

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	October 24, 2014		
Meeting Time:	11:24 A.M.		
Venue:	McNally Building, Main Floor Board Room, SMU	City:	Halifax
Attendees			
Primary Delegates:	Scott Byrne (Vice President College Affairs/Kingstec NSCCSA), James Patriquin (President), Liam Murphy (ASU), Callie Lathem (ASU) Jacqueline Skiptunis (DSU), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Alicia Silliker (VP University Affairs/StFXSU), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Paul Rukidi (SMUSA), Ramz Aziz (VP Administration/DSU- partial), Scott Byrne (Kingstec NSCCSA/VP		
Other attendees:	College Affairs)  Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Bob Parker (Director of Research – Partial), Willem Paynter (Middleton NSCCSA – Partial).		
Absent:	Alicia Cox (ASTSU), Sarah Hines (CBUSU), Katie Flynn (ASTSU).		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

- 1) Call to order (1:55 on recording 1)
- 2) Roll Call (2:06 on recording 1)
- 3) Approval of amended agenda (2:45 on recording 1)

Amended agenda approved **by general consent**

- 4) Approval of minutes (12:43 on recording 1)
  - a. July 17, 2014
  - b. July 18, 2014
  - c. July 19, 2014
  - d. October 23, 2014

## **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL**

- 1) Quarterly Report from the Executive Director. (15:11 on recording 1)

*Overview:* The Board-Executive Director Relationship Policies require that the Executive Director prepare a Quarterly Report to the Board on the organization's progress to date relative to the goals and activities identified in the Annual Plan. To date, the organization is on track relative to many of the objectives in the Annual Plan. However, there are many areas of concern, especially around our ability to deliver expected changes in tuition and funding, implementation of student assemblies, and the effectiveness of the Farewell to Nova Scotia campaign.

*Decision items:* Whether (1) to amend and/or approve the Executive Director's Quarterly Report and (2) whether to publish the Report to the StudentsNS website in whole or in part.

*Attachments:* Draft Quarterly Report and Quarterly Media Monitoring and Impact Report.

**Motion moved by Kingstec-NSCCSA to accept the Executive Director's Quarterly Report and to publish the Report to the StudentsNS website in whole or in part.**

**Seconded by DSU.**

**Motion passes unanimously.**

**Motion moved by ASU to appoint Ben as the board survey liaison and Ben will be responsible for compiling and presenting the results of the boards survey which would be used as an internal governance mechanism which would be used to measure performance and compare our thoughts and impressions of the board halfway through the year to our thoughts and impressions of the board at the end of the year.**

**Seconded by Kingstec NSCCSA.**

**Abstention** – DSU: I don't know that I trust there is enough transparency in the way that we would review our board and the organization itself. I don't trust that the results of the survey will be shared well and be used constructively.

**Motion passes**

- 2) MOU Consultation Process (16:35 on recording 2)

Overview: The Province is conducting focus groups with students in the context of the development of the next NS-Universities MOU. StudentsNS has agreed to participate in this process, with the consultation meetings to take place the week of October 27 to the 31. In particular, we've been invited to a consultation on October 28 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

Decision items: Informal discussion regarding priorities for consultation meeting.

Attachments: None.

3) Farewell to Nova Scotia March, November 6, 2014 (1:17:00 on recording 2)

Overview: The March day has been set and there is the beginning of a plan for the March for Halifax. It's important to continue to draw attention to the GRR cut, as well as the MOU negotiations and the need for the government to support students and post-secondary education.

Decision items: Informal discussion regarding plans for November 6.

Attachments: None

4) Presentation of the NSCC Report (1:39:00 on recording 2)

Overview: We are almost prepared to release the draft of our report on the NSCC. The report examines the history, programs, enrolment, fees, funding and governance of the NSCC. The proposed recommendations seek to improve affordability, institutional financial stability and accountability, and student voice.

Decision Items: No formal decision, feedback is welcomed for revisions prior to public release of the draft.

Attachments: None.

**Motion moved by ASU to table the approval of the NSCC report**

**Seconded by SMUSA**

**Motion passes**

5) Minor Amendments to *Disable the Label* (1:42:20 on recording 2)

Overview: The Report is almost ready for final publication. There is just one concern and a few recommendations that need to be amended to improve clarity or because we have become aware of more information that makes the recommendation redundant.

**Motion moved by StFXSU to amend to *Disable the Label* Report to include the following:**

**Seconded by SMUSA**

Decision items: Whether to amend the *Disable the Label* Report motion as follows:

Eliminate:

- Recommendation: The Provincial Government should allow students with temporary disabilities to access disability-related grants and other forms of Student Assistance.
- Recommendation: The Provincial Government should lobby the Federal Government to allow students with temporary disabilities to access Federal disability-related grants and other forms of Student Assistance.
- Recommendation: The Nova Scotia Community College should create an avenue for students who are admitted under Special Admissions and do not require course modifications to transition to full diploma programs (*this has already been done*).

Add:

- Concern: Despite institutional recognition of the need to create an inclusive environment, Disability Services, one of the departments most qualified to address these issues, is often not involved in outreach (*this was in the draft, but somehow got missed in the copy given to the board*).
- Recommendation: Students with disabilities should be permitted to appeal for additional financial assistance, in cases where their disability necessitates significant unfunded living costs, such as attendant care.
- Recommendation: The Provincial Government should allow students with temporary disabilities to access disability-related grants and other forms of Student Assistance, and encourage the Federal government to do the same (this is a combination of the two already approved recommendations eliminated earlier).
- Recommendation: Post-secondary education institutions must ensure that their accommodations-related policy is implemented consistently across all faculties and departments.
- Recommendation: The Nova Scotia Community College must formally track the number of students registered with Disability Services Offices by campus.
- Recommendation: The name 'Disability Services' should be changed to 'Accommodation Services'.
- Recommendation: Institutions should situate Accommodation Services Offices in the same physical area as academic advising, or with other wellness services (e.g. health services, meditation and prayer rooms, counseling services, etc.).

Attachments: None.

**Motion passes unanimously**

6) New Organizational Performance Indicators. (1:46:30 on recording 2)

Overview: StudentsNS has developed a new approach to communicating the circumstances of students in Nova Scotia and the value delivered by StudentsNS. We have created six different identities with varying circumstances, and calculated the students' costs and resources to study at our member institutions, as well as the debt they would accumulate over the course of their studies. The results show dramatic changes since 2004, the year StudentsNS was founded, but also important gaps that still need to be addressed. When finalized, the identities will be published to the StudentsNS website.

Decision items: None.

Attachments: None.

7) Appointment of student to Employer Award Steering Committee (2:10:40 on recording 2)

Overview: The Youth Employer Award Program is a priority in StudentsNS' Annual Plan, with a board member's participation on the Steering Committee identified as a measure of success. The Youth Employer Award seeks to recognize employers who are leaders in hiring and developing young employees here in Nova Scotia based on clear criteria. We are pursuing the project in partnership with Labour and Advanced Education, Fusion Halifax, the Greater Halifax Partnership, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, and Nova Scotia Business Inc.

Decision Items: To appoint a Member of the Board of Directors to the Steering Committee of the Youth Employer Award.

Attachments: Description of the Youth Employer Award.

**Motion moved by Kingstec-NSCCSA to table the appointment of student to Employer Award Steering Committee.**

**Seconded by SMUSA**

**Motion passes unanimously**

## **REPORTS (2:12:40 on recording 2)**

### **Reports of the Officers**

- President
- Vice President Administration

### **Reports of the Staff (2:16:00 on recording 2)**

- Executive Director

### **Reports of the Members (2:20:00 on recording 2)**

- ASTSU
- ASU
- CBUSU
- DSU
- Kingstec NSCCSA
- SFXUSU
- SMUSA

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**