


Students Nova Scotia	Board of Directors	students 
	Meeting Minutes	

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	Oct 18, 2013		
Meeting Time:	2:30 PM, AST		
Venue:	The Hub Halifax	City:	Halifax, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Darcy Shea (ASU), Amy Brierley (Chair/StFXSU), Gorba Bhandari , (SMUSA), Matt Latimer (Treasurer/CBUSU), Sagar Jha (DSU)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Allison Sparling (Campaigns Coordinator) Jacob Voyer (Engagement and Communications Officer)		
Absent:	Aaron Beale (DSU, regrets), Matt Rios (Vice-Chair, regrets), Ben Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU, regrets), AST, DASA, Patrick Visintini (DSU, regrets).		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda

Amended to add discussion on campus coordinator/assemblies

Approved by general consent

4) Approval of September 11 and September 20 minutes

DS (ASU): Identified some edits to address typos

Amended Minutes approved by general consent.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

5) Student-Government Roundtable Agenda (November 8)

AB (Chair/StFXSU): The student-government roundtable meeting will be on November 8th. One of the main topics to be discussed will be mental health, but we wanted to get an idea from the board about other potential topics.

JW (ED): StudentsNS and your union will be attending, as well as the Minister, the Deputy Minister and various people from the Department of Labour and Advanced Education, so it is a really good opportunity.

AB (Chair): Does anyone have some suggestions around topics to be discussed?

ML (CBUSU/Treasurer): I would say financial assistance could be useful.

SJ (DSU): Would love to start a conversation on the government holding universities more accountable to the MOU's, as around consultations for approval of new ancillary fees.

AB (Chair/StFXSU): In terms on setting the agenda, is there a deadline?

JW (ED): If we could nail down the topics now that would be good.

AB (Chair/StFXSU): Is there any opposition to the 2 topics proposed? Hearing none we will add those 2 topics to the agenda.

6) Election debrief

DS (ASU): The report cards went over really well on our campus and got several comments about how it was great that we provided that kind of documentation. We had a lot of positive feedback. We had pre-registration 3 days before election day. We had a debate that was very well attended and we look forward to working with the new MLA's.

SJ (DSU): I felt our student message wasn't unified enough and felt it could have been better, I think there are other things we could have won in that election, we lobbied on affordability in the election things like rent control and students dealing with high rent fees. I also have

concerns that certain staff members should not post on social media in support of certain parties.

Matt (CBUSU/Treasurer): On report cards, my committee felt that we could not circulate the report cards because they didn't want to align with any one party. The debate that we did have went over pretty well and the election overall went pretty well.

GB (SMUSA): At SMUSA it went well and we had a debate, which went really well too. We had students come out and a few community members come out.

AB (Chair/StFXSU): If we had to have a discussion around staff social media posts and supporting one party we should go in camera.

Motion to move in camera.

Approved

Motion to move out of camera.

Approved

7) Report on Off-Campus Housing

JW (ED): The paper should have been released around the same time as the student assistance paper but it wasn't ready for understandable HR reasons. We wanted to get a sense of when people think StudentsNS should put out this off-campus-housing paper.

AB (Chair/StFXSU): Is everyone comfortable with releasing the paper at a more convenient time? Hearing no objections I am comfortable with releasing it at a more convenient time off schedule

8) StudentsNS Lobby Week

AB (Chair/StFXSU): hoping to get a sense of what a good time would be for everyone?

DS (ASU): I feel that the end of January or first week in February would be good, as they are less busy times of the year.

ML (CBUSU/Treasurer): I agree too.

GB (SMUSA) I agree with that.

SJ (DSU) I agree too.

AB (Chair/StFXSU): any addition comments? Hearing none we will move on to the next item.

9) AAU Mental Health Conference (October 30)

JW (ED): Will be held at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, I might not be able to attend as I may be at CBU. However, last year it was an alright event. For those who can only

travel from outside Halifax a limited number of times, I would hesitate to prioritize this event over a student-government roundtable, for example.

10) HR Update

JW (ED): StudentsNS has made a number of hires. Allison Sparling (campaigns coordinator) and Danielle Andres (research officer) will be on for 6 months.

11) Student Assemblies/Mend the Gap coordinators

DS (ASU): Originally there was some confusion around who would be the Mend the Gap coordinator, for the Student Assembly Coordinator we just usually decide ourselves. For the Mend the Gap Coordinator we have decided I would take that on.

ML (Treasurer/CBUSU): For the Mend the Gap Coordinator our women's center coordinator has agreed to take this role on. I have one student who is interested in the Student Assembly Coordinator position and is figuring out whether she has the time.

SJ (DSU): we have a Mend the Gap Coordinator working for us. For the student assemblies we are working on narrowing down a coordinator.

AB (Chair/StFXSU): Ben and I did interviews for the Student Assembly Coordinator and hired a woman who has quite a bit of experience in social work in women's centers. She also applied to be the Mend the Gap Coordinator so we hired her for that as well.

GB (SMUSA): I will work on finding people and will have someone hopefully by next meeting.

12) Reports of the Officers

AB (Chair/StFXSU): Still pretty new and have a lot to learn not much happened yet but what time. Jonathan when will the board retreat be next week?

JW (ED): I believe it starts 9am on the Saturday.

Vice-Chair: Absent

ML (Treasurer/CBUSU): I have been in regular contact with Lori-Ann who does the bookkeeping for StudentsNS and everything looks good, no unexpected expenses. Just waiting for the new expense report. I also will not be able to be attending the board retreat, as I will be in Mexico.

12) Reports of the Staff

Executive Director

The student financial assistance report is available publicly and we have been getting some feedback around some positive and some for areas of improvement, notably around eliminating tuition tax credits and the impacts of that on mature students. The Sexual Assault Project is going well. Anne is doing her campus visits this month and she done a

number of campus visits already, which have gone quiet well. The steering committee for the sexual assault prevention project is together and working well. Mend The Gap is delayed as per health issues but now that we have Allison on it will help greatly. The UNESCO proposal came back and we didn't get it. I was at the World Congress on Access to Post-Secondary Education, some of it went well, particularly for learning what universities are doing to bring in students who traditionally would not attend PSE.

13) Reports of the Members

ASTSU – absent

ASU

DS (ASU): We just had our first meeting with the newly elected members of the SRC and we have been happy with the engagement they have been having on campus in the last two weeks. I am still going over elections stuff and we are really excited to work with the new MLA's. We also have a conference coming up and I am sitting on the steering committee.

CBUSU

ML (CBUSU/Treasurer): The last couple of weeks have been tied up with election stuff. I have also been doing work on policies regarding our operations; we have a committee that seems to be working well and I suggesting improvements for student services around campus. We have also updated our elections policies.

DASA – absent

DSU

SJ (DSU): We have been working with the administration regarding our operations. We are also revising our policies, notably around inclusive language. We are also going to be doing a revision in terms of our own elections policy.

StFXSU

AB (Chair/StFXSU): It's been a stressful first month with homecoming, but people are settling in and getting into routine. We are looking for input on the health services we offer and sending a survey around campus. We are doing an academic program review to determine what are sustainable programs at StFX. We have also had student forums asking students on their opinions on their academic needs and where there is room for growth and improvement. We were also busy with the election and pleased that StFX had the highest voter turn-out.

SMUSA

| **GB (SMUSA):** I just got into the office recently after the whole controversy. Today was the last day for applications for our VP positions.

AB (Chair/StFXSU): Is there any other business to attend too?

Motion to adjourn

Motion approved by general consent.