BF – StudentsNS Director of Engagement and Communications) met with one of the NSCCSA presidents from North Halifax. StudentsNS is preparing a video and letter of intent to contact them and communicate our interest.
- v) Bob Parker (BP - StudentsNS Director of Research) has finished first draft of the System View Position Paper, and we have done our initial brainstorming for the Ancillary Fees and International Students Papers. Further brainstorming for the Ancillary Fees paper will occur after the Roundtable tomorrow – we need to brainstorm prior to the BPR due to its timing (end of November). The International Student paper, mental health, tuition and employment will also need to be brainstormed at a meeting later this month. Noted that it will be difficult to get the Ancillary Fees paper done on time.
- vi) BP (Research) has been in touch with the Quality Working Group, but has yet to meet with them.
- vii) Chair and ED have been working though the internal governance policies again, and have received feedback from Veronica MacNeil. Now just waiting for feedback on the board/staff relationship policies. ED wants to have this completed this month, although amendments will be inevitable.
- viii) The Hubspace is moving in January. It is up in the air what the new space will look like; there have been discussions surrounding not having hot desks – the more affordable option with temporary desks – but just enclosed offices and desks at a higher price. We are negotiating with them, requesting hot desk space. We needed to indicate an address for our new letterhead, and ED opted for the new location address; Hub has agreed to forward our mail if we do not end up there. It is hard to make decision when we do not have enough information, but our main concern remains that we are not currently in an accessible space.
- ix) D250 (the organization that funded our Leader Lab) is having trouble getting money out the door for projects that promote civic engagement among young people – keep it in mind.
- x) ED, BF (Engagement and Communications), and SMUSA met regarding the referendum anticipated for November.
- xi) Municipal Election will be held in October. SA’s have been helping out and supporting student participation, with different methods of encouragement by different locations. BF (Engagement and Communications) is working on a best practices paper concerning the promotion of student engagement.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Would like to obtain contact information for D250 (*ED will send*). Also notes that the weekends in late November may not be feasible, as many Board members will be attending CASA’s Lobby Conference.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

8) International Student Insurance

JW (ED): Right now, International Students have to buy private insurance until they have been here for 13 months, which costs roughly \$600/yr for single students, and can cost upwards of \$1400/yr for couples and families. Students are also required to purchase this insurance for their second year, due to the arbitrary 13 month requirement. This is a legitimate chance to anticipate this issue for our position paper;

we know that the government is already paying for the infrastructure to put this change in place. ED anticipates a start date of 2013 for the insurance change.

Chair: CONSUP is on board with this.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Since we are looking for opportunities to involve the CFS, would it be beneficial to approach them to see if they would like to be involved?

Chair: This may be an issue that is best engaged behind closed doors, so there may not be a benefit in involving another party. It is certainly up for debate.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Agrees that it is better to move on this when we can; it will help us moving forward. CONSUP may or may be in conflict with StudentsNS next year regarding tuition policy, so it is best to get this as a win under our belt.

JW (ED): Agrees with N H-P (SFXUSU). Inclusion of other organizations such as CFS would not make it any more likely to get done. There are reasons why we don't go public with this and are doing it behind the scenes; we do not want to make it seem like too big a deal if the government is willing to do it already.

Chair: Hearing no other discussion or debate, will consider this an issue on which the Board wants the Chair and home office staff to move forward.

9) Election Platform

JW (ED): The problem is that we do not have our position papers already prepared, so we will have to construct priorities and asks in preparation for the election. The Board will indicate whether or not it wants this type of document prepared, but if so, we have to decide how to put it together. ED had thought to brainstorm this week, then take the ideas back to home office staff to be fleshed out, followed by the release of a draft for public review (akin to the process for the position papers). Some considerations: a) we do not know if we want these to be public immediately, b) in terms of intensity of work in October (considering papers, website, and ED's vacation), it seems best to construct this policy position in November.

Recommendation: when student assemblies are hosted in November, it can be a topic of discussion. Ideas can then be fed to staff, who can do research and determine policy benefits or drawbacks to each proposal. Ideas can then be brought to the Board Policy Retreat, where the Board can settle on a few. The staff can then go and complete a report on those, the Board can approve the report, and we can issue it to the parties. ED is meeting with one party tomorrow to ask questions regarding their timeline for building an election platform. NDP indicates that if we issue the report after our BPR, it would be submitted at an acceptable time.

Chair: ED and Chair agreed that it would be best if (even if not done publically) we start talking with students about what they would like to see on particular platforms, then refocus it into policy asks and sell it to the parties. The problem with making it too public is that no party wants to buy something that we're selling to other parties; tailoring asks to different parties and doing it in a "backroom politicking" way is ideal.

Chair: Hearing no other discussion or debate, we will consider move forward towards brainstorming platform ideas at the next board meeting and then selecting platform blanks at the Board Policy Retreat.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Requested clarification from home office staff; would it be possible to get home office to prepare a document about the issues that affect different levels of government? Notes that he struggles with explaining to students how municipal/

provincial/federal levels affect their lives on campus, and this understanding impacts student engagement.

RB (ASTSU): Agrees

JW (ED): I can find something for you.

OTHER BUSINESS

10) JW (ED): Chair and ED need to discuss with Board when they can meet. Board needs to convene for 2 days this month, as well as in November and December. ED would like to hear when Board members are available; can we consider the weekend of December 1? (*Not feasible for N H-P (SFXUSU)*) When can Board meet in October? ED sent a Doodle.

Chair: If Board does not want to discuss this now, members can reply by Doodle. Who is available for October 26th?

N H-P (SFXUSU): Has Regatta in Dartmouth on Saturday, but would be available otherwise.

RB (ASTSU): Is available to meet in HRM.

AL (CBUSU): Weekends best; could do Friday, but would have to travel Thursday night.

Chair: Requests clarification regarding DSU's Open Space weekend? (*It is not during the proposed meeting time*). The weekend of the 26th is then tentatively open, at least for people on this call. Chair to send out a Doodle, but the meeting is tentatively scheduled. (*ED is on vacation*). Will work on the schedule and get back to Board by week's end.

JW (ED): The meeting on the 26th would involve internal governance changes, early brainstorm on campaign platforms, and we could add another on a position paper. Also, Board can discuss what to do with student consultation assemblies; Board can get together and share ideas. We need to have the Board Policy Retreat (dealing with position papers) in late November or first weekend of December.

Chair: For majority of people on call, end of November is very busy. ED and Chair will look at schedules and start narrowing down a date.

JW (ED): Notes that date affects completion of position paper; need a month prior to position paper release for discussion, so advance knowledge is beneficial for scheduling.

Nick: Can call in in early December, but exams start on December 3, so can't take a week to travel to Halifax at that time. (ED and Chair will discuss and get back to him).

11) Chair: Re-asserts the importance of attendance, filling out Doodles, and making oneself available (for meetings). Notes that Board members are all busy students, but that Board duties are part of our job. Board and staff require each member's input, and need you to attend events whenever possible, particularly during this week of lobby meetings. Chair understands that some people are unable to make all meetings, and that some members travel far, but attendance is a way that we establish credibility as an organization, which is the currency of politics. We've been doing a pretty good job so far, but Chair hopes to pick it up in the upcoming months.

12) N H-P (SFXUSU): Requests a discussion regarding tomorrow's Roundable with the Minister, could we meet at 9:00 at the Hub.

Chair: The Board can meet at 9:00 at the Hub to confirm presentation details and plan, and meet with the Minister at 10:00. There will be a working lunch and discussion after the meeting, during which there will be a discussion of International Students. (*Dress code?*) Business attire.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Will there be preparatory documents sent out?

JW (ED): Just the annual plan. Each president from the SU was invited personally, and the expectation is that Students NS has prepared its own questions, and that each SU will ask their own.

Chair: The government has indicated interest in hearing the various concerns affecting student life (mental health, etc.). It won't be so much of a 'lobby meeting', but will be more of an 'information sharing' meeting.

JW (ED): We'll be asking questions more than making statements.

13) JW (ED): After the board meeting on the 27th, the Liberal party is having a policy conference, and board is invited to attend. Those who are interested should send an email to the ED, and he will send some information.

14) JA (DSU): Sent out an email from Kat LaFortune (DAGS) to try to get her into the Roundtable, and requested information regarding responses received.

JW (ED): Forwarded on the reply from government staff saying that we could not have more than one representative from a single institution, to limit the number of attendees and avoid potential conflict among the SAs. The only argument that ED can see for additional members attending is if they take CBU's spot.

15) Nick Head-Peterson (SFXUSU) **moved** and Matthew Rios (ASU) **seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Motion passed by general consent.

ADJOURNMENT