

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	June 7, 2014		
Meeting Time:	10:30 P.M.		
Venue:	Acadia University	City:	Wolfville
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Amy Brierley (Chair), Scott Byrne (Kingstec NSCCSA), Callie Lathem (ASU), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Matthew Latimer (Treasurer), Liam Murphy (ASU), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Sarah Hines (CBUSU), Jacqueline Skiptunis (DSU), Ramz Aziz (DSU), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA), James Patriquin (SMUSA), Scott Byrne (Kingstec NSCCSA)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Kayti Baur (Equity Officer)		
Absent:	Alicia Cox (ASTSU), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA – regrets), Brandon Ellis (CBUSU), Katie Flynn (ASTSU), Vishwa Patel (DAGS), Matt Rios (Vice Chair – regrets).		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

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

Agenda approved **by general consent**

- 4) Confirm participation and appoint steering committee for Independent Review of Student Union Governance

AB (Chair): I realize this was something that was brought up last with the last board but I am not sure everyone is on board with this now. I am hoping to have a robust conversation around this as well as any concerns.

JP (SMUSA): We had an idea of doing a review of Student Union governance as a way of looking at best practices and to improve how organizations remain autonomous, for example, how StFXSU could become an autonomous organization. For some schools this will be more benefit than others.

Motion to move into camera

Motion approved by general consent

Motion to go out of camera

Motion approved by general consent

AB (Chair): The most pressing issue is whether or not we want to pursue this because that would determine what we need to get together in the next week.

RA (DSU): When it comes to the urgency of this it is an important issue for all of us. From our end we are talking steps to improve our student governance. If anyone has any question around the strategy we are going to adopt, I will try and get back to you before the June 17 deadline.

JP (SMUSA): I would really like for the draft of the proposal be submitted for the next D250 board meeting--just to put it on their agenda and make them aware of it. Looking at the resources we all have maybe we can try and sell the review to other campuses that aren't involved, for example MSVU.

I think if we pool our resources we can get a lot more bang for our buck and not squarely focusing our review on Saint Mary's. I would really like it for you guys to come on board and participate.

BG-D (StFXSU): For us, we would really like this to be an external document. We are kind of in a phase right now where it is now or never so we really want to get a start on this. We all hold our student unions to a great standard which we should. I know we have a draft proposal right now which is great. In order to actually see the tangible outcomes we should all sit down and come up with terms of reference.

JW (ED): I think we should have a proposal in the mail by the end of the day June 11.

JS (DSU): Looking at the urgency of this, it doesn't not seem like something we would be particularly interested in. I could say from my perspective I don't see the utility in it. I think with this amount of money we could do a lot more from a democracy point of view. It makes sense to me if student bodies want to use StudentsNS as a resource to enable communication between other student unions and allow them to compare themselves to others. That makes much more sense and seems more useful and to me and would be much less expensive.

JP (SMUSA): You don't see much utility in doing a self-study about governance through StudentsNS? Or, just in general?

JS (DSU): A self-study makes more sense. Considering the disparity between all our student unions, it doesn't make much sense to me. Looking at NSCC, do they even have residences on their campus? StFXSU only elects two of their executives and I find that sickening. You are dealing with such varying student populations--so to say that their structure should compare to your structure--it is so different.

AB (Chair): In the future, I'd appreciate it if everyone refrained from personal comments about other student unions, it is not appropriate.

ML (Treasurer): In terms of money, my thought was a majority of this was funded externally and if individual student unions want to contribute more, I was not very concerned about the money aspect of this. In terms of going forward with the review itself, I think it is important for it not to be a cookie cutter approach. The review doesn't even have to be best practices. I see it more as a helpful document for other student unions.

SH (CBUSU): In terms of funding this is a discussion I will have to have with my executive board. I do agree that this governance review should be done externally.

CL (ASU): Acadia is on board with this project once the amendments to the proposal have been made.

JP (SMUSA): Motion to revisit draft and have a conference call next Wednesday where anyone can join so that we can address issues that we have with the draft and to table discussion until we hear back from D250 as well as the appointment of the steering committee to another point until in time where we have a draft we are all comfortable with.

Moved by SMUSA, Seconded by ASU.

Motion passes unanimously.

- 5) Appoint Board Reviewers for Health Services, Employment, Social Determinants of Access, Students with Disabilities and NSCC reports

AB (Chair): Typically how the process works with policy and reports on these issues is that there is a board reviewer who essentially reviews the document before it is released and makes recommendations and then it is released as a draft.

JW (ED): We have proposals for these that were put together early on that we will circulate to the board reviewer for the NSCC report so they have a chance to provide feedback of the proposal.

The reviewer will see the first draft that I see from the researcher and provide feedback on that. Depending on timing generally we present a draft to the board prior to the public release. In the past, board reviewers have been appointed to those papers but were not completed in those reviewers' term. I am referring to the Employment Report and Students with Disabilities report.

AB (Chair): Who is interested in reviewing the Health Services report?

CL (ASU): I am interested.

AB (Chair): Who is interested in reviewing the Employment report?

B-G-D (StFXSU): I am interested.

AB (Chair): Who is interested in reviewing the Social Determinants of Access report?

LM (ASU): I am interested

AB (Chair): Who is interested in reviewing Students with Disabilities report?

JP (SMUSA): I am interested

S (CBUSU): I am interested

AB (Chair): Who is interested in the NSCC report?

SB (Kingstec NSCCSA): I know Alex has expressed interest in reviewing this report but I am interested as well.

JS (DSU): I am interested in reviewing the Social Determinants of Access report as well with Liam.

JP (SMUSA): Would it be alright if we had a university representative reviewing the NSCC report to show some solidarity? This is the first year we have a full NSCC member. I'd be happy to review that report as well.

AB (Chair) Cool, sounds good.

6) Appointment of Steering Committee for campaign against youth divestment

AB (Chair): I have to step out of the meeting. I will make Matt Latimer chair as he is the other officer present in the meeting.

ML (Treasurer): How many people are we looking to appoint to the steering committee?

RA (DSU): Before we dive into this, can we get some context around the terms of reference?

JW (ED): The project was the campaign that we presented yesterday – it's the campaign in response to the \$35 million cut to youth retention. This campaign is to be defined, there was the document that we went through yesterday which was circulated to the board and there was an agreement reached in April. This is largely a collaborative project with the NSGEU.

ML (Treasurer): We are trying to engage as many stakeholder organizations. The campaign is modelled after what happened with the NDP government – the turnaround from extreme unpopularity to a very different outlook. We were looking at doing a billboard campaign and a sidewalk chalk campaign. Other things that we talked about were dropping a big banner off the bridge and a flash mob as well as a march.

JP (SMUSA): The idea is to form a committee to solidify ideas for the campaign.

ML (Treasurer): Is there any other interest for this other than Ben, Gorba and Callie?

JW (ED): Anyone from DSU?

RA (DSU): At the end of the day we would have to discuss it but at some point we may like to jump on board.

ML (Treasurer): Interest does have to be concrete; we would just like to get an idea of who is interested.

RA (DSU): Things that are really attractive from what I have been hearing from students especially around the capping of student tuition fees and other stuff on tuition and the grant program. This hasn't come up yet in the discussion but again I am new to this being a board member so I don't know if the board has planned or done individual campaigns for the specific issues I have just mentioned. Or, is everything tied to this rebranding effort in which case you have failed our youth by not adequately addressing these issues.

ML (Treasurer): I think it would be not just the GRR but all of these different issues affecting students built into this one campaign.

JP (SMUSA): One of the things we are looking at is how we can respond to the GRR cut but also how we can come up with a solution to fill that, i.e. how that money can be reinvested into new retention programs.

JW (ED): The campaign will be taking place at the same time the MOU negotiations are taking place so there is some nice overlap there. The cut of \$35 million dollars represent most likely all the money we would get of the Liberal government.

GB (SMUSA): Jonathan will you be sitting in on the committee?

JW (ED): It will be me and Brian Foster.

ML (Treasurer): Jonathan will send contact the board members who are interested through e-mail.

7) Annual Planning Retreat Date

JW (ED): I wanted to get a sense from the room of people's preference from the doodle pull. We do have availability for July 3 and 4 and the retreat will be in Cape Breton. We are placing as many of the summer retreats outside of Halifax and Antigonish as possible because a lot of the retreats are in Halifax and Antigonish during the year. The retreat would ideally be three days and agenda heavy, a few points for discussion would be the nailing down the MOU and I am also hoping that we will have the employment and disable the label report released one month in advance of that meeting so that we can make decisions on those.

JP (SMUSA): Can we have it on the 16th and 17th? We have a CASA conference at Acadia on the 7th and 8th of July. I'd hate to drive to Cape Breton then later have to do it again.

LM (ASU): We had to do that for leader lab and it was a pain.

ML (Treasurer): Okay so I am hearing the 17, 18 and 19 of July as dates, if there are any comments on that just send them out to Jonathan.

8) Employer Award Discussion and Decision

JW (ED): We have developed the Employer Award Program already and we have the relationships with government, we had a steering committee for it and everything that needs to be done is done. It is just a question of asking government for the money to implement.

JP (SMUSA): Can I make a motion that we will accept funding from government to institute the Employer Award?

Motion Moved

Seconded by ASU

RA (DSU): I will probably abstain from this vote as I don't have enough background information and I don't know what the Employer Award is for. I want to make sure we are accepting money from the government for the right reasons and not to do it often.

JP (SMUSA): The point of the award is to recognize employers that go out of their way to hire young people.

JW (ED): There are three categories within the Employer Award--two awards for small businesses, two awards for medium businesses and large enterprises, and then two awards for public sector organizations.

RA (DSU): Who is deciding the rewards?

JW (ED): This is a partnership project so it is not StudentsNS exclusively.

RA (DSU): Oh, okay so the award is coming from other people and not just us?

JW (ED): Yep. So the steering committee that put together the award had representatives from a couple of departments in government – Fusion Halifax, Digital Nova Scotia, and the Greater Halifax Partnership.

JS (DSU): It looks like by offering this award that the business is looking for a seal of approval from students that we are agreeing that they are doing a good job and employing people and obviously they are not. I feel like this is a direct contradiction to a lot of the things we have been asking for as an organization and it does not make much sense to me.

JW (ED): Can I make a suggestion and not pass the award now as people have not seen what the program looks like.

JP (SMUSA): I withdraw my motion.

RA (DSU): I move to table this discussion

Motion Moved

Seconded by NSCCSA

Motion passes unanimously.

9) One NS Coalition Reaction

JP (SMUSA): The biggest issue that I have is that every provincial government over the past number of years all seem to have this advisory panel on the economy in Nova Scotia and I thought that the One NS Coalition warranted much more solid action. I was not very impressed with the composition of the committee that this current government formed. I don't know what exactly the point of the commission is when you have some of the same exact people from the previous year's sitting on it.

I think that we should write up a press release coming out against this commission because it is just business as usual with this government.

JW (ED): This committee is supposed to deliver its action plan for 2015 in December. So why is it going to take 22 months to put out a report in response to the report Now or Never.

RA (DSU): Can you send out supporting documentation for the One NS Coalition committee?

JW (ED): Yeah I will, I can do that through e-mail.

10) Reports of the officers

- a) Chair – Amy Brierley (StFXSU)
- b) Vice-Chair – Matthew Rios (ASU)
- c) Treasurer - Matthew Latimer (CBUSU)

11) Reports of the staff

- a) Executive Director
 - i. I was on vacation for two weeks.
 - ii. The next big items that we are going to be looking at are the two reports that are in draft.
 - iii. We are moving forward around the campaign on the budget response.
 - iv. The bystander stuff is continuing to be worked on.
 - v. Kayti is doing significant work on the Women in Student Politics project.
 - vi. Having Brian Foster back in the officer position will be a great help especially in terms of engagement.

12) Reports of the Members

a) ASU

CL (ASU): Liam and I have been working closely on a contingency project around the possible strike.

b) DSU

RA (DSU): I just wanted to see if individual student unions would have the resources to undertake their own governance review without the aid of StudentsNS?

ML (treasurer): I think if could be done it would just require some sacrifices and to move things around.

c) Kingstec NSCCSA

SB (Kingstec NSCCSA): Not too much happening in the summer. Happy to be here!

d) SFXUSU

- i. We had meetings with faculty administration
- ii. Town relations are a big thing for us this year and we have had several meetings with the town hall.
- iii. Ken Steele gave a presentation at StFX last week that was very thought-provoking.

e) SMUSA

- i. There is a lot going on with the orientation committee. We are trying to implement a lot of the recommendations that came out of the President's council report.
- ii. We are bringing in the bystander training into Saint Mary's; we have had a lot of interest throughout our administration.
- iii. We are starting a few new committees around engagement and communications efforts.

f) CBUSU

- i. We are working on the sexual assault prevention project right now.
- ii. We are in talks with the university around changing the structure of meal plans.

OTHER BUSINESS

JP (SMUSA): I'd like to bring up the issue of ASTSU being a full member of StudentsNS

ML (Treasurer): Are you saying you want to have a discussion now?

JP (SMUSA): I think staff could discuss it.

JW (ED): Generally it is not staff's role. You could ask the Chair to look into this. This is generally a discussion for the board.

ADJOURNMENT