


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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	February 1, 2013		
Meeting Time:	11:00AM, AST		
Venue:	Call-in	City:	Halifax, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Kyle Power (Chair/ASU), Nick Head-Petersen (SFXUSU), Mike MacDonell (SMUSA), Robert Bossler (ASTSU), Alana Lawrence (CBUSU), Patrick Carruthers (Treasurer/SFXUSU), Aaron Beale (DSU), Matthew Rios (ASU), Michelle Lahey (Vice-Chair/CBUSU), Kat Lafortune (DAGS), Jamie Arron (DSU)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Alexis Zederayko (Volunteer Recorder), Darcy Shea (Acadia University), Ben Gunn-Doerge (SFXUSU)		
Absent:	Jared Perry (SMUSA) (regrets), Jessie Smith (ASTSU) (regrets),		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): Yes			

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Roll call
- 3) Approval of Agenda
Amended agenda **approved by general consent.**
- 4) Approval of January 14, 2012 Minutes

REPORTS

5) Reports of the members

a) ASTSU

- i) Meeting with the president on Monday regarding AST's Vision for the future.

b) ASU

- i) ASU agreed to contribute an extra \$1000 to the collaborative Alcohol study.

c) CBUSU

- i) Hired a new part-time counselor.
- ii) Executive elections coming up soon.

Michelle Lahey (CBUSU) **moved** and Nick Head-Peterson (SFXUSU) **seconded the motion** for session to go in camera. **Motion passed** by general consent.

In camera.

Out of camera.

- iii) Mend the Gap campaign: CBUSU is happy with efforts, and it received coverage from CBC.

d) DSU

- i) New campaign: rap video, to be released on the 9th. It can include people from all campuses. Invites other students to help with filming.
- ii) Media stunt coming up this week, will be in touch with other SUs about collaboration.

JW (ED): Requested clarification regarding DSU's council's society contributions renewal. What is its status and what would be the implications for StudentsNS?

AB (DSU): Was brought up last month, but it is possible that it will come up again. AB is not sure about the implications, and will get back to ED.

e) SFXUSU

- i) In the middle of a labour dispute. SU is neutral, and is trying to keep their website updated to provide students with most current information regarding strike. Next week, if the strike continues, there will be a letter campaign to inform government of effects of strike on students.

f) SMUSA

- i) Board of Directors debate: there was a high turnout.
- ii) Alvin Powell came to speak about substance abuse.

KP (Chair): Requested news regarding the referendum. (*Nothing yet.*)

PC (SFXUSU): When are the elections? (*February 14th.*)

MM (SMUSA): Planning for board meeting around the 20th, but timing is difficult due to reading week.

KP (Chair): The meeting was supposed to correspond to the roundtable, but it has been moved to March.

MM (SMUSA): Given that March 25th is the roundtable and the MPHEC meeting, will StudentsNS split up its delegates? (*Yes.*)

N H-P (SFXUSU): Noted SFXUSU's board meeting that weekend.

MR (ASU): Requests the wording of SMUSA referendum. (*MM will send it.*)

6) Reports of the Officers

a) Chair – Kyle Power (ASU)

- i) Working with ED on releases (minimum wage, payroll rebates), which are getting a good deal of media attention.
- ii) Moving forward on the Mental Health Conference.
- iii) MPHEC meeting and roundtable.
- iv) Chair is trying to develop criteria for the ED yearly evaluation.

b) Vice-Chair – Michelle Lahey (CBUSU)

- i) Spoke with ED regarding media interview and youth retention.

c) Treasurer

- i) Met with ED to go over statements. All is looking good.
- ii) Hoping to get quarterly audit done. Will advise when finished.

7) Reports of the staff

a) Executive Director – Jonathan Williams

- i) We received a large amount of coverage this month: increase in followers on Twitter, an Op-ed in the Chronicle Herald, and other interviews.
- ii) Position papers are going strong. Home-office staff will be out of office more than usual.
- iii) Mend the Gap campaign is moving along well.
- iv) Regarding the SMUSA referendum, ED spoke with candidates and partners organizing it on the SMUSA campus. ED is feeling good about the referendum.
- v) Preparing to speak with international students regarding health-insurance.
- vi) BF (Communications) will be tabling the job fair for two days, promoting StudentsNS.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

8) Semester work plan.

JW (ED): Circulated the plan. ED is trying to figure out the meeting schedule and what needs to get done. Suggestion of dates are there, but some are changing, and so not sure of exact dates. There is a lot to get done this semester, so planning must be strategic. The Board needs to sit down three times: once in February (briefing on position papers), again in March (to discuss and approve the 13/14 budget), and once in April (to approve the position papers). Since three separate meetings are required, tried to coordinate them with the roundtables. Unfortunately, ED does not always know when they will be. Planning also requires discussion regarding availability

of Board members. A roundtable will probably be held during the last week of February, and it may make sense to coordinate a meeting at that time, then to send a date preference for the roundtable. We will have to work around the Mental Health Conference.

PC (SFXUSU): Requested clarification as to timing of Spring Break. (*Varies by school, but most are the same as SFXU*)

JW (ED): Recommended holding the Board meeting for the day before or after the Mental Health Conference. Is the Board able to meet on the 2nd or 3rd?

PC (SFXUSU): Is not sure.

ML (CBUSU): Is able to meet.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Is also not sure, but will probably be able to call in.

RB (ASTSU): Works for him.

JW (ED): Requested that Board book it into their schedules. The Mental Health Conference is on the 1st, and perhaps we can request that the roundtable be held on the 28th.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Requested clarification as to intention to approve this document. (*Intention was not to approve, just to discuss.*)

JW (ED): Requested input: is the Board okay with three separate meetings? Expressed concern that there may be too much material for two meetings. The dates are not set in stone, but are approximate. ED is attempting to preempt schedule conflicts.

KP (Chair): Noted that the 5th and 6th do not work for the ASU, as they are on Retreat.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Noted that the last day of class is the 5th of April, with exams starting on the 10th. SU will not be in the office after that time.

RB (ASTSU): April 8th is their last day. (*Same for DAGS.*)

KP (Chair): If all of these dates work except the one in April, we can move forward, as it is the easiest to re-book. (*Will all three meetings be in Halifax?*) No. One will be in Wolfville, due to the Mental Health Conference.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Suggested that the ED schedule the meetings and send out invitations. Board members may not know what events will arise, at this point.

JW (ED): The roundtable will be on the 25th, and the MPHEC meeting on the 25th and 26th. Will Board members be back from CASA? (*Yes, on the 22nd.*) So will schedule the meeting for the 24th and 25th so that members will not have to make two trips.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Noted that SFX has a Board meeting during that time.

KP (Chair): Is the 28th/29th better? (*That is the Easter weekend.*)

JW (ED): So 18th and 19th? (*Yes, if the timing of flights is amenable.*) The roundtable is on the 25th, so people will already be in town for that. Invited Board members to contact ED with any items that they would like to be added to the plan.

9) Proposed Editorial discussing Unity in the Nova Scotia Student Movement.

JW (ED): Yesterday was a sign of where we are at on this issue. Spent the whole day with the CFS at the roundtable, and saw parallels and differences. Information brought to light during in camera discussion matters, and ED's thinking is evolving, as a result. Recognized that Board was wise in wanting to think this matter through. Recommends further in camera discussion.

KP (Chair): ED or Chair will check in with members before next Board meeting.

Kat Lafortune (DAGS) **moved** and Nick Head-Peterson (SFXUSU) **seconded the motion** for session to go in camera. **Motion passed** by general consent.

In camera.

Out of camera.

KP (Chair): Home office staff will look further into this issue.

- 10) Idea to employ accountants regularly to provide advice on university finances.

JW (ED): This is an idea that originated in home-office. ED specifically requested input from PC. Spoke with accountants at the HUB regarding helping the DSU through some issues. They say that university finances are highly complicated and less transparent than previously. The idea was: every one or two years, SUs seek accountant input for review of university finances so that students are not caught unawares. One role of SUs is to be watchdogs, although the problem is that they are students who often lack experience and resources, up against executives with decades of experience and a great deal of resources. Seeking help may resolve some power imbalances, although it may cost a few thousand dollars.

PC (SFXUSU): This is a great idea, but there may be further details. It would also probably cost around \$150-\$200 an hour.

JW (ED): Invited PC to draft a proposal and see if we can find partners. (*Will do so, and will ask around. Can we do this next week?*) Yes.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Requested clarification regarding the outcome. How is this information to be used? For education? Lobbying? (*These details will be articulated in the proposal.*)

OTHER BUSINESS

- 11) JW (ED): Pre-budget submission: for those in the meeting yesterday, we went over it together. There are four possibilities, and ED hopes to receive prioritization of these from the Board by the end of the day. Consensus was to go with the top 3 of 4.

KP (Chair): The ones with the most points will be used. (*Request for clarification.*) How the Board ranks them will determine which ones are chosen.

AB (DSU): Was there notice that this was to be done today? (*Yes.*) AB must have missed that, but will make it a priority.

JW (ED): ED is happy to go through the submission with any Board members who require further clarification of the items.

Nick Head-Peterson (SFXUSU) **moved** and Robert Bossler (ASTSU) **seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Motion passed by general consent.

ADJOURNMENT