

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	March 9, 2014		
Meeting Time:	10:22 AM, AST		
Venue:	StFX	City:	Antigonish, NS
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Amy Brierley (Chair/StFXSU), Jeremy Mott (Kingstec NSCCSA), Darcy Shea (ASU), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Callie Lathem (ASU), Amanda Kolwich (SMUSA), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Paul Rukidi (SMUSA), Matthew Rios (Vice Chair/ASU), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA), Matthew Latimer (Treasurer/CBUSU)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Danielle Andres (Research Officer)		
Absent:	Brennan Boudreau (CBUSU), Sagar Jha (DSU), Jessica Compagnon (DASA), Patrick Visintini (DAGS),		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

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

Only minor amendments.

Agenda **approved by general consent**

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

4) NSCC Membership

JM (Kingstec NSCCSA): I have talked about this a lot with other unions. Generally the student associations I have spoken with thus far have been welcoming of membership to StudentsNS.

One of the concerns I have is NSCC would be the lone voice in an organization that mainly consists of universities. I would like to have a conversation regarding the concerns other current members of StudentsNS may have if NSCC decided to join. What would the board think about having three people represent all 14 NSCC community colleges?

DS (ASU): What was the discussion last year around this?

JW (ED): There are multiple scenarios for dealing with this. The scenarios possible are: 1 vote for the NSCCSA altogether, or 2 votes-- for everybody in Halifax and 1 vote for everyone outside of Halifax--or the possibility of 3 votes. If we created some kind of system for the NSCCSAs they would do the voting by region or collectively.

BH (StFXSU): I like the idea of having the vote split up regionally. It makes sense and allows the voting process to be more manageable.

MR (Vice Chair): Jeremy, I have a few questions for you. 1) How can we as an organization tackle issues that NSCC is up against, i.e. what do you see as issues and concerns going forward? 2) What were some of the concerns from the Truro campus about their opposition to joining StudentsNS? 3) Do the NSCC's respective campuses see themselves as non-independent organizations--campuses that are run by the current affiliation with their respective student life departments? Do you see a split or are you comfortable with that model as it is? What needs to be organized on the NSCC side before they can enter into the current university model?

JM (Kingston NSCCSA): A lot of our issues are dealt with internally. The one that stands out the most is our trade programs and how effective those are and how we can improve those. I would like to go in camera to discuss the concerns the Truro campus had with joining StudentsNS. Student life works for us, they are our employees and typically the people joining the NSCCSA are there for one term only. We are perfectly autonomous and student life is more of a support system.

MR (ASU): The only concern we have is that unneeded pressure would be put on the NSCC administrative staff and, in turn, they put pressure on the NSCCSA to back off a certain issue.

JM (Kingston NSCCSA): Any choices that we make are made through our councils.

Motion to move into Camera

Motion passes

Motion to move out of Camera

Motion passes

5) Looking forward – Presentation of options and discussion

AB (Chair): Can I get a motion to move into camera?

Motion to move into Camera

Motion passes

Motion to go into recess

Motion passes

6) Approval of hiring of Research and Engagement Officer

Motion to move into Camera

Motion passes

Motion to move out of Camera

Motion passes

7) Proposed amendments of governing policies

JW (ED): So one of the goals in the Annual Plan this year was to have a Code of Conduct for board members. Below is the proposed Code of Conduct:

AB (Chair): I think recent events have shown that there needs to be clear wording around what it means to be a participant at the board and have guidelines around that.

JW (ED): There are a few amendments that have been proposed to the governing policies and are noted below. If any board members have issues, flag it and we can talk about it.

MR (ASU): I want to flag the amendment proposed where board members cannot abstain on position papers. I think we need to have further discussion at a later point.

JW (ED): I had an idea of creating an Advisory Committee around feedback of the organization's performance and the board can appoint other representatives to that committee.

DS (ASU): Can I flag this for discussion?

JW (ED): Sure.

AB (Chair): I will go over each of the amendments to the code of conduct and the board can flag anything they have concern about.

DS (ASU): Jonathan, can you explain the amendment to ensure that there are competitive opportunities when services of contractors or employment opportunities arise.

JW (ED): The idea is making sure that you are not giving someone a job just because they are your friend. This is more of a HR issue.

AB (Chair): The amendment 'Board members must provide justification for abstaining from votes to be recorded in the minutes'

ML (CBUSU): What is the justification--just I don't agree with it?

AB (Chair): Our thoughts are of that nature--just saying I don't agree is fine. As long as you say why you don't agree. The justification needs to be documented.

MR (ASU): In my opinion the board needs to be more involved with committees. There needs to be more control and structure in how the committees work in order to be held accountable to the board

AB (Chair): I agree.

JW (ED): Maybe we can leave this one out and refine it. Does that make sense?

AB (Chair): Absolutely.

AB (Chair): Board members will not be permitted to abstain on ordinary resolutions related to policy positions

JW (ED): There is precedence in governing policies on this. One of the governing policies in the DSU for by-law changes is that you can't abstain from a vote on the constitution of the DSU. An abstaining vote is a vote against according to the DSU. We are trying to think of a number of different mechanisms to be able to voice criticisms. The challenges that we have come up against with the DSU are the abstaining votes without giving justification. They would voice criticisms outside of the board meeting. One other idea we had was the possibility of giving StudentsNS staff the opportunity to present to councils.

MR (ASU): Can I get a motion to move into camera

Motion to move into Camera

Motion passes

Motion to move out of Camera

Motion passes

DS (ASU): Can you strike policy number 90? *At the end of their terms of office any Chair or executive director who is no longer a board member or staff member will automatically be offered a position on the advisory committee.*

MR (ASU): Can I get a motion to strike that?

AB (Chair): That makes sense to strike that.

JW (ED): Paul didn't you want to add something around the delaying of board meetings and to make note in the minutes if a board member leaves for an extended period of time.

PR (SMUSA): Yes.

JW (ED): Okay, I will add that in. We can approve that after.

DS (ASU): Can I ask that a revised copy of the amendments to the governing policies to be sent out to the board when available?

AB (Chair): Sure. Can I get a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the governing policies omnibus?

Motion passes unanimously

AB (Chair): Can I get a motion to move into camera?

Motion to move into Camera

Motion passes

Motion to move out of Camera

Motion passes

8) Executive Director re-hiring/hiring

AB (Chair): Can I get a motion to move into camera?

Motion to move into Camera

Motion passes

Motion to move out of Camera

Motion passes

9) National inquiry into murdered and missing aboriginal women

AB (Chair): The reason this is on the agenda is because of the tragic event that recently happened at SMU. An aboriginal woman was murdered; this happened a couple of weeks ago. Many organizations working in this area have released a statement and we wanted to get a feel from the board whether we as an organization should put out a statement addressing this matter as it hits fairly close to home.

MR (Vice Chair): I fully support this. I think we need to be careful on commenting on an issue that is federal as we are a provincial organization. I am not saying we shouldn't comment on it, just be careful with our position on this issue.

GB (SMUSA): I would also be fully supportive of this as well and we want to get behind this and get to the bottom of this horrific event.

ML (Treasurer): I think it would be appropriate to have a moment of silence now to honour her and her work.

AB (Chair): I think it would be good to have a press release to acknowledge her advocacy work and stand in solidarity.

10) Summit on Youth in the Economy

JW (ED): The Summit on Youth in the Economy is the 19th and 20th and is scheduled at Dalhousie University. It is an evening event; it will be a facilitated conversation and we are actually doing this in partnership with Fusion Halifax and Digital Nova Scotia. We are going to have a dinner afterwards with speakers and panelists.

The 20th is the main day; we will circulate an agenda shortly for that day. We have \$20,000 to \$25,000 in support for this project. We have distributed posters for raising awareness of the event as well. The student wellness conference is the next day it is scheduled to be at Acadia University. The speakers will be discussing the destructive impact of excessive alcohol use and the creation of positive environments for preventing alcohol abuse. The speakers will also talk about sexual assault abuse prevention.

ML (Treasurer): I am having a meeting on international student issues on one of those days but I will see if I can move that.

JW (ED): One other thing a speaker will be talking about unpaid internships. Another speaker will talk about money spent on people trying to get their careers started.

MR (Vice Chair): It would be good to have a representative from the Ivany Commission be at the Summit on Youth in the Economy.

11) Quality Position Paper presentation

DA (Research Officer): The idea was to try and get feedback on this draft immediately. I won't go through every principle and concern. I will give you the direction of the draft. I talked about defining quality and approaches to quality. I did student focus groups with Acadia and one with DAGS, CBU and SMU they were all excellent. I met with reps from each university and the NSCC to talk about quality with them as well as some reps from ANSUT and the provincial government. I did a literature review as well; I reviewed a lot of academic journals too. The major challenge in writing this paper was defining quality. Institutions have different views of how they would define quality. Thus it is hard to take a one size fits all in defining quality. The draft of the quality paper should be out this week coming.

12) Reports of the officers

a) Chair – Amy Brierley (StFXSU)

- i. I have been working on a lot of Dalhousie stuff—obviously, given the recent events that have transpired.
- ii. I have been in conversation with Jonathan and Matt regarding future items needing work and a lot of it will be focused on what has been outlined today.

b) Vice Chair - Matthew Rios (ASU)

- i. Busy with external engagement and trying to keep the board informed in matters.

- ii. Acadia left Shinerama; I wanted to clarify the reason. We wanted to support our local community more and focus on local programs such as Smile Program which is a nationally recognized program that supports people with developmental disabilities. The other program is Large Home Fires with is an international organization that welcomes different people with varying disabilities.

c) Treasurer - Matthew Latimer (CBUSU)

- i. I have been working on contingency plans for StudentsNS and given the recent events concerning DSU.
- ii. I have been working on budgeting process for next year.

13) Reports of the staff

a) Executive Director: Jonathan Williams

- i. The employer awards is moving along nicely, we have developed most of the concepts that the Steering Committee has approved that I would be happy to share with the board.
- ii. The Summit on Youth in the Economy is coming along as well.
- iii. There was a good response to the alcohol review.

14) Reports of the Members

a) ASU:

- i. We just finished a social media free week where everyone said what they were giving up and the goal was to encourage people to find other ways to communicate.
- ii. We are doing a campaign asking people not to mess up their lives and drink responsibly.

b) CBUSU

- i. We have done a number of campaigns such as More Than Yes. I was on television - CBC talking about those.
- ii. We have reached out to a number of people such as the president of the University of Ottawa and expressed support of her sexual harassment stance.
- iii. Our rugby team is doing a charity game and donating all the proceeds to charity.
- iv. We did a Love is Love video.

c) Kingstec NSCCSA:

- i. I have had a few trips to a number of campuses to have meetings with them.

- ii. We just had study break.
- iii. We have our campaigns for the next executive starting soon.
- iv. We did a huge mental health conference with some nice prizes.

d) SMUSA:

- i. We have elections going on.
- ii. We are also working on a mental health campaign.
- iii. We are working on a Love is Love campaign as well.

e) StFXSU

- i. There was an article on CBC talking about how StFX is one of the hottest campuses in Canada.
- ii. Our elections just happened and we have a new bunch of executives.
- iii. We made some structural changes to the student union. We got rid of some executive positions and added a few positions that will be a lot more beneficial to the organization in my opinion.
- iv. We are also looking to hire a new full-time staff member.
- v. We were able to extend to hours of operation of our campus bar with the support of local authorities. Our campus bar is by far the safest bar in town so we are very excited about this.
- vi. We are voting to implement a 24 hour online counselling service.

MEETING ADJOURNED