

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	June 18, 2014		
Meeting Time:	11:00 A.M.		
Venue:	The Hub	City:	Halifax
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Ramz Aziz (DSU), Amy Brierley (Chair), Scott Byrne (Kingstec NSCCSA), Alicia Cox (ASTSU), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Callie Lathem (ASU), Brandon Hamilton (StFX), James Patriquin (SMUSA – partial), Matt Rios (Vice Chair), Jacqueline Skiptunis (DSU)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director)		
Absent:	Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA – regrets), Brandon Ellis (CBUSU), Katie Forteau (ASTSU), Sarah Hines (CBUSU), Matthew Latimer (Treasurer), Liam Murphy (ASU), Vishwa Patel (DAGS).		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

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

Agenda approved **by general consent**

4) Leaders of Today YouthCorp Grant (6:30-40:00)

AB (Chair): Leaders of Today YouthCorp Grant is a funding opportunity offered from Heartwood. This grant is providing funding for youth aged 15-30 to work on youth engagement around wellness. It's up to 315 hours at \$10.90 an hour between July and November. Any initial thoughts from the board? Is this initiative something the board would be interested in?

AC (ASTSU): Yes

CL (ASU): Yes

B (StFXSU): Yes

SB (Kingstec NSCCSA): Yes

CL (ASU): Are we supposed to have a wellness issue selected to apply to this or is this the application for the job?

JW (ED): We need to pick a theme today so it is a tight timeline for this Friday to be able to secure the funding.

AB (Chair): Did everyone get the email that Jonathan sent around regarding a possible campaign called 'disable the label'? Do people feel that this would be a good use of the funding? Did anybody come up with any other ideas?

Personally, I think it is a really cool idea to have a campaign directly related to one of the papers we put out. I think this could be a good way to expand the possibilities of how people could get involved with StudentsNS.

CL (ASU): What's the climate around the use of the word 'disabled'? I know with Acadia we have been using the word diverse ability.

JW (ED): When the report comes out we can have an in-depth conversation.

AB (Chair): Based on the conversation I am getting the sense from the board that there is consensus for the 'disable the label' campaign or some other variation of that. I will get each university to vote for it by saying yea or nay.

ASTSU: in favour

ASU: in favour

DSU: in favour

Kingstec NSCCSA: in favour

StFX: in favour

Motion to move into camera to discuss HR issue

Motion approved by general consent

Motion to move out of camera

Motion approved by general consent

5) Employer Award Program (40:00- 58:27)

AB (Chair): Do we want to request funding from the province to fund the program? We need to have a vote to reconsider the decision that was made last April to not request funding from the province to fund the program. Can I get a motion to reconsider the decision to request funding from the province to fund the program?

CL (ASU): I want to have a discussion first around this. Are the partners in this initiative providing funding for this as well?

JW (ED): They are providing input for the development of the award and feedback of various proposals of the design of the program. Government has an interest in funding half of the program and then finding an external partner for the other half. Government has indicated they would help us find the other funder.

AB (Chair): Can I get an idea of what the board's current thinking is on this?

CL (ASU): I think it is kind of sneaky to ask for funding to run a campaign against the Liberal government.

RA (DSU): I feel the timing is wrong with the MOU around the corner.

AC (ASTSU): I agree with Ramz.

AB (Chair): Is there a motion to put forward from the board, on whether or not to take money from the government?

RA (DSU): I will put forward a motion to accept funding for the employer award program subject to funding from the province and if not approved by the board, the decision must come back for reassessment from the board and a revote.

**Motion Moved
SMUSU Seconds**

ASTSU: not in favour

ASU: not in favour

DSU: in favour

Kingstec NSCCSA: abstain

StFXSU: Not in favour

SMUSA: In favour

Motion not approved

SB (Kingstec NSCCSA): I'm abstaining because I'm not confident enough to vote one way or the other.

CL (ASU): I am not comfortable with the mixed messages being sent by undertaking this. I agree with the employer award program. I don't think that this is sending the right message by accepting the government funding.

AB (Chair): To clarify we are not pursuing money from the province but as there seems to be general acceptance of the employer award. If this is something the board would like to review and discuss at a later point then that can be decided if we want to pursue other sources of funding.

6) Mend the Gap (58:27-01:12:00)

AB (Chair): The board needs to decide whether this campaign should continue to focus on (1) improving women's participation in student politics or expand to address participation among other groups and (2) appoint steering committee representatives for the project.

CL (ASU): I'd like to see the program expanded, I think it would make quite a statement if we were able to expand it as the issue is much greater than gender alone and reaches across to different minority groups as well.

JW (ED): As a counter argument, I don't think we have moved the dial very much on women's involvement. I think should keep it focused on one issue as we have not been getting the kind of results we have hoped for.

CL (ASU): If StudentNS are focusing on looking at advocating for international students as an organizational objective for this year, it would equally valuable to try to Mend the Gap for other prominent groups as well such as international student representation.

RA (DSU): I also agree with Callie.

BH (StFXSU): I agree with that as well and I don't really have much to add.

SB (Kingstec NSCCSA): I know women are underrepresented in student politics and I know it is something we have to focus on.

AC (ASTSU): I agree with Callie. We also need some representation in other areas as well.

JP (SMUSA): I am going to agree with Jonathan on this and say I don't know if we should be expanding Mend the Gap if we really have not achieved much success with getting women involved in student unions. We might be oversimplifying if we target too many publics with the campaign.

CL (ASU): I agree with James's thinking on this.

JP (SMUSA): I would like to put forward a motion to have the Mend the Gap campaign squarely focus of women's issues but perhaps in the future expand the scope of the campaign.

Motion Moved

ASU Seconds

Motion passes unanimously

AB (Chair): I will now accept nominations for the appointment of a steering committee for the Mend the Gap campaign. If you can think of someone on your campus who would be interested and is the right fit for this then nominate them.

JW (ED): E-mailing nominations for the steering committee might be a better way of handling this.

AB (Chair): Okay. And the idea situation would be a representative from each campus to sit on the steering committee so we have as many viewpoints as possible.

JW (ED): We do need one board member so if you would like to nominate yourself or another board member that can be done through e-mail.

JP (SMUSA): I'd like to nominate Liam Murphy.

AB (Chair): If Liam isn't on the call to accept that nomination it will have to wait until he is able to accept it.

CL (ASU): I'd like to nominate our incoming equity officer, Melissa O'Brien

AB (Chair): Okay, we are just talking about board members right now. So what we will do right now is continue this discussion with your proposed nominations through e-mail.

7) Review of Student Union Democratic Governance (01:12:00-01:14:00)

AB (Chair): We need to appoint a steering committee for this project. We are looking for a board member for this and active student leaders who are interested in this.

JW (ED): Should we do this by e-mail as well?

AB (ASU): I am a little hesitant of that because there will be several current executives on that committee.

JW (ED): The steering committee will be current student leaders and then they will appoint the advisory committee which is the former student leaders. The intention of this is student union democratic governance is no longer discussed at the board level; it is discussed at the steering committee now.

AB (Chair): Okay, with that being said then, it could be done through e-mail.

8) Amendment to Vision, Values, Mission, Mandate document (01:14:00-01:18:40)

AB (Chair): We want to amend the definition of accessibility to recognize that accessibility is not necessarily about students successfully completing studies, but also, or perhaps even more, so other Nova Scotia residents who cannot access studies at all because of other barriers. Equally important is having "Evidence-Driven" Principles to entrench the organization's commitment to evidence-based decision-making and policy.

So, to go forward we need a motion to take out “student from the accessibility value” and replace it with “every qualified Nova Scotia resident who wishes to pursue post-secondary education should be able to do so.”

Motion Moved
Kingstec NSCCSA Seconds

Motion passes with no objections.

AB (Chair): Hearing no objections we will move forward with amending that document with the added clause.

9) Revision of approach regarding keeping Board Meeting minutes (01:18:40-01:20:14)

AB (Chair): The discussion is around whether or not we want to continue having minutes taken with the process we have for taking minutes at present, but they are not fully verbatim as of right now. Or do we want to have non-verbatim minutes and a recording available on the website?

JW (ED): We would want to get a board member to work with me to put together a proposal for doing them differently.

AB (Chair): Okay. Do we have a nomination or for someone to appoint to propose a new minutes template.

JP (SMUSA): I nominate Liam Murphy.

AB (Chair): Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, we will go forward and be in contact with Liam to see if he is interested.

10) Discussion of More than Yes condoms for Frosh Packs (01:20:14-01:23:45)

AB (Chair): What are people’s feelings about having the condoms with the ‘more than yes’ branding put into frosh packs to be handed out?

B (StFXSU): Is there a cost associated with this?

JW (ED): we are looking into costs around this. We were hoping to get a feel for how many universities/ campuses were interested in this and then we can get you a quote.

JP (SMUSA): What are people’s thoughts on having condoms handed out with that messaging in Frosh Packs? I know we will not be having Frosh Packs handed out this year. If we were to hand these out it would be at our women’s centre.

CL (ASU): I don’t see a problem with talking about consent and protection at the same time, as they go hand in hand.

AB (Chair): Any other comments on that? Hearing none, I will move forward to the next agenda item.

11) Social Determinants of Access Report (01:23:45- 01:28:30)

AB (Chair): StudentsNS Staff recommend that (1) the Board appoint a reviewer who attended P-12 school in Nova Scotia, as much of the report will focus on P-12 education and how children grow up in Nova Scotia communities; and (2) board members must decide how best to proceed with a board brainstorm on this project.

BH (StFXSU): I can take that on.

AB (Chair): Hearing no objections, Brandon will be nominated as a reviewer. Moving on to the second decision item on how board members decide it is best to proceed with a board brainstorm on this project. My recommendation is to use Google Plus as it would be a little bit more interactive.

JW (ED): Since we won't be having a board meeting next week and I know we want to get this off the ground as soon as possible how does next Wednesday sound to set up a meeting for this through Google Plus? The meeting would be at 11:00 A.M.

AB (Chair): I will send out an e-mail confirming this and if you are in Halifax you are welcome to join in person at the Hub.

12) Membership status of the Atlantic School of Theology Student Union (01:28:30-01:36:00)

AB (Chair): The Chair was asked to investigate the independent membership of the Atlantic School of Theology Student Union relative to SMUSA. I want to have some discussion around whether or not to revise to by-laws to clarify the conditions for a student organization to be recognized as a member.

JP (SMUSA): Is there a maximum amount of money that a single student union can pay to StudentNS in terms of membership fees? So based on the size of its membership there is usually a ceiling and a floor based on the size of the student union—so, for example, no student leadership will have to pay more than this amount of money or less than this amount of money to be a member.

MR (ASU): I think you are referring to the payment form of CASA. We need to keep scale in mind as well. So we have schools at 50,000 students and then we have a Maritime school such as Mount Allison at 2,400, so I think that scale is something important to note to minimize the amount of fluctuation in regards to CASA--they needed to cap that range.

JP (SMUSA): We have a fairly large range of students as well. I was just wondering if we have ever considered something like that as well.

JW (ED): No we haven't. I think it is a conversation that could be had in the future though. If you wanted to you could put together a proposal.

SB (Kingstec NSCCSA): I am just wondering what would happen to some of the other NSCC campuses that are smaller and don't have a very large population. Something to keep in mind.

AC (ASTSU): I just want to clarify that we work with SMUSA on a number of things like student cards as we don't have the means to do that. We do have our own student union to make decisions that will affect our student body.

13) Reports of the Officers (01:36:00-01:51:00)

a) Chair – Amy Brierley (StFXSU)

- i. There was an editorial released in the Chronicle Herald, which spoke about the commitment of colleges and universities to start to make changes in terms of the socially oppressive trend that we are seeing on campuses. The article was focused on the role students play in contributing to the problem and necessity of making changes to fix those problems. I wrote a response to that article saying that we need to be analytical regarding the problem and that this is part of a larger societal issue and that we all need to work together to make changes.
- ii. I met with Brandon McGuire the other day who is an MLA to talk about StudentNS and I gave him our pre-budget to review.

CL (ASU): What was the article called?

AB (Chair): I can send you the link.

b) Vice-Chair – Matthew Rios (ASU)

- i. I received a few emails from president Ivany who is also the chair of CONSUP who will be looking and evaluating new consultation processes. Acadia had ratified a consultation process as had Dalhousie and this is on their agenda as a discussion item.

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

14) Reports of the staff

a) Executive Director

- i. We had the NSGU meeting on Monday to discuss the GRR response. We have sent out the notes from that meeting to members of the steering committee.
- ii. I am working a lot on reporting on various internal projects so we can transition into the applications for this year's funding. We did submit the funding application and we anticipate receiving a decision today about it.
- iii. I am going to continue to make up agendas that are as detailed as this agenda. I think it gives people a clearer idea of the direction of the discussion and what decision items there are for each agenda item.
- iv. We delivered a presentation with Antigonish Resource Centre to the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services conference on the sexual assault

- prevention and it went quite well. There was a lot of ongoing interest from attendees regarding that and the alcohol review.
- v. I have been conversing David Wheeler following his statement in the Chronicle Herald.

15) Reports of the Members

a) ASTSU

- i. Nothing to report at this time

b) ASU

- i. There is a lot going on in the offices right now
- ii. I am working on a campaign on sustainability for the student union and how we can contribute to that from an environmental standpoint.
- iii. We are working on finalizing the two conferences that will be hosted here and finalizing things for CASA as well as the U4 Event
- iv. Acadia partnered with AUCC to host a presidents' meeting to gauge interest on a national collaboration on alcohol and alcohol research – which was well received. We have also been working with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

c) DSU

- i. We have things going on pertaining to each of our four functions: advocacy, committees, events and services. We have reviews and assessments and new agreements that we are signing.
- ii. We are also focusing a lot on internal processes.

d) Kingstec NSCCSA

- i. I did a report in May based on some of the work we have been engaged in with StudentsNS to try and get everybody more engaged.

e) SFXUSU

- i. Last week we had our board of governors meeting. The budget was finally passed and it included a \$175 campus renewal fee. We have been working to put out a media release for students so they will not feel like they are blind-sided by this fee.
- ii. We are also researching autonomy of other student unions. We are meeting later today about that.
- iii. We are going on a road trip to visit other campuses
- iv. We are also having meetings scheduled in preparation for Frosh Week in the upcoming year.

f) SMUSA

- i. We are working with the Orientation Planning Committee.
- ii. We are dealing with the President's Council Action Team that we are heavily involved in.

- iii. We will have a new website and we are also looking at developing an app for students come September.

ADJOURNMENT