

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	Jan. 31, 2014		
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), Paul Rukidi (SMUSA), Aaron Beale (DSU), Matthew Rios (Vice Chair/ASU), Jessica Compagnon (DASA), Matthew Latimer (CBUSU/Treasurer)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Allison Sparling (Campaigns Coordinator), Danielle Andres (Research Officer).		
Absent:	ASTSU, Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU, regrets), Patrick Visintini (DSU), Sagar Jha (DSU), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA),		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

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

Amendment proposed to add advocacy week to the agenda.

Agenda **approved by general consent**

4) Approval of December 20 minutes

Minutes **approved by general consent**

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

1. 2014 Pre-Budget Submission

JW (ED): I think we can underline the importance of providing adequate funding to the university system that has been approved by the board. That being said, recently Amy and I had a discussion of the importance of investment towards post-secondary education.

MR (Vice Chair): I have heard the government has confirmed they will be doing a 1% increase to funding, I am happy the new government is taking that approach.

JW (ED): Universities have indicated they will respond favorably to the change, as if a longer term decision on funding were made right now it would be a very low funding escalator. They are saying give us 1% this year and we will talk more to try to build a rapport with the new government and potentially get more in the long term.

AB (Chair): Any other comments around the pre-budget submission?

MR (Vice Chair): Just to add for a focus group discussion, feedback around the MSI coverage for international students was overwhelmingly positive.

AB (Chair): That's a good point Matt. I know the international advisor here has been talking about that for a while now and getting MSI coverage for international students is one of her biggest asks and she is pretty excited about it too.

PR (SMUSA): Yes it will go over well here too, as we have a lot of international students that will benefit.

Motion to approve the pre-budget submission

SMUSA moves, ASU seconds

ASU – in favour

DASA – in favour

DSU – abstention

CBUSU – in favour

SMUSA – in favour

StFXSU – in favour

Pre-budget submission is **approved**.

2. Preparation for 2014 Advocacy Week

JW: Advocacy week was supposed to be scheduled for next week but was cancelled because the Liberal Caucus will be meeting in Cape Breton. What we have set up is a meeting for four MLAs next Friday and a presentation in front of the whole Liberal caucus on Friday the 12th as well as individual meetings with three other MLAs. We have identified ten Liberal MLAs who may be interested in meeting with us as well. The meeting would be for February 12th. The board should discuss who is available around those dates, specifically the February 12th meeting.

PR (SMUSA): Both Gorba and I can make Friday in the morning, Gorba could make the 12 but I have an exam that day.

JM (NSCCSA): I can be there for both meetings.

MR (Vice Chair): I will be in Toronto for both of those meetings, so I will be unavailable.

ML (CBUSU): I am writing my LSATs so I will be unavailable on the 7th and I am in meetings all day on the 12th. I can run it by Brennan and see if he is interested.

DS (ASU): Maybe the 12th, but the 7th, I will be busy.

B-G-D (StFXSU): The 7th for sure, but both dates look good so far.

JC (DASA): I can't make either date unfortunately.

AB (DSU): not the 12th, maybe the 7th.

JW (ED): we need to check with Sagar, and Brennan.

MR (Vice Chair): I would happy to send delegates on behalf of our student association.

JW (ED): Elements of the petition and the pre-budget submission will be the focus for advocacy week. We are sitting at 206 signatures as of now, but we can do much better.

B-G-D (StFSXSU): can we up the goal--instead of 350 can we set that up to 1000?

AB (Chair): How are people feeling about the petition and circulating that around their campuses?

MR (Vice Chair): We are circulating the petition around our campus. The only thing that may pose a problem is campus elections will beginning soon and will play a role in how much attention is given to it.

DS (ASU): I think the campus elections present a good opportunity for candidates to promote this kind of thing.

JW (ED): Just to switch topics, if anyone is interested the PC convention will be on the 27th if anyone is interested.

3. Proposed Social Media Policy

AB (Chair): This was work that was done in reaction to a conversation the board had earlier about proper etiquette in relation to social media.

AS (Campaign Coordinator): I looked through a few other documents as a benchmark, and it would be good to clarify a few things around what to post and what not to. I put together a document to outline the best practice policies.

ML (CBUSU): It is good to have this policy and not promote negative uses of social media.

AB (Chair): if there are no other comments, can I get a motion to accept the policy?

CBU moves, SMUSA seconds

ASU – in favour

DASA – in favour

DSU – abstention

CBUSU – in favour

SMUSA – in favour

StFXSU – in favour

Motion Approved

4. Sexual Assault Prevention Project Funding Opportunity

JW (ED): We have funding in the Sexual Assault Prevention Project for particular activities in the campuses that participated in the review. We do have some money that we could give to you to help implement some recommendations from that review. The campus would need to put together a proposal for review and approval by our steering committee. We encourage people to apply for that. In terms of the alcohol review we are hoping that the steering committee members will get an opportunity to review the changes and recommendations put forward.

AB (Chair): Is that funding time-sensitive?

JW (ED): By the end of March the proposals have to be submitted.

5. Mend the Gap

AB (Chair): I want to touch base on the status of the campaign for each campus.

PR (SMUSA): We have a society expo that will be run for the Mend the Gap campaign.

DS (ASU): We had an event on Sunday, and it wasn't well attended, the event just didn't really go as well as I had hoped.

AB (Chair): Our coordinator at StFXSU held an event on Wednesday. Twenty people attended and she said a lot of people stayed for over 3 hours.

AB (Chair): In moving forward, there still is time to get an event together, but just keep the board in the loop in terms of when you plan to have the event.

6. The DSU advocacy report

ASU moves, NSCCSA seconds motion to move into camera.

Out of camera.

MR (Vice Chair): Two formal comments for documentation. The ASU wants to voice formal displeasure regarding the Advocacy Review process at Dalhousie. We would like to see a process where StudentsNS is included in a fair and objective way. The second thing I would like to say is that the DSU has said that this is a miscommunication with no mal-intent and they are committing moving forward to being fully transparent and fully collaborative with StudentsNS when they are publishing any documentation that references StudentsNS.

AB (Chair): StFX would echo that.

ML (Treasurer). I think everyone on the Board would echo that statement.

MR (Vice Chair): I think every member should voice their view for the minutes.

ML (Treasurer): CBUSU would echo that definitely.

PR (SMUSA): SMUSA would echo that statement.

JM (Kingstec NSCCSA): Kingstec absolutely echoes that.

REPORTS

Reports of the Officers

- Chair

AB (Chair): I have been working with the sexual assault prevention project committee. It's moving along really well and we're moving into the campaign aspect, which is exciting.

Travelled to Halifax, with Jonathan, Kyle Power and Matt Rios, for the Advocacy Review meeting at Dalhousie.

I've been taking with Jonathan regularly.

- Vice-Chair
MR (Vice-Chair): Working in concert with Chair and ED regarding the Advocacy Review at Dalhousie, along with former board members and staff. Presentation went well at Dalhousie.
- Treasurer
ML (Treasurer): I've been reviewing the financial statements that are sent along by Lori-Ann. Substantial project funding this year. How much external funding this year

JW (ED): \$150,000 this year, compared to \$30-40,000 last year.

ML (Treasurer): Clearly we've increased our revenues through project-based funding. I'm looking forward to getting into the budget for next year, through which I can provide more service in the treasurer role.

Reports of the Staff

- Executive Director
JW (ED): Lot going on and we haven't met in three weeks, but I'll try to be quick.

Two working groups have met in 2014, Access and affordability working group met yesterday and is talking about scaling back terms of reference because they are too expansive, which is true of all working groups probably. If we could agree on what access and affordability mean, what are the underrepresented groups and ways we could track underrepresented groups' participation each year, those would be positive steps in advance of the next MOU. Could lead to a commitment in principle to defining the terms which can help with policy development, and identify priority groups. Measures could lead to tying funding to access for those groups. The groups we have identified so far include African Nova Scotians, Aboriginal Nova Scotians, people with disabilities, and low-income Nova Scotians. It is very difficult to track people by ethnicity, but we could track students receiving low-income grants and mature students, who may be proxies for a lot of Aboriginal and African Nova Scotian students.

Tuition Policy Working Group. I'm operating in the group on the assumption that we will never agree. We will never agree with the universities. I'm interested in seeking agreement on things we could agree on, such as regulating fees for international students and professional students, consultations on ancillary fees. An issue board members should be attentive to is the possibility that universities seek tuition resets on particular programs. We have put together a proposal on how tuition resets could maybe be done in ways that don't impact on students in their programs, but we will see what we can do to push back on resets in general.

Summit on Youth in the NS Economy: We have three keynotes. We're trying to get David Wheeler from CBU. Working on various steps with logistics and breakout discussions. We have confirmed the dates, the location at Dalhousie.

Sexual assault prevention and alcohol risk reduction conference confirmed for Acadia and March 21. Much easier to put together. The steering committee met for the first time this week.

AS (StudentsNS): Just got confirmation from Venus Envy that they are happy to do a presentation at the Conference, bringing together alcohol and sexual assault prevention.

JW (ED): We have also confirmed Marguerite Drescher for the graphic facilitation.

We have put together draft criteria for the youth employer award. If any board members are interested in sitting on the project's steering committee please let me know. We'd really like to have real students on that committee.

The DSU situation is diverting my attention from our main priorities. We had to delay last week's meeting for example.

Meetings with Department of Community Services and Labour and Advanced Education regarding how we could possibly integration income assistance, EmploymentNS and student assistance to better serve students.

Moved the office down the street from where we were. We will pay \$300/month more in rent for six months. With our schedule so jammed to try to meet our annual plan priorities, we didn't have time to find another place. This is a good stop gap. This has been the direction of the full Hub membership, to make the numbers work. We're above Vogue Optical on Barrington. We will have a closed-in office space in the new environment, which is an upgrade in a sense.

Housing report to be released next week. HousingNS has received a copy of the report already. The following week we want to launch our sexual assault prevention campaign. The review was launched earlier in the month. We have also responded a lot to tweets by football players at SMU. Six television interviews the other week, another seven this week. In terms of the tweets at SMU, we focused a lot on football players projects at StFX.

AS (StudentsNS): Social media very focused on this topic right now because it's such a hot topic, but we wouldn't have that focus so much normally.

JW (ED): Launch date to be February 12. Two days before Valentine's Day. Also day we are meeting with the Liberal Caucus and the NDP caucus possibly. Show our impact on the day. We will be getting the materials to you ASAP and it would be great to have them distributed on the 12th. We can compensate you for costs of printing if you need it.

Going through the first draft of the Quality Report.

Mental Health Conference last week seemed really successful. Heard really great feedback.

Finally closing our RBC topic. It's only taken 8 months to be able to do..!

Reports of the Members

- ASTSU – Absent

- ASU

DS (ASU): Just finished a successful Winter Carnival Week. I just came back from a leadership conference at StFX for the U4 initiative. Matt and I will be attending another U4 event at Bishops this weekend. We are starting a review of our internal organization, just to keep things up to date and ensure we are still benefiting the members of our organization. Last day to pass in forms for our upcoming election, the debate will be next week.

AB (Chair): What are internal organizations?

DSU (ASU): Internal organizations are like societies who don't need to be ratified every year, like Acadia Pride. Need to determine if there should be new organizations, like a mental health society, or whether they are still necessary.

- CBUSU

ML (Treasurer): Things have been nuts because of the collective agreement negotiations and the possibility of a faculty strike over the past month or so. They reached a tentative agreement which is very good news. It just has to be ratified by the Board of Governance. I hope that the agreement is as favourable to students as possible, or not too detrimental. We had different people come in for Frost Week, including a session on consent and sexual health. Had some media coverage regarding the sexual assault prevention review. We are developing a committee to implement some of the recommendations of the review and the SMU President's Council report. Election nominations closed today, debate next week.

PR (SMUSA): Good luck with the whole faculty agreement.

ML (Treasurer): I'm looking forward to seeing the whole agreement. I hope they didn't give too much wiggle room to the Faculty association.

- DASA – Absent.

- DSU – Absent.

- Kingstec NSCCSA

JM (Kingstec NSCCSA): Slow month. We had some really good feedback and response to the Change.org petition. Got the word out to our students and other campuses. Spoke with managers of the school to promote it, and with faculty and student council. Next part starts Monday morning, where I send out the social media and emails. Beyond that, slow month. Thanks again to those who organized the mental health event at MSVU. Our VP of services is moving into a pretty large campaign. My provincial tour of NSCCs will begin in the next few weeks to talk about StudentsNS.

- StFXSU

AB (Chair): Helped plan the U4 event last week. At the end of our mental health awareness week with mental health committee on campus. Very successful so far. Ben has been going to Halifax for presidential search committee meetings. VP has been working with student senators around program review taking place at StFX. Pretty successful Frost Week – had to turn away 100 people to hypnotist.

PR (SMUSA): What is the Program Review? Will there be a draft of the findings published?

Not just academic programs, but also other services. Everything will be ranked and they will look where more resources are needed or where the resources aren't being used. I think they will publish something. I will put you in touch with our VP to provide more information.

BG-D (StFXSU): They are releasing the results in June. You can find out information on the process now though.

AB (Chair): Our new President and VP will be official at 5-pm today.

BG-D (StFXSU): They are pretty proactive, met with Jonathan.

JW (ED): One of them is our Mend the Gap Steering Committee Member. They're great.

- SMUSA

PR (SMUSA): Just finished our Frost Week. All the events were well attended, actually fully booked. Mentalist guy really confused everyone. Presidential search committee is being launched. They are appointing a SMUSA rep and an international student. Elections will be coming soon. Dealing with the SMU football tweet incident. Recently read a tweet: "SMU is trying to be the Rob Ford of universities".

JW (ED): Very unfortunate about the tweets. Is Dodds leaving?

PR (SMUSA): Dodds is in his last year and not renewing.

AB (Chair): We're here for support when stuff comes up, if you need anything.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT