


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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	July 2, 2014		
Meeting Time:	11:00 A.M.		
Venue:	Conference Call	City:	Halifax
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Amy Brierley (Chair), Scott Byrne (Kingstec NSCCSA), Callie Lathem (ASU-partial), James Patriquin (SMUSA), Liam Murphy (ASU-partial), Gorba Bhandari (SMUSA), Sarah Hines (CBUSU), Matthew Latimer (Treasurer), Brandon Ellis (CBUSU-partial), Ramz Aziz (DSU-partial), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU-partial)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Kayti Baur (Equity Officer-partial)		
Absent:	Matthew Rios (Vice-Chair), Jacqueline Skiptunis (DSU), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA), Katie Flynn (ASTSU), Vishwa Patel (DAGS), Alicia Cox (ASTSU),		
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 the Minutes
- April 22, 2014
 - June 18, 2014

Amendments proposed to June 18 minutes: In comment under item “Disable the Label” from Callie Lathem, change “Diversity” to “Diverse Ability”.

Motion to approve the amended minutes
Moved by SMUSA
Seconded by ASU

Minutes **approved by general consent**

- 5) Revision of approach to keeping Board Meeting minutes (17:00)

Overview: The Executive Director and ASU VP Academic and External met to discuss a new approach to StudentsNS minutes following instructions from the Board. Currently minutes are recorded almost verbatim, which poses concerns with respect to transparency (some parts are recorded verbatim and others are not), workload and cost. As well, it is not clear that board members are consistently reviewing the very long minutes to check their authenticity, while the Executive Director has had an excessive role in reviewing the minutes to provide some quality assurance.

Decision items: Proposed amendments to items 13, 59-65 of the Governing Policies, which would (1) entrench the new agenda model with overview, decision items and list of attachments for each discussion and approval item; (2) constrain the content of minutes to the most basic content of meetings and the overview, decision items and list of attachments from the agenda; (3) require that audio recordings of meetings be posted publicly to the website with in-camera components removed; (4) require that the minutes note when each discussion item begins on the audio recording.

Attachments: Current Governing Policies with proposed changes in track changes. Sample new minutes to be provided prior to the Board Meeting.

Motion moved by SMUSA to change items 13, 59-65 of the Governing Policies to reflect the new format of minute taking.

ASU Seconds

Motion passes by general consent

- 6) Amendments to By-Laws and Governing Policies (21:00)

Overview: The Board of Directors has indicated that it would like to make amendments to the Officer positions as outlined in the By-Laws and Governing Policies. The Chair and

Executive Director have prepared bylaw amendment proposals for the Board of Directors to address these concerns and others.

Decision items: (1) Whether to replace the current Officer positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer) with a President, Vice President University Affairs, Vice President College Affairs, Vice President Finance and Board Secretary; (2) whether to accept that Officers other than the President may act as primary delegates for their student union; (3) whether to accept that two representatives of the same student union may hold officer positions in the cases of the VP College Affairs and Board Secretary (governing policies); (4) whether to formalize which officer takes on the responsibilities of the President in their absence; (5) whether the President and all the VPs should exercise signing authority; (6) whether to eliminate the formal distinction between primary and secondary delegates; (7) whether the Board Secretary should be the one Officer who is appointed at the first board meeting of each year (governing policies); (8) whether the proposed VP College Affairs and VP University Affairs responsibilities are appropriate; (9) whether the officer honoraria should be amended as proposed to maintain the total budget allocation towards officer honoraria.

Attachments: Current Bylaws and Governing Policies with proposed changes in track changes.

7) Employer Award Program (40:50)

Overview: In 2013-14, StudentsNS designed a program to recognize leading private and public sector youth employers, with \$10,000 in funding from the Province of Nova Scotia. Criteria for the award include the number/proportion of young employees, young employees' compensation and benefits, and commitment to supporting the personal development of young employees through training and leadership opportunities. The Board of Directors determined in April that StudentsNS should not accept funding from the Provincial Government to support this project, in the aftermath of their decision to cut \$35 million from support for youth retention and reconfirmed this decision at its last meeting on June 18, 2014. However, government representatives have indicated that as they paid for the development of the award program, they will be moving forward with the project with or without StudentsNS support. StudentsNS' continual core participation would provide us strong on-going input, the opportunity to hire a part-time staff person and \$3500 for administration (funds that will be added to our budget).

Decision Items: Whether to reconsider cooperation with the Province to move ahead the youth employer award, notably under the auspices of the Workforce of the Future Table.

Attachments: Program materials as designed by the project committee/StudentsNS staff.

Motion moved by SMUSA to reconsider cooperation with the province to move ahead with the employer award.

ASU Seconds

Motion passes by general consent

BE (CBUSU): CBU will abstain; I feel very strongly that we should be taking a stronger position on this issue and the cuts in general from the government. I don't think we can justify working with the provincial government at the present time; we need to be aggressive on this.

8) Mend the Gap (54:30)

Overview: StudentsNS launched the Mend the Gap Campaign in 2012-13 and continued it in 2013-14 under the supervision of a steering committee. The Campaign seeks to support greater participation in student union leadership positions among women, recognizing that there is a significant gap across Nova Scotia student unions (see: <http://studentsns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/2013-05-18-Mend-the-Gap-Report-draft-4-KB.pdf>). To date, we have secured \$20,000 in support from D250 for this project. We will soon be preparing a proposal to D250 for one last year of funding for this project (D250 will be closing down in April 2015).

Decision Items: Confirm appointments of Mend the Gap Steering Committee Representatives, which must include at least one board member.

Motion moved by ASU to confirm the Mend the Gap steering Committee

CBUSU seconds

Motion passes by general consent

9) Preparation for Annual Planning Retreat on August 17-19, 2014 at the Gaelic College (57:30)

Overview: The Annual and Strategic Plans in the past year have emphasized six principal goals that are actually more like overarching strategies, confused strategies and outcomes, and confused measures of success and activities. We are proposing to reframe the annual plan around four key goals: Strengthening Student Leadership, Improving Post-Secondary Education, Supporting Student Wellness and Promoting Youth Economic Success. We are also proposing to identify priority policy outcomes in the annual plan separately from the activities and their measures of success.

Decision items: Whether to reframe the Annual Plan around the proposed goals and introduce a separate metric for priority policy outcomes.

Attachments: Briefing note on amending the annual plan.

General consent to reframing the Annual Plan around the proposed goals, with a separate metric for priority policy outcomes.

10) Student Union Governance Review steering committee (1:08:45)

Overview: None.

Decision items: None.

Attachments: None.

Motion moved by SMUSA to confirm the steering committee appointments

STFXSU seconds

Motion passes by general consent

11) Discussion of StudentsNS materials for Frosh packs, etc. (1:13:10)

Overview: The Strategic Plan calls for StudentsNS materials to be distributed within frosh packs to member students. Acadia Students' Union has contacted StudentsNS and we are coordinating providing sticky notes, handouts on StudentsNS and More than Yes condoms. What materials can StudentsNS provide to other members?

Decision items: None.

Attachments: None.

12) Amending the Director of Engagement and Communications Job Description (1:15:50)

Overview: The Board of Directors must approve job descriptions for StudentsNS staff. The Executive Director is proposing minor amendments to the Director of Engagement and Communications job description, most notably to retitle the position as Director of Engagement.

Decision items: Whether to accept the proposed amendments to the Director of Engagement and Communications Job Description.

Attachments: Job description with proposed amendments in track changes.

Amendments to job description approved by General Consent

13) Reports of the Officers (01:18:30)

- a) Chair – Amy Brierley (StFXSU)
- b) Treasurer - Matthew Latimer (CBUSU)

14) Reports of the staff

a) Executive Director (1:20:00)

15) Reports of the Members (1:24:00)

a) CBUSU

b) DSU

c) Kingstec NSCCSA

d) SFXUSU

e) SMUSA

ADJOURNMENT