

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	Dec 20, 2013		
Meeting Time:	12:00 PM, AST		
Venue:	The Hub Halifax	City:	Halifax, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Amy Brierley (Chair/StFXSU), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Jeremy Mott (Kingstec NSCCSA), Darcy Shea (ASU), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA), Paul Rukidi (SMUSA)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Jacob Voye (Engagement and Communications Officer), Allison Sparling (Campaigns Coordinator)		
Absent:	ASTSU, Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU, regrets), Jessica Compagnon (DASA), Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU), Patrick Visintini (Dags), Matthew Rios (Vice Chair/ASU), Matthew Latimer (CBUSU/Treasurer), Sagar Jha (DSU), Aaron Beale (DSU)		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

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

Added change to order of discussion: Item 7 decision and renewal of Executive Director's contract moved to end of agenda.. Changed time and date of board meeting from December 13, 2013 to December 20, 2013; 2:30 pm to 12:00pm.

Agenda **approved by general consent**

4) Approval of Nov 8 minutes and Nov 29 minutes

Addition of amendment to Nov 29 minutes, MTV Pump It Up awards changed to TD Pump It Up.

Minutes **approved by general consent**

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

5) Sexual Assault Prevention paper and alcohol risk prevention project.

AB (Chair): When I sent out the documents for the meeting scheduled for the 13th it was the most recent version of the sexual assault prevention paper. Since then changes have been made to the paper. Did everyone have a chance to look of the first draft? We want to allow the steering committee to approve that report and for StudentsNS staff to be able to decide when to release the report.

JW (ED): We are looking to release the report on January 13th.

Be it resolved that the following amendment be passed.

The staff of StudentsNS will release the review of policies and practices once they have been approved by the steering committee.

6) Online petition to the province of Nova Scotia in advance of Advocacy Week.

AB (Chair): There are three asks in the petition and we want to see if this petition is something we will go forward with. I am in favor of this idea as it gives us a way to increase our visibility and to show students that we are taking concrete action.

JW (ED): The three asks are not just relevant to the universities, but also to the NSCC. StudentsNS does not have a position on NSCC tuition fees; we have not worked with you guys yet, but these recommendations could basically apply at least in principle. Does that make sense?

JM (NSCC): Yes absolutely, a lot of the issues that affect universities affect us as well.

JW (ED): The Students Speak Out video will be launched at the same time as the petition, it is a multifaceted idea. We are reliant on the board to get signatures of students. We are planning to release the petition on change.org.

AB (Chair): questions or comments?

DS (ASU): The wording in regard to recommendation #3; can we consider using different wording for “reject” as I think it is very harsh.

JW (ED): The power to choose whether new ancillary fees are approved, does that sound good?

DS (ASU): Yes, that sounds great, I like that.

GB (SMUSA): I think it is a great idea. I looked over the petition and I think the wording is good.

B-G-D (StFXSU): I looked it over as well, and I really like the second point, as I know that is something we are struggling with here.

7) Plans for winter 2014 semester

AB (Chair): We wanted to get an idea if it would be okay to have board meetings tied to when most of the board members would be in Halifax.

JW (ED): I know it is a really busy semester and we will do our best to accommodate your schedules.

DS (ASU): For Advocacy Week, is that going to be a 3-day thing?

JW (ED): This is the first time we have had an event like this. So we have blocked out a week that will match the schedules and availability of MLA’s. If the board can flag January 9th as a possible meeting time, we can go forward with planning.

8) Pre-budget submission brainstorm.

JW (ED): The board needs to identify ideas and we can do follow up on that before the January 9th meeting around costs. It is important to emphasize things that cost money, so they do need to be expenditure items.

AB (Chair): Allocating money from the GRR and moved it to the Nova Scotia Assistance program. I know Jonathan mentioned getting MSI coverage for international students. Would it be helpful to put it in again?

JW (ED): Yes so we can do some research on that in terms of how much it costs.

DS (ASU) perhaps doing this by e-mail will be better? It might lend itself to a more fruitful discussion.

9) Proposal for StudentsNS to co-host mental wellness conference with Galavan & Associates.

AB (Chair): It occurred to me that this had already been discussed and approved through e-mail. We can strike that from the agenda.

10) Volunteers for the Student Wellness Conference steering committee

AB (Chair): Would anyone from the board be interest in sitting on this committee?

JW (ED): Matt Rios will sit on it from my understanding, but if there is interest from, notably the Alcohol Steering Committee or Sexual Assault Steering Committee, they are more than welcome to volunteer.

JM (NSCC): I wouldn't mind being involved in that.

11) Reports of the officers

a) Chair – Amy Brierley (StFXSU)

- i. Over the past few weeks, I have been in contact with Allison and Jonathan on the Sexual Assault Prevention paper and giving my comments and I am pretty happy with the outcome. The meeting with Minister Regan has been canceled and has been rescheduled for January 6th, Danielle Andres, Jonathan Williams, and Matt Rios will be sitting in on that meeting.

b) Vice Chair - Matthew Rios (ASU)

c) Treasurer - Matthew Latimer (CBUSU)

12) Reports of the staff:

a) Executive Director: Jonathan Williams

- i. The first thing is the meeting with the Minister. The Minister will run her Department, it will not be run so much out of the premier's office as it has been in the past. When the meeting was cancelled I sent a message saying that we were disappointed in the delay and were concerned that decisions could be made on the funding escalator for universities or the Graduate Retention Rebate. The decision about both of those should come in January and we are meeting with the Minister the first week in January. They have responded by saying that there will be a decision for the funding escalator for next year only. The decisions on these will come in January at the earliest, which is good.
- ii. The Hub is closing. They announced it on Tuesday of this week. I would love to get a place that is as nice and affordable to keep our overhead costs down. The decision confronting us is where we will go next.
- iii. Sexual Assault Prevention Project--we are making tiny changes and have added a short note regarding which universities have equity officers and which universities have women's centres because that info is not really out there publicly.
- iv. We sent out an invitation for the Mental Health Conference in January.
- v. We have also sent out a Save the Date for Youth in the Nova Scotia Economy and we are partners with the Province of Nova Scotia, Democracy 250, Dalhousie University,

Nova Scotia Community College and with generationsqueeze.ca on this project. The funding is around \$25,000 and looks good and should be really significant and have a lot of impact.

- vi. I am trying to push both the Access and Affordability and Tuition Policy working group to endorse our position on transfer credits to the student assistance program. I expect the working groups will become more active and engaged in the new year.

13) Reports of the members:

a) ASU:

- i. We had a meeting last Monday about fall reading week but the discussion was moved because the school's registrar was absent.

d) NSCCSA

- i. I have been traveling around to different campuses and meeting with representative from the student associations and Student Life and everyone thus far been pretty positive about joining StudentsNS.

e) StFXSU

- i. Very busy with Board of Governors in preparation for hiring a new president.
- ii. There has been a proposal for our first ever official Frost Week.
- iii. We continue to have a lot of staff changes.
- iv. We are organizing a committee around a possible mental health week on campus so we are busy with that.
- v. I have been meeting with the Preventing Violence Advisory Committee at StFX about making concrete changes around awareness and prevention on sexual assault.

f) SMUSA

- i. We are finishing up exams.
- ii. We had a meeting with the Board of Directors and yesterday the presidential report was released on the September rape chant.
- iii. We had work done on the summer youth pass. We called the Metro Transit Youth director and were told that they had made an offer to the Board of Governors at Dalhousie which is yet to be approved.

14) Renewal of Executive Director's contract.

Motion to move in camera
Motion Passes

ADJOURNMENTS