


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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	March 15, 2013		
Meeting Time:	11:00PM, AST		
Venue:	Call-in	City:	Halifax, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Nick Head-Petersen (SFXUSU), Alana Lawrence (CBUSU), Patrick Carruthers (Treasurer/SFXUSU), Michelle Lahey (Vice-Chair/CBUSU), Jesse Smith (ASTSU), Jared Perry (SMUSA), Mike MacDonell (SMUSA)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Brian Foster (Communications), Alexis Zederayko (Volunteer Recorder)		
Absent:	Aaron Beale (DSU), Kat Lafortune (DAGS-Tech difficulties), Kyle Power (Chair/ASU) (regrets), Matthew Rios (ASU) (regrets), Robert Bossler (ASTSU) (regrets), Jamie Arron (DSU)		
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 February 15, 2013 Minutes  
Minutes **approved by general consent.**  
Approval of March 1, 2013 Minutes  
Minutes **approved by general consent.**

## DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

- 5) Prioritization of position papers for release in September

JW (ED): Referred here to notes from conversation on weekend. Noted efforts from staff to complete in time for release next week in draft form. Upcoming papers focus on student fees and system funding. Mental health and employment papers are not yet finished. Discussion at Acadia revolved around mental health and inclusiveness; these subjects display a great deal of overlap, including classroom accommodations and student loan considerations involving withdrawal from courses or programs. The expanded paper would be a 3-month project. ED can confidently say that we can get finished the employment and housing papers, as they are relatively small. Concerning BP's projects; it is reasonable to expect him to complete one of them, and ED has volunteered to complete the housing paper. Of the four remaining papers, the staff sees Quality and Financial Assistance as most critical for building our research foundation, and they fit well with our examination this year of financial aspects of education. Also, Quality is core to our mandate.

ML (Vice-Chair): Is seeking resolution from Board as to where to go from here.

JS (ASTSU): Favoured staff's position to move the Student Financial Assistance paper ahead.

JP (SMUSA): Noted feeling more comfortable keeping the order the way it is, since it was discussed and agreed upon with all Board members in the room.

JW (ED): This is the order that staff would recommend. If we get our core pieces done, we would be better set up for the Mental Health paper.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Agreed.

JS (ASTSU): Is in support of doing the Mental Health paper first, as it may be more timely; students may have already made decisions for the upcoming year based current knowledge of financial assistance, but mental health is relevant year-round.

JW (ED): Agreed, but noted importance of optimizing staff resources.

ML (Vice-Chair): Requested clarification regarding how this motion is to be carried out.

JW (ED): If there are multiple proposals, Board may wish to proceed with a vote. ED will put up a screen shot of proposals, and the Board can indicate whether or not they reflect the situation accurately.

*Staff Proposal: Student financial assistance, Quality, Mental health/ disability/ inclusiveness, Non-financial determinants of accessibility.*

*Original Proposal: Mental health/ disability/ inclusiveness, Quality, Student financial assistance, Non-financial determinants of accessibility.*

N H-P (SFXUSU): Given current media focus, recommended that Mental Health stay first.

JW (ED): Is there perhaps middle ground that could optimize resources and prioritize Mental Health paper? Recommended that Quality be placed as a third choice. It may be possible to get both the Mental Health and Financial Assistance papers done by the fall.

Nick Head-Peterson (SFXUSU) **moved** and Alana Lawrence (CBUSU) **seconded the motion: Be it resolved** that the Board approve the following order of prioritization for the Position Papers to be completed by the Director of Research:

Mental health/disability/inclusiveness  
Student financial assistance  
Quality  
Non-financial determinants of accessibility

Vote:

ASTSU - Yes

CBUSU - Yes

SFXSU – Yes

**Motion passed unanimously.**

6) Decision on Board Officer Terms

ML (Vice-Chair): Resolution displayed on agenda. Memo was circulated which included recommendations from Veronica McNeil.

JW (ED): ED spoke to MR (ASU), and discussed an amendment to this motion with an additional governing policy. The following addition was proposed: At the first Board meeting of each year, the Board will ratify officers' continued service to the AGM.

ML (Vice-Chair): Requested clarification regarding the purpose of this amendment.

JW (ED): The Board members coming in May can insist on different members, and won't have to wait until the AGM in July.

AL (CBUSU): Requested clarification concerning costs of travel which are covered.

JW (ED): They are the same as for staff members; if travel occurs after May 1<sup>st</sup>, the members will cover for the officers as representatives of StudentsNS.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Is not sure if comfortable with this. Board will not necessarily be elected members during that time, and we are a student-run organization. It may not be in the best interests of students if Board is not elected.

JP (SMUSA): Regarding travel, to what extent will StudentsNS cover it? Is it possible to include more specific wording concerning long-distance?

JS (ASTSU): Suggested that it only reflect travel within Nova Scotia.

ML (Vice-Chair): Can this suggestion pass as a friendly amendment? (*Yes – general consent.*)

JW (ED): Noted concern regarding election of members, but pointed out that some Board members already are not elected to their positions. They wouldn't have a vote, but would be elected by Board members. Also, it is less about board officers learning about their positions, and more about the Board knowing who they are electing.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Understands, but is concerned that if a new Board comes in, that they will have the autonomy to make decisions. Expressed concerns regarding the democratic process, and about reimbursement for travel if officers are not being paid for work that they do during this time. Proposed discussing compensation.

JW (ED): Encouraged discussion regarding appropriate honoraria.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Also, what if an officer doesn't want to accept extended term?

JW (ED): They can step down, and the Board can appoint other member. We would be in a transition year, as the current Board did not sign on knowing that there would be this change.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Proposed amendment of a governing policy to grandfather it in so that current Board member terms end April 30<sup>th</sup>. These officers did not know of the extension when they signed on.

JW (ED): Can we just ask them if they want to, and appoint someone else if they don't? ED doesn't speak for the Officers, but in past conversations, he got the impression that there was no opposition to serving an extended term.

ML (Vice-Chair): There are four parts to this motion and a friendly amendment. Is there any other discussion?

N H-P (SFXUSU): Noted that SFXUSU proposed a grandfather amendment which would still give us a chance to hire back current Board members for this year.

JW (ED): Suggested that it not be included as a governing policy, as it would only apply to this year. It would be a Board motion.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Agreed. Would be more comfortable voting on the motion first, then policies.

JW (ED): Would this year's board be required to invite officers to stay, or next year's Board? (*Next year's Board.*)

ML (Vice-Chair): Would officers serve as a transition committee level?

JW (ED): Noted advantages to them being officers: they would have signing authority, while if they are not officers, they would be unable to approve financial statements, which would then have to come from the auditor. Secondly, Board would have to appoint officers ASAP, and would be in its present position of not knowing members when time comes to appoint. It may also be difficult to sign cheques if officers are travelling far away.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Board members are unable to sign cheques if travelling anyway, and it would not help with members obtaining experience or of getting to know the Board.

JW (ED): Agreed, but noted that it would not involve the same sharp cut off of signing authority until Board appoints new members and one current officer will be in Halifax this summer.

ML (Vice-Chair): Called the question on the first motion.

JW (ED): Motion as it stands is: Be It Resolved That this year's officers will not serve until the AGM unless they are invited by next year's Board of Directors and accept to do so.

ML (Vice-Chair): Transition committee does serve a purpose, but it depends on where the members will be.

JW (ED): Noted that KP (ASU) will be in town until mid-May, and can attend meetings.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Preferred to look at this long-term. Members may be in town this year, but in the future, it could be that all Board members are out of town. This could put those members in an awkward position.

JW (ED): Board would ratify at the beginning of the year, and would know to plan then. We can have a conversation moving forward concerning Board availability.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Requested clarification regarding second motion.

ML (Vice-Chair): Read:

- a) *Students Nova Scotia appoint Board Officers at the organization's Annual General Meeting to serve until the subsequent Annual General Meeting;*
- b) *Board Officers who are no longer elected representatives of member associations as of May 1 of their Officer term will cease to exercise a vote on the Board of Directors;*
- c) *Board Officers who are no longer elected representatives of member associations as of May 1 of their Officer term will have the cost of their travel within Nova Scotia to board events covered by the collective membership;*
- d) *At the first board meeting of each financial year, the board will ratify officers' continued service to the AGM.*

N H-P (SFXUSU): Requested clarification as to whether or not it will be contingent on accepting invitation. (*Yes*.)

ML (Vice-Chair): Called the question on the first motion.

Alana Lawrence (CBUSU) **moved** and Jared Perry (SMUSA) **seconded the motion: Be it resolved** that: this year's officers will not serve until the AGM unless they are invited by next year's Board of Directors and accept to do so. Vote:

ASTSU - Yes

CBUSU - Yes

SFXSU – Yes

**Motion passed unanimously.**

ML (Vice-Chair): Called the question on the second motion. It is in four parts, but will be carried as one motion.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Noted that there was a proposed amendment to part B, that applies not only to travel, but includes an appropriate honorarium for time worked.

JW (ED): Recommended that Board has that discussion. We may want an additional clause to set the amount. It would be a governing policy if we are to set specific amount.

N H-P (SFXUSU): But the amendment would cover all bases if there is a different amount of work performed. It differs from year to year, so the motion would address that.

ML (Vice-Chair): Can we leave it broad, and conduct further discussion? Maybe amendment could read: "Appropriate remuneration as decided by the Board."

JW (ED): Sorry to push back, but it would not be fair to fail to specify an amount and expect students to sign up for those positions.

ML (Vice-Chair): We will schedule a round-table to discuss this point.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Does not know why the Board would pass a motion without making expectations clear. Some of the work indicated may be 10 hours for some, and 20 hours for others.

JW (ED): Would the solution be to set compensation by the hour, and have members record the hours that they work?

N H-P (SFXUSU): That would be more in the direction of a solution, although this may not count as a "Board discussion;" we may have quorum, but two of our members representing larger schools are absent.

JW (ED): Received a vote already from the DSU, but not from the ASU.

N H-P (SFXUSU): They are still not present for the discussion.

JW(ED): The motion has been amended, and it is up to the chair to determine whether or not the DSU vote still applies. We can shift the amendment into a different motion, and vote wouldn't then apply to the amendment.

N H-P (SFXUSU): Moves to table this item until the meeting in 2 weeks, since the discussion has evolved and changed. Also, it is not a pressing issue. (*Seconded by JP (SMUSA)*.)

JS (ASTSU): Agreed. Amount of discussion is problematic to upholding an advance vote.

Al (CBUSU): Also agreed.

Motion to table further discussion of board officer terms.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

7) Alcohol inspection results.

JW (ED): Results have been distributed. Reminded Board that we are live tweeting any comments.

Alana Lawrence (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.**

ML (Vice-Chair): Called for any other discussion or comments. (*None.*)

8) Next in-person Board meeting: weekend of April 20-21.

JW (ED): No further information. Agreed to this date at the Board meeting at Acadia. Position papers will be released on Tuesday; this is mostly a reminder to keep that weekend free.

ML (Vice-Chair): Requested clarification regarding location. (*Truro or SFX. Truro is our newest member next year.*)

N H-P (SFXUSU): Noted that SFX has exams until the 28<sup>th</sup> of April.

AL (CBUSU): Exams go until the 24<sup>th</sup> at CBU.

N H-P (SFXUSU): PC (Treasurer/SFXUSU) indicated that the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> work best for him.

JW (ED): Noted that we are releasing the position papers on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April so the 19 is a possibility.

## REPORTS

9) Reports of the Officers

- a) Chair – Kyle Power (ASU) - Absent
- b) Vice-Chair – Michelle Lahey (CBUSU)
  - i) Is presently serving as Chair
- c) Treasurer
  - i) Nothing to report.

10) Reports of the staff

- a) Executive Director – Jonathan Williams
  - i) Lots of focus from ED and Bob to get reports done by Tuesday.
  - ii) ED travels to Ottawa next week for Canada Student Loans Program consultation.

11) Reports of the members

- a) AST
  - i) Student elections to be held next week (Wed). Will create a new executive, with a new president and vice-president.
- b) CBUSU

- i) President is retiring. Gala held in honour, and he was presented with gifts, such as a scholarship set up in his name. The new president, Dr. David Wheeler, will come in on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ii) SU Elections were held.
  - iii) CBUSU will attend the Crossroads conference at Dalhousie concerning alcohol consumption.
- c) SFXUSU
- i) Two more strikes were successfully avoided, and transition is in full swing. The second agreement has yet to be ratified, but a tentative agreement has been reached.
- d) SMU
- i) Nothing to report.

Nick Head-Peterson (SFXUSU) **moved** and Alana Lawrence (CBUSU) **seconded the motion to adjourn.**

**Motion passed by general consent.**

ADJOURNMENT