

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	May 16, 2014		
Meeting Time:	12:00 P.M.		
Venue:	Conference call	City:	Halifax
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Amy Brierley (Chair), Scott Byrne (Kingstec NSCCSA), Callie Lathem (ASU), Matthew Latimer (Treasurer), Matthew Rios (Vice Chair), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Liam Murphy (ASU), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Brandon Ellis (partial – CBUSU)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director)		
Absent:	Ramz Aziz (DSU), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA), Alicia Cox (ASTSU), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA – regrets), Katie Flynn (ASTSU), Vishwa Patel (DAGS), Jacqueline Skiptunis (DSU).		
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 Feb 28, April 9, and April 11 minutes

Amendments made to April 11 minutes: Typo 'they' to 'the.' Item 7, StudentsNS changed to Antigonish Women's Resource Centre.

Amendments made to April 9 minutes: Item 4, changed 'stay true to our values?' To 'stay true to our values'. Strike comment: "I think we need to be mindful of not hampering our relationship with the government by asking for too much to be reinvested."

Amendments made to Feb 28 minutes: Report of Officer's Chair, 'our' end refers to Assault Awareness Steering Committee.

Amended minutes approved **by general consent**

5) Discussion of possible by-law amendments to change Officer Positions

AB (Chair): One of the themes that has come up in discussion between Jonathan and is how can members have more control of the organization and to really be the spokespeople of the organization. The discussion focused on the consideration of expanding the roles of the officers as they now exist - The President, The Vice President of Finance, The Vice President of University Affairs and The Vice President of College Affairs. Making these changes to the officer's roles would allow for more participation from members and have board driven value at the core of the officers; it would allow Jonathan to draw upon the expertise of the officers for different roles.

It also allows for the members filling those positions to really hone their skills. i.e., the Treasurer taking on the role of Vice President of Finance. It would promote more much responsibility and accountability of each person.

JW (ED): We looked at a Vice President of College Affairs and a Vice President of University Affairs and the thinking was we should always have a community college officer on the board. If, for example, more community college student associations were to join StudentsNS, the Vice President of College Affairs would be viewed as the spokesperson for all of the SAs. This would guarantee that an NSCC person has an officer role.

One of the roles that the Vice Chair currently occupies is the Corporate Secretary role. This is formally the case but in reality not the case. We have not asked Matt to do a lot of the corporate secretary responsibilities. It might make sense to split off the corporate secretary role from the Vice President role.

AB (Chair): I want to have a discussion about this and whether or not the board thinks this is a good idea.

BH (StFXSU): Overall I think this is a positive change for the organization. I think this is a good political gesture going forward as well as a way to continue to grow and add more members. I think it is a good political move to have NSCC have the ability to be in an officer role and give them a voice at the table.

CL (ASU): Would how the members are selected change based on the title?

AB (Chair): No, it would be voted on by the board.

BH (StFXSU): I was just curious. Are we planning--in the long run--to pay an honorarium for an individual to take the minutes? Or would taking the minutes be a responsibility of the corporate secretary role?

JW (ED): That could be decided by the board. Jacob will continue to do the minutes until the end of the summer but it is really up to the board. The corporate secretary needs to be a board member but does not have to be the person who prepares the minutes. In my opinion the corporate secretary should be the person that reviews the minutes.

BH (StFXSU): Thanks for clearing that up.

AB (Chair): Moving on from here, I and Jonathan can write up a term of reference for context for the new positions. This would have to move forward in a special meeting of the membership if we were to make this change.

JW (ED): We would also have to look at what to change in the By-laws and what to change in the governing policies. For a by-law change we have to provide two weeks' notice to the board. The easiest thing to do would be to formalize this structure at the AGM.

SB (Kingstec NSCCSA): My only concern is getting enough participation from executives on the NSCC end. We don't have many executives currently; Alex is away so it is just me. I can look to bring in other executives into this.

JW (ED): We recently had a discussion in the bylaws that the chair and vice chair cannot issue votes. Perhaps, with this change, that bylaw should be revisited. For example, if you could no longer represent Kingstec because you are the Vice President of College Affairs that doesn't necessarily make sense.

AB (Chair): If the Vice president of University Affairs and the Vice President of College Affairs were to retain the ability to vote for their organization they would be one of the two delegates that sits in on board calls. So each organization would still only have one vote, it would just be a difference in who exercises the vote.

MR (Vice Chair): This is from my experience as an officer and as board member. As an officer you are not representing the best interests of Acadia. I am speaking and voting about what I think the best interests of StudentsNS are. I have to vote in the best interests of StudentsNS then turning around and voting in the best interests on Acadia could be quite a bit murky.

AB (Chair): That's a good point. Thank you for that comment.

SB (Kingstec NSCCSA): My concerns are more for this year in terms of getting more involvement.

6) Be It Resolved That Amy Brierley (Chair), Matthew Rios (Vice Chair) and Matthew Latimer (Treasurer) remain in their officer positions until the Annual General Meeting.

JW (ED): The governance policies for StudentsNS were amended last April to make it so the officers would serve from AGM to AGM. In our case our members are student leaders. The notion of having officers serve from AGM to AGM is based on the fact that it is hard to judge who should be the chair of the organization or vice chair when you only just met. Other concerns are that the annual report and the annual financial reporting are completed for the AGM.

ML (Treasurer): Having the board members stay on from AGM to AGM allows for board members to simultaneously have a vote or an ability to make motions or second a motion at the same time as their former respective school. Would this expand the number of votes on the board?

JW (ED): No you wouldn't have a vote and you are no longer representative of your school. Unless you still serve in your position on the student union.

BH (StFX): I wonder if we should just make a by-law change so that they remain from until the AGM every year.

MR (Vice Chair): It was a change. We were at the point of changing it to AGM to AGM. I strongly supported the idea that the incoming executives should have the ability to ratify us as officers and to stay on from a democratic perspective. Also it would be important to be able to say if there were some serious issues internally we are going to do away with this board or these officers and change it. This was strategically put into place around this by-law.

BH (StFXSU): I motion that Amy Brierly, Matthew Rios and Matthew Latimer remain in their officer positions until The AGM.

**Motion Moved**  
**Kingstec NSCCSA seconds**

ASU: In favour

StFXSU: In favour

Kingstec NSCCSA: In favour

CBUSU: In favour

**Motion passes unanimously**

7) Discussion of Student Union Democratic Governance Review and approval of involvement.

AB (Chair): Did everyone get a copy of the proposal done up for D250? I sent it out yesterday. So this was something that was brought up in a past board meeting and the idea was that we wanted to pursue a review similar to the alcohol and sexual assault awareness and prevention reviews to look at the governance of our own member organizations. One of the major talking points about this was that if we want to begin to look at governance in universities or at the college level that it would be a good idea to have a review of our own governance. What it comes down to is this would be very helpful for our member organizations to be able to have a good idea of what the best practices are across the province in terms of governance. Does everyone feel comfortable with the current proposal?

JW (ED): I think it is worth noting that SMU was a big advocate for this review regarding their student union's autonomy. Their thinking for the best way for student unions to be autonomous is to ensure that they are accountable to their student union.

MR (ASU): I'd hate for this report to come back and say that we need to add 20 constituencies to fully represent our student body, so I would just be cautious.

JW (ED): This proposal is just that--a proposal--and is not intended to be the final terms of reference. The intent is to appoint a steering committee and that steering committee will come up with final terms of reference which will then be approved by the board.

CL (ASU): Is the proposal going to be primarily policy review and is it going to be structured like how the Sexual Assault prevention review was done--interview based?

JW (ED): It will focus on the composition of the governance structure and student assemblies.

AB (Chair): I also attached a document outlining the proposed budget in terms of the cost of the project.

JW (ED): In terms of cost, it is along the same lines as the Alcohol and Sexual Assault prevention review. This funding proposal is for submission to D250. We are hoping that they would be able to contribute \$10,000 of the cost and the remainder would be around \$6,000. For every student union that participates add \$1,000 to the cost but it can vary based on the size of the campus. The other thing is we just got funding confirmation for a project from D250 which means that their trustees just met last week which indicates that they probably won't meet again for a while.

AB (Chair): Is everyone comfortable and does everyone understand where I am going with the proposal? If anyone has any burning objections to this just shoot me an e-mail and then we can go from there.

**CBUSU Leaves call  
No longer have quorum of 50%**

CL (ASU): I am looking forward to a more robust look at what will be coming from this review.

BH (StFXSU): Yeah it makes sense for us since we want to be more autonomous--especially since we just changed our executive structure and we are trying to get our organization up to par with other organizations.

ML (Treasurer): It is extremely helpful to see what other student unions are doing in terms of governance and what they are doing on their board.

AB (Chair): I think once we have quorum at the next board meeting we can do a quick vote to figure out interest.

8) Reports of the Officers

a) Chair – Amy Brierley (StFXSU)

- i. We have the poll out for entering board names for this year. I want to reiterate having everyone fill that out.
- ii. We sent out an invitation for our board education retreat for people to find out more about what StudentsNS is. It is a chance to get to know members better and to start to work as a team. The proposed date for that is June 5-7.
- iii. I am starting to plan an alumni event for the summer.

ML (Treasurer): Where is the retreat going to take place?

JW (ED): Wolfville and Kentville

b) Vice-Chair – Matthew Rios (ASU)

- i. I had an impromptu meeting with Minister Glavine and talked about some of our previous projects that we have done through the year.

c) Treasurer - Matthew Latimer (CBUSU)

- i. I'd just like to welcome the new board members officially.
- ii. This year we will need to do the same thing as last year and secure additional external funding from places such as D250.
- iii. It is important to build from the Summit on Youth and the Economy and make sure that the youth voice continues to be heard in wake of the Ivany report
- iv. I began creating some speeches and presentations around retaining youth around Cape Breton but also around Nova Scotia. I am supposed to be giving a TedTalk around that in couple of months.

9) Reports of the staff

a) Executive Director

- i. I will send out a monthly report soon; I have been falling behind in that area because we have been dealing with a lot of other things.
- ii. I am going on vacation soon, until the start of June.
- iii. Working on bystander intervention training and Sexual Assault Prevention we are working a lot with Amanda at SMUSA regarding how we can roll out the program on different campuses.
- iv. The Leader Lab last week was great and was great to see many of you there. The feedback was generally very positive but not as positive as in previous years. I think the take away message was it would be nicer to have the Leader Lab later in the month or in the start of June. Secondly, there was feedback that it was just too long.
- v. We are wrapping up project funding reporting.
- vi. The quality report that was approved by the board in April has been type set by Kayti Bauer and we developed an executive summary for that which should make the report much easier to digest for people who don't have four hours to read an 80 page report.
- vii. The two other reports will be out mid-June.

## 10) Reports of the Members

### a) ASU

- i. I just got back two nights ago from CASA foundation which went really well. I was placed on the Nation Advocacy Committee and the Trades and Tech Committee which will allow me to work more with the NSCC campuses.
- ii. I am working on plans for CASA's second retreat that Darcy has sent me.
- iii. I am working on charity branding--focusing on Axemen to Action and we are working our welcome week around that.

### b) Kingstec NSCCSA

- i. Spring courses have begun at the school but we are not as busy.
- ii. The executives are settling into their positions and things are getting ironed out.
- iii. I was talking with Callie at ASU yesterday about getting together with them and working on a few projects for next year.

### c) StFXUSU

- i. Ben was elected for the Nation Advocacy Committee for CASA when we were at the retreat or foundations conference.
- ii. We have a meeting with Randy Delorey later today at the Antigonish Women's Resource Centre dealing with preventing violence against women. I will be there with Ben our VP external and Hailey our VP internal representing StFX but also StudentsNS.
- iii. We are talking about ideas for Frosh Week.

## **ADJOURNMENT**