

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	April 9, 2014		
Meeting Time:	12:00 PM, AST		
Venue:	Vogue Building	City:	Halifax, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Amy Brierley (Chair/StFXSU), Jeremy Mott (Kingstec NSCCSA), Darcy Shea (ASU), Jessica Compagnon (DASA), Matthew Latimer (CBUSU/Treasurer), Matt Rios (Vice Chair/ASU), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA).		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director).		
Absent:	ASTSU (regrets), Patrick Visintini (DAGS), StFX (regrets), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU, regrets), Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU, regrets), Paul Rukidi (SMUSA), Sagar Jha (DSU), Ramz Aziz (DSU)		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

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

Added a discussion around in-person board meeting.

## DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

### 4) Budget discussion

AB (Chair): I called this meeting to be separate from the Friday meeting because of the release of the provincial budget and it is somewhat time sensitive. If everyone is on the same page when it comes to the provincial budget, I will give a quick overview.

Jonathan and I have been advocating to have the GRR re-invested into some other form of funding for graduates. Going into the budget we assumed the GRR would be removed but would be re-invested. Essentially, there is a chunk of money where there have been cuts, but the money is not being re-invested. Jonathan did you have anything to add to that?

JW (ED): They are taking \$35 million a year out of graduate retention programs. This was not an austerity budget; the government added \$400 million to their operating expenses which is one of the biggest increases in recent **members**. This is totally different than what they said they were going to do in their election platform. I would strongly expect that we are not going to get \$35 million in new money invested in the life of this government.

AB (Chair): There has been an op-ed to the Chronicle Herald voicing our view: I'm not sure if they will publish it or not. Moving forward we want to make sure everyone is on the same page reacting to this. Jonathan do you want to run is through what StudentsNS is thinking regarding how to respond to this issue?

JW (ED): We had a staff brainstorm on a campaign we are doing on this issue. We discussed some next steps including the withdrawal of certain government programs such as the Summit on Youth on the Economy, and whether or not we continue to collaborate with the government as they are seem not to take this issue seriously. We are looking at online or print materials that can be distributed.

AB (Chair): Great thank you Jonathan. I would like to get a feeling from the board on their thinking on how we are working with the government on their various projects.

MR (ASU): I have been part of the board for two years. I would caution that as this is a significant decision, we need to respond in kind. As far as severing ties with the government on certain projects, I don't mind. I don't have a problem doing that; it isn't a bad thing---just sometimes you have to act by not participating anymore. I am leaning toward continuing to participate in the government programs.

ML (CBUSU): I agree with the thinking so far from other board members and agree with not leaving the committee, but rather to continue to voice our opinions. I think, for example, looking at next year's Youth Summit, it could provide the government with an opportunity to get more involved.

MR (ASU): I want to add that I think we are walking a fine line between taking the government's money and then legitimizing them as a partner worth partnering with, when they are clearly taking money away from youth issues. Even if in the short term it hurts the summit we would be jeopardizing our principles as an organization.

AB (Chair): That's a good point and I agree. We want to stay true to our values.

JW (ED): I can write up something detailing our hesitancy around continuing to support those government programs.

AB (Chair): I will work with Jonathan on the wording.

#### 5) Creative Action Tactics

AB (Chair): Any immediate reactions or comments to the items suggested?

ML (CBSU): What about a flash mob right in front of a government building, I think the media would pick up on that quite heavily.

AB (Chair): Cool. So what's the reaction to the street art chalking?

JW (ED): I wonder if we should talk through the overall strategy first then go over the individual tactics.

AB (Chair): Sure, that makes sense.

JW (ED): So, I think first a goal needs to be set that would be achievable. So, do we want to aim for getting half of the money back or all of the money back and re-invested? Then everything we do needs to work towards that goal. The general objective of the campaign needs to address the issue that the government is not serious about keeping young people in the province and that they are not being held responsible for doing this. So the objective for us is obviously to get the money back but also to send a message that the government cannot be allowed to get away with doing something like this. I think the overall message needs to be refined a bit and we cannot make a discussion today.

GB (SMUSA): When I read the Ray Ivany Report and read through the line "Now or Never Nova Scotia," I thought this should be a campaign slogan---and if a campaign was done around the Ivany report it will be a much more powerful campaign.

AB (Chair): So I think people are on board with a campaign with multiple strategies. So going back to Jonathan's point, we need to identify the goal for the campaign.

ML (CBSU): I think if we really want to make the transition to the new executives go smoothly we really need to make the new executives aware of the current situation and tell them about the importance of the campaign.

JW (ED): In my opinion, we are not going to get the money back this year; probably it has something to do with the expectation of turnover. I think the government is hopeful that through turnover the board they might get new members who are sympathetic to getting rid of the Graduate Retention Rebate. Part of having a clear goal is that it should be for a multi-year basis as this will be a multi-year issue. So there needs to be a clear commitment to set a target and stay with it. So some

of the immediate things we could be doing is putting together a petition and ensuring it gets maximum visibility to get the most signatures.

AB (Chair): So what is the board's thinking regarding a reasonable goal for the petition in terms of the number of signatures?

JM (Kingstec NSCCSA): I think 10,000 is a good goal for now.

GB (SMUSA): I think 10, 000 is a good goal for now, but we can do better than that.

AB (chair): So how does 10,000 in 10 days sound?

GB (SMUSA): Yes, that works.

MR (ASU): Sounds good.

ML (CBUSU): When does everyone think we should be launching this campaign?

JW(ED): I am thinking the best time is a full launch in September. Generally speaking, everyone I have talked to says advertising in the summer months is a waste of time as it just doesn't have enough reach.

MR (ASU): Can I just add that in order for a campaign of this magnitude to succeed the respective student unions will need to contribute heavily. I realize that not all student unions have the same assets that can be diverted into this. But we do need buy in from everyone.

JW (ED): I think the money discussion should be a discussion in camera. I think structure of the campaign depends on how much money is available. I think we should get a poll from the room on what's a reasonable objective for the campaign. I am getting a feeling from the board the goal is getting all the money back. I want to get a sense of how much investment from each member they are willing to make.

MR (ASU): Acadia is willing to do whatever we can to help.

ML (CBUSU): Same with us. I am not sure what the incoming executives are thinking though, but I will do my best to communicate with them and get them up to speed.

AB (Chair): I agree as well with what's has been said and StudentsNS has the full support from StFXSU.

JM (Kingstec NSCCSA): I agree with what has been said and will give full support.

GB (SMUSA): SMUSA will give full support as well and I can speak on behalf of the incoming executive that they will as well.

JW (ED): If we get an idea of the resources that each student union is will to put forward that would help us put together a budget.

**Motion to move into camera**

**Motion passes**

**Motion to move out of camera**

**Motion passes**

AB (Chair): Are there any additional comments that need to be added to the discussion? Hearing none I will briefly talk about the in-person board meeting.

6) In-person board meeting

AB (Chair): Are the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> the best dates for the in person board meeting for everyone?

JC (DASA): Yes, that's good.

AB (Chair): Okay for location we were thinking--Antigonish again? Are there any objections to that? I guess we will move forward with that.

MEETING ADJOURNED