


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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	Nov 8, 2013		
Meeting Time:	2:30 PM, AST		
Venue:	The Hub Halifax	City:	Halifax, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Amy Brierley (Chair/StFXSU), Matthew Rios (Vice Chair/ASU), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Aaron Beale (DSU), Jeremy Mott (Kingstec NSCCSA), Sagar Jha (DSU), Matthew Latimer (CBUSU/Treasurer). Darcy Shea (ASU), Patrick Visintini (DAGS),		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Jacob Voyer (Engagement and Communications Officer), Bethany Rains (NSCC Waterfront Campus).		
Absent:	ASTSU, Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU, regrets), Paul Rukidi (SMUSA) Jessica Compagnon (DASA), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA), Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU).		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approval of amended agenda

Added proposed recommendation to student financial assistance report.

## Agenda **approved by general consent**

- 4) Approval of October 18 and October 26 minutes

## Minutes **approved by general consent**

### DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

- 5) Student Wellness Conference

JW (ED): We recently received \$9,200 dollars to host the wellness conference in March and it will focus on student safety. The province wants us to talk about alcohol, specifically around the current policies. We have also brought up sexual assault as an important issue for everyone. Talking about sexual assault and alcohol, we understand that in having the two issues connected there is some concern with victim blaming, but the intent is not to explore the connection but instead consider alcohol abuse and sexual assault as two separate challenges to student safety. Currently funding is tied to the alcohol project; we needed to talk about that issue to allow for funding for the sexual assault project. 1) We want board input on timing for when it can work for everyone on the board and 2) How does the board feel about appointing current steering committee members to guide this project compared to getting new board members for the event's steering committee.

AB (DSU): Last year the conference was pushed back by a month because of election related items.

DS (ASU): Didn't we already nominate candidates for those steering committees? (*No, Youthful Economy Steering Committee has been appointed*).

SJ (DSU): We don't want the scheduling of this to affect scheduling of our elections.

JW (ED): It is 10 reps per institution across the province; the conference is very open. It would be great to have current and past executives.

MR (Vice Chair/ASU): I am hesitant to dictate what the reps are allowed and not allowed to do. They need to be cautioned that we may identify issues that are not on the agenda that should be.

JW (ED): Are people comfortable with appointing a steering committee from the people who are on the steering committees of the sexual assault prevention project and alcohol review.

MR (Vice Chair/ASU): That seems to be the consensus.

- 6) Mental Health Leadership forum

JW (ED): There is a possibility of StudentsNS participating in a mental illness forum where they would have a speaker talk about mental health issues and possibly get other speakers. Would the board be interested? It is looking like the forum will be held late November.

MR (Vice Chair/ASU): Is there interest from the student unions to talk about these issues?

DS (ASU): I think timing is an important thing to consider.

ML (Treasurer/CBUSU): I think it is an interesting thing to get together and talk about. As far as the timing goes, it is something we will have to look into.

PV (DAGS): If I were available towards the end of November I'd come.

JM (NSCCSA): Timing is tight but I am sure I could swing it.

JW (ED): January or November?

MR (Vice Chair/ASU): The Board of Directors believes that January is the better date to hold the leadership forum.

#### 7) Amendment to recommendations of student financial assistance report

JW (ED): The original Student Assistance document suggests that the appeals process is not compassionate. We are not sure how the appeals process can become more compassionate regarding the accommodations for students with disabilities and mental health issues. It is more about addressing how to accommodate these students so they don't reach the appeals process, rather than the appeals process itself. That's why we wanted to soften the language. I e-mailed out the proposal. Basically we can improve on the process we have now, rather than developing a new one.

**Be it resolved** that the following amendment be passed:

*Original recommendation: In consultation with StudentsNS and representative students, develop and implement a more compassionate appeals/dispute resolution process for all students but in particular those individuals facing serious and verifiable health issues.*

*Proposed amended recommendation: In consultation with StudentsNS and representative students, work to make the appeals/dispute resolution process as compassionate as possible for all students but in particular those individuals facing serious and verifiable health issues.*

#### **Motion approved by general consent.**

#### 8) Reports of the Officers

- a) Chair- absent due to telephone trouble.
- b) Vice Chair - Matthew Rios (ASU)

Met with Carol and others from Financial Aid to discuss unpaid intern projects we were dealing with. They thought the research document was fantastic.

I am working closely with Jonathan and Amy.

- c) Treasurer - Matthew Latimer (CBUSU):

I have been out of the office after suffering a concussion. However, since getting back, I have mostly been looking over financial statements and signing off on them. We are doing well on expenses side.

#### 9) Reports of the staff:

##### a) Executive Director: Jonathan Williams

- i. Working group met on access and affordability and is prioritizing measuring progress and identifying targets for including underrepresented groups.
- ii. Bob's Student Assistance paper is in the final draft.
- iii. Meeting booked with Labour and Advanced Education Minister in December.
- iv. Have had a couple of Student Assemblies at Acadia and SMUSA, which included employment and quality paper brainstorm.
- v. D250 felt they did not want to support a membership drive on NSCC campuses, so they have not approved funding for an additional engagement officer.
- vi. Released Mend The Gap report; not a whole lot of coverage on that.
- vii. Met with Venus Envy to discuss review of student practices policies around sexual assault prevention and collaboration on the campaign, which was very cool. Anne is still working on the report.
- viii. I also encourage everyone to check out UNews. We have very serious concerns about one article that was absolutely unfair, partisan and unacceptable.

#### 10) Reports of the members:

##### a) ASU:

- i. Student assembly was great with good participation. Meeting with admin to finalize consultation policy and we are really excited. Also meeting with Dr. Wheeler and Ray to talk about the university system and what can be done to improve it.

##### b) CBUSU

- i. Finished up the audit from last year on CFS issues. We had a SRC council meeting, which looked at changing the academic appeals process. We are also looking at student engagement initiatives between second term and frosh week. We have hired a new graphic designer and are also looking at a student assembly soon.

##### c) DSU

- i. Executive retreat this weekend to address whatever is going on in terms of tensions etc., doing things around deliberate democracy. We are doing a lot of work around the 24 hour study break and lobby around fall reading week for next December!

d) NSCCSA

- i. We have been handling day-to-day issues at the college. Everyone is very excited about joining StudentsNS.

e) StFXSU

- i. We are enjoying fall reading week, it is nice to have the time off. Introduced new study space and it has been successful. Had presentation from SAPs on providing 24/7 counseling service for students and students are enjoying themselves getting ready for the end of the term.

11) Other Business

**Motion to move in camera for a human resources discussion.**

**Motion Passes**

**Motion to move out of camera**

**Motion Passes**

ADJOURNMENT