

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	June 3, 2013		
Meeting Time:	3:00 PM, AST		
Venue:	Call-in	City:	Halifax, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Ben Doerge (SFXUSU), Amy Brierley (SFXUSU), Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU), Darcy Shea (ASU), Jared Perry (SMUSA), Mike MacDonell (SMUSA), Anne Hoganson (ASTSU), Kyle Power (Chair) Matthew Rios (Vice Chair/ASU)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Brian Foster (Communications), Alexis Zederayko (Volunteer Recorder)		
Absent:	Patrick Carruthers (Treasurer), Sagar Jha (DSU), Aaron Beale (DSU - 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 Minutes

No minutes to approve

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

- 5) Proposal that StudentsNS look to host a debate of the leaders of the political parties during the next Provincial election, respecting youth issues (PSE, youth employment, immigration, transit, etc.).

JW (ED): There is not a lot for the ED to say on this topic; it is pretty self-explanatory. There will be three debates, which will be televised. We are trying to get StudentsNS as to host of one debate, on one campus. It would be a good opportunity for partnership and relationship building. ED would like to get movement on it in two ways: a) whether or not we would like to pursue hosting the debate, and b) what we want to discuss.

BD (SFXUSU): Is in favour. It would be helpful to involve students and put focus on PSE. BD thinks that it is a good idea.

AB (SFXUSU): Noted agreement.

BD (SFXUSU): Requested clarification: where is it to take place?

BF (Comms.): The location is to be discussed. It would depend on many things, and partnerships would likely dictate where. If the group is a youth organization, for example, they may have facilities. It may also take place on campus.

JW (ED): We could host almost anywhere in NS, since there are so many campuses. We won't want all of the debates to take place in the HRM, so it is an advantage that we can offer.

KP (Chair): Is there any opposition to hosting the debates at all? (*No*.) Requested that the ED go over potential topics.

JW (ED): Some ideas are: PSE (broadly), funding, and quality at universities, the youth employment file has a good deal of coverage, immigration and demographic challenges, transit challenges, and there could be more. If there are three debates, they'll want a broad range of issues over them.

KP (Chair): Bullying, especially after the Parson's case, is a hot-button issues. It will be discussed.

BD (SFXUSU): Also, it is tied to mental health, so there are questions about that as well.

JW (ED): The divisions of the three debates are: aging, economy, and children and youth, which we could fit into quite well. It makes sense to go for this angle.

KP (Chair): Called for further discussion or suggestions for topics. Heard none, called the question.

Jared Perry (SMUSA) **moved** and Darcy Shea (ASU) **seconded the motion: Be it resolved** that the staff of StudentsNS investigate further hosting one of the debates of the leaders of the political parties during the next Provincial election.

Vote:

ASTSU – Yes

CBUSU – Yes

SFXSU – Yes

SMUSA – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

6) Discussion around proposed Leaderlab, July 3-5.

JW (ED): There is still no funding confirmed. ED wanted to ask if, due to the late date, the Board still wants to move forward, and if members of the Board would want to help organize the location, events, etc. Potential dates are those on the Doodle poll, with the best availability planned so that we're not overbooking Board members.

DS (ASU): Feels that it is important to follow through, to choose a chair, and to get to know each other and not be distracted.

BF (Comms.): It is a get-to-know event, but also a chance for a philosophical exploration and learning of facilitation tactics. Now, it is after the Board education retreat, and the dates are very close. We don't want volunteer fatigue.

JW (ED): Also, it is not just for the Board, but for full executives, and can be useful for other members.

KP (Chair): It gives members a chance to liaise, not just the presidents and VP academics.

AB (SFXUSU): Requested clarification regarding funding.

BF (Comms.): We approached company called D250 a month ago. They usually meet every 30 days, but they are stalled on their end. We're looking for \$8K-\$10K.

BD (SFXUSU): What does it go towards?

JW (ED): Mostly paying for facilitators, but also the place to stay, etc.

AB (SFXUSU): So now, we are moving on it and assuming that we have secured funding?

BF (Comms.): We could. If the Board got involved, it may take the onus off of staff if funding didn't pan out.

JW (ED): It is likely, but perhaps, if not from D250, we could charge a bit more to the student unions, if members were willing, which would be marginal.

AH (ASTSU): Doubts that AST would be involved, as it doesn't have funding for this.

BB (CBUSU): Would have to take this back to the other executives at the CBUSU.

KP (Chair): So the board understands it to be funding-dependent? (Yes)

BD (SFXUSU): Where is it to take place?

BF (Comms.): It has been held in Tatamagouche, but we may choose a different location. They are also reasonably priced.

BB (CBUSU): It isn't a matter of money, it's just that the SU did not budget for it.

BF (Comms.): It is the Board's decision to make. About what AB said, if someone wants to start planning, we could get the ball rolling. Places are booking up quickly, so there will be logistical constraints if we don't plan soon.

MR (ASU): Noted frustration that it had been emphasized as an engagement for non-Board members. While time is going to be difficult now, we may want to look at going back to having it in May.

KP (Chair): Is there value in still doing it this year?

JP (SMUSA): Yes. We get to know the incoming Board, which is very beneficial, and we get to do so away from institutions. SMUSA already has budgeted for this.

JW (ED): We can look at covering the place to stay and food. We would have to see if we want to facilitate events ourselves or hire. Staff can't take this load by themselves. Also, we would like to see commitment for attendance to move forward, then to help with content and facilitation.

KP (Chair): If one or two people would volunteer for preliminary planning, we can move forward. (*MM (SMUSA) and AB (SFXUSU) volunteer.*) Is the ED able to contact D250 today?

JW (ED): Yes. I will send details for the budget.

7) Proposal for Report on Students Facing Neuro-Cognitive Challenges

KP (Chair): Are there any questions about this report?

JW (ED): We have Kayti Baur on contract to write this report. She has been the keynote speaker as student with mental health challenges. She's very good. We will talk to the Board soon about Mend the Gap. We're going to say "Neuro-cognitive" challenges in the title, but it refers to learning disabilities and mental health challenges. This gives an idea of our preliminary thinking. The Board can then give feedback and direction. I wanted to approach the board to amend and discuss several areas: what is mental health; what is disability; how do these things impact students; what opportunities exist to help students; what aspects of PSE present challenges? The recommendations are at the end, and are rooted in resiliency. The principles represent our outlook. There is a list of key concepts and terms, a lit review, the results of focus groups, a timeline (with the date of release of the draft: Sept 11, and final approval: Oct 11). It sets the timing for student assemblies in the fall. Also, it gives staff time to complete other papers by February.

DS (ASU): Late September is better. The first week of October is Thanksgiving, and the second week is Homecoming, and will be unsuited for student assemblies.

BF (Comms.): Noted that KP (Chair) is no longer in attendance due to technical difficulties.

MR (ASU): Requests that BF Chair the meeting. (*Accepted.*)

AB (SFXUSU): Noted agreement with DS.

AH (ASTSU): Sept 11 release would accommodate early and late assemblies.

BF (Comms.): So Sept 11. SUs can have student assemblies later in September, if they prefer.

AH (ASTSU): Requests clarification: what does the release have to do with the timing of the assemblies?

JW (ED): We want to time the assemblies so that we can collect feedback while the draft is out and we can gather information for the next round of papers in February. So, between September 11th and October 4th?

BF (Comms.): Called for further discussion or questions.

DS (ASU): There is a section for "Culture and Stigma," but no recommendations for that section. Why is that?

JW (ED): It falls under the "Aggravating Factors" segment.

REPORTS

8) Reports of the Officers

a) Chair – Absent

b) Vice-Chair – Absent

i) Met with the new Minister. Had a good conversation. He appreciated our approach, and he saw areas for us to collaborate in the future. It was a good introduction for us.

- ii) International Student centres now need to be accredited to give advice, so this may require further discussion. MSVU, ASU, Dal, CBU, and others are moving towards accreditation, so students may see fees.
 - c) Treasurer - Absent

- 9) Reports of the staff
 - a) Executive Director – Jonathan Williams
 - i) Lots of irons in the fire. Staff retreat went well. Various annual planning items for April.
 - ii) Happy to have Kayti with us for 24 hours a week.
 - iii) Laurie Anne, the new office manager, is great. We are amending how we record the budget. We're having line items be more transparent, like membership fees, of Literacy NS, etc. It lightens the ED's workload.
 - iv) Is in Ontario this week.
 - v) Sits down with OUSA this week.
 - vi) Getting ready for the International Student report. Will be in the news in the next few days.
 - vii) Will send out the monthly report soon.

- 10) Reports of the members
 - a) ASTSU
 - i) Board member has yet to have orientation, so is in the dark. Hopes to have more of an idea by next meeting.
 - ii) Gearing up for summer sessions. Large number of students on campus in the summer.
 - b) ASU
 - i) Got a good start to the summer.
 - ii) Plans for the mental health project
 - iii) Hosting the staff conference
 - iv) Meeting with liquor commission. MR will sit in on meeting, and will be in HRM. Will circulate the invitation.
 - c) CBU
 - i) New website is up and running
 - ii) Strategic plan is complete
 - iii) House competition
 - iv) Online tutoring and software installations
 - d) SFXUSU
 - i) Working through four main goals for the next year.
 - ii) Focusing on mental-health and counselling. Changes in terms of positions.
 - iii) Planning frosh week.

BB (CBUSU): Did you talk to the sexual-assault contact? (*Not yet, but will soon.*)
 - e) SMUSA

- i) Campus goes tobacco-free on September 1st. Figuring out how to communicate this to students.
- ii) Planning for orientation week.
- iii) Strategic planning in next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

BB (CBUSU): In contact with NS student loan people. Interest does not build up until the six-month grace period. With NS student loan, if you do not receive it before November 1st, the interest is put on your account through no fault of your own. BB is wondering: what can we do, if NS student loans makes a mistake?

JW (ED): Will look into it. Can't do it right now, from Ontario, but will as soon as I get back.

MR (ASU): Let's come back to it at the next meeting, and see what we come up with.

BB (CBUSU): Will try again to contact them and get more details.

BF (Comms.): That opens the floor for a new matter: listserv manage list, which routs out to the whole Board. You can access it by sending to Board@studentsns.ca.

MR (ASU): Is there any further new business?

BF (Comms.): When is frosh pack assembly for each school? BF would like to put StudentsNS materials into frosh packs. Please send a quick email to him for sense of timeline.

Darcy Shea (ASU) **moved** and Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU) **seconded the motion to adjourn.**

Motion passed by general consent.

ADJOURNMENT