

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	March 14, 2014		
Meeting Time:	5:45 PM, AST		
Venue:	Telephone	City:	Halifax, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Amy Brierley (Chair/StFXSU), Darcy Shea (ASU), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA), Paul Rukidi (SMUSA). Jessica Compagnon (DASA), James Patriquin (SMUSA), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Sagar Jha (DSU), Matthew Rios (Vice Chair/ASU).		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Alison Sparling (Campaigns Coordinator)		
Absent:	ASTSU, Patrick Visintini (DAGS), Matthew Latimer (CBUSU), Jeremy Mott (Kingstec NSCCSA, regrets), Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU, regrets)		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

1) Call to Order

2) Roll Call

3) Approval of agenda

Agenda **approved by general consent**

4) Approval of January 31 minutes

Minutes approved **by general consent**

5) Admission of the Dalhousie Student Union as a full member in StudentsNS.

AB (Chair): This motion requires 50 percent plus 1 of the members in the meeting to pass.

SMUSA moves

StFX seconds

AB (chair): Is there any discussion around this?

DS (ASU): Have we received a letter of intent from the DSU?

AB (Chair): I know that Jonathan and Matt have spoken with Sagar.

JW (ED): So in regards to DSU, we have never received a letter to leave or rejoin StudentsNS. We have been told by Sagar that there is intent to rejoin. Amy, did you want to hold off on this discussion until Sagar calls in?

AB (Chair): Yes, that is a good point.

JP (SMUSA): I am wondering if that letter of intent should acknowledge the StudentsNS bylaws, regarding the withdrawal of membership.

JW (ED): It doesn't need to as it's implicit that once they join the organization that they accept them.

AB (Chair): I acknowledge that, and I think we should include the bylaws in the letter of intent. It is implied, but may be helpful to have documentation in this case. I want to move this discussion towards the end of the call that way Sagar can participate in the discussion.

MR (Vice Chair): Just to comment, when SMUSA went from part-time to a full-time member they received a piece of paper to document that. I would suggest the same here.

SJ (DSU): Absolutely. I can send that to Amy. I also want to add that the DSU does not condone any comments made by members at council meetings, and we apologize. I am more than happy to speak with the board about this.

AB (Chair): Hearing no additional discussion on this, I would ask for a motion to admit Dalhousie Student Union as a full member in StudentsNS.

Moved by James Patriquin (SMUSA), seconded by Darcy Shea (ASU): Be it Resolved that the Dalhousie Student Union be admitted as a full member of Students Nova Scotia.

Motion passes unanimously.

6) Executive Director Job description.

AB (Chair): Does anyone have any comments around the details of the job description.

DS (ASU): The contact person should be the chair. As well, I think it is important for the new director to be non-partisan and it should be explicitly stated.

JW (ED): One of the goals for the annual plan was a code-of-conduct and this non-partisanship should apply to the whole staff and not just the executive director. If this was added to the job description it should be added under the qualities of the candidate (so agreed).

**Motion approved by general consent.**

7) Research and Engagement Officer Job Description.

JW (ED): Just to get the board up to speed, we were able to secure funding for someone and up to three-quarters of their salary will be funded. We are looking at Kayti Baur as she has the capacity to do a lot for this organization and fill many holes. I will also note that the Mend the Gap campaign is listed under responsibilities for the job description. It is our hope that we will continue the Mend the Gap campaign into next year. We could add to the job description or other campaigns if applicable.

AB (Chair): Sagar, did you have a chance to look at the job descriptions?

SJ (DSU): Yes, I don't have any concerns with them.

AB (Chair): Can I get a motion to accept the Research and Engagement Officer Job Description.

**Motion approved by general consent**

8) Discussion of possible amendments to the StudentsNS bylaws.

AB (Chair): I apologize for sending this document out late. These changes would have to be put forth as a special resolution.

Regarding bylaw 1(B): "Ordinary Resolution" means a resolution or motion passed by not less than 50%+1 of *those* Board of Directors *present* at a regular Board meeting *with voting rights* (proposed amendments in italics).

I suggested this change because reading that bylaw can be a bit ambiguous and does not specify whether the Board of Directors is present. I think these changes would make the wording of the bylaw clearer.

Regarding bylaw number 7: A Member may *disaffiliate or* withdraw from Full Membership to Associate Membership status by resolving to do so in accordance with its own By-Laws and by informing the Chair in writing no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year.

These changes are to change the wording again so it is less vague to readers.

Regarding bylaw number 9: *Students Nova Scotia Association must receive notice of a referendum or other motion to disaffiliate or downgrade membership at least 30 days in advance. Members must follow their own policies around pursuing a referendum, if applicable.*

Change wording around referendums and how much notice a member needs to give if they choose to leave the organization to be clear respecting all cases.

DS (ASU): I think this amendment is a good idea. We should clarify that the notice rule applies irrespective of whether the member is pursuing disaffiliation through a referendum or other means.

AB (Chair): Regarding bylaw number 22: One idea would be to grant two votes to each member, but which must be exercised by two separate delegates from that school or proxied to another school.

DS (ASU): I think this is a good idea. It would encourage board members to agree and disagree with each other more. I want to know how does it impact the quorum?

AB (Chair): That's a good question--it is kind of depends on the school. This is open to discussion.

MR (Vice Chair): It is up to the school to find consensus.

AB (Chair): With that, two delegates from each school would need to be on the call.

JC (DASA): I worry that DASA would never have two members on a board meeting call so we would be voting the same.

AB (Chair): General consensus has been reached that people would prefer not to make this amendment.

AB (Chair): Regarding bylaw number 26: All primary or secondary delegates are eligible to serve as Officer. Is there any discussion around whether or not officers should retain their status as primary or secondary delegate even when they have been appointed as an officer?

B-G-D (StFX): I think that even with the new responsibilities that come with the new role, you have previous obligations to the students that can't be forgotten.

AB (Chair): I would be in favor of appointing additional people to fill those primary and secondary delegates' roles.

JP (SMUSA): Am I correct in saying that the chair is not allowed to vote? So if we have one person who is an officer and another that is a delegate, wouldn't that contradict that process?

AB (Chair): I have never voted for something as I am not the delegate. We have been operating under the assumption that I don't have a vote.

JW (ED): There will have to be some amendments. Currently there is wording around all primary and secondary delegates who are allowed to also serve as officers. The other question is whether or not a school can appoint someone who is not a primary or secondary delegate as Chair?

MR (ASU): I think it is good to have policy on this but I think we are trying to cover too many bases.

AB (Chair): Is there any more discussion on this?

Regarding bylaw number 36: A minimum of seven days notice of all regular meetings, and the business to be transacted, shall be communicated to all Board Members by the Chair.

AB (Chair): Currently this isn't being followed. Is the 7 days' notice of a board meeting problematic? Is there conversation around this?

B-G-D (StFX): I would suggest 72 hours' notice. A lot can happen in 7 days. For example we may want to discuss something that just came up and hold a meeting. So I think 72 hours is reasonable.

AB (Chair): Are board members comfortable with 72 hours' notice?

SJ (DSU): Can I just suggest that in order for something to be submitted it needs to happen 96 hours in advance of the meeting?

AB (Chair): Any other comments on that? Hearing none, I have noted both suggestions made above.

9) Approval of partners for the StudentsNS Website:

- Acadia University
- Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia
- Antigonish Women's Resource Centre
- Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers
- Cape Breton University
- Dalhousie University
- Digital Nova Scotia
- Fusion Halifax
- Generation Squeeze
- Nova Scotia Community College
- Province of Nova Scotia

JW (ED): We don't need to make a decision tonight, but these are the organizations that we have worked with as of right now.

B-G-D (StFX): This is a great list thanks for putting this together Jonathan.

AB (Chair): Does everyone agree with this? Hearing no concerns I will go ahead and approve this list.

Motion **approved by general consent**

**Motion to move into camera to discuss human resources**

**Motion passes**

**Motion to move out of camera**

**Motion passes**

10) Reports of the Officers

a) Chair – Amy Brierley (StFXSU)

i. I don't have my notes in front of me so I will send my report to the board via e-mail.

b) Vice Chair - Matthew Rios (ASU)

i. We are here at CASA and everything is going swell, other than that, nothing to report.

c) Treasurer - Matthew Latimer (CBUSU) – Absent.

11) Reports of the Staff

a) Executive Director: Jonathan Williams

i. Most of our time has been spent getting ready for the Summit on Youth in the Economy, which is next Thursday.

ii. A draft of the Quality Report is almost ready.

iii. Can everyone give us a list of participants for the Student Wellness Conference?

12) Reports of the Members

a) ASU:

i. We are at CASA.

ii. We are preparing for the Youth Summit.

iii. We have released a video that promotes being responsible in advance of Cheaton Cup celebrations.

b) DASA:

i. We just finished our election for executives. The results are not tallied yet, but it is very exciting.

ii. We are finishing up our house cup.

iii. We have winter grad stuff that we are also planning.

c) DSU:

- i. We are happy to be back as a part of StudentsNS.
- ii. Just had an election for our DSU executive members and the results are in, but not made public as of yet.

d) StFX:

- i. We are at CASA as well.
- ii. Students are excited that we have Sustainability Week and Pride Week. I am a little disappointed that they are both happening in the same week.
- iii. For the Youth Economy Summit, we have reached the limit for the students that we can bring in on that.
- iv. Overall, lots of stuff coming up and very excited going forward.

e) SMUSA:

- i. We had elections as well.
- ii. We have a president and new board members.
- iii. We are at CASA as well and looking forward to that.
- iv. I personally won't be going to the Wellness Conference, but there will be SMUSA representatives there.

**Adjournment**