

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	November 28, 2014		
Meeting Time:	2:15 P.M.		
Venue:	Conference Call	City:	Halifax
Attendees			
Primary Delegates:	Scott Byrne (VP College Affairs/Kingstec NSCCSA), James Patriquin (President/SMUSA), Liam Murphy (ASU), Callie Lathem (ASU), Jacqueline Skiptunis (DSU), Hamid Dhaduk (SMUSA), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Alicia Silliker (VP University Affairs), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA), Amali Armory (SMUSA), Sarah Hines (CBUSU – partial), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU – partial).		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), Evan Fairn (Kingstec NSCCSA)		
Absent:	Alicia Cox (ASTSU), Ramz Aziz (Regrets/Vice President Administration/DSU), Katie Flynn (ASTSU).		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

- 1) Roll Call (8:30 on recording 1)
- 2) Call to order (10:00 on recording 1)
- 3) Approval of agenda (10:30 on recording 1)

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL**

- 4) Co-author Editorial calling on the government to end cuts to university operating grants in partnership with President David Wheeler of CBU (13:00 on Recording 1)

*Overview:* The Province has informed us that the decision on growth in university operating grants will be made by December and apply for multiple years. Every indication is that the grants will increase by 1% per year, which is inferior to inflation. We have formally that the Board of Directors allow StudentsNS to release an Op-Ed in cooperation with David Wheeler of CBU, calling on the Province to end four consecutive years of real cuts to university operating grants and at least match inflation in funding.

*Decision items:* Draft Op-Ed with feedback from David Wheeler, to be sent to the Board if ready in time for the meeting.

*Attachments:* None.

**Item tabled.**

- 5) Engagement strategy (14:30 on Recording 1)

*Overview:* With recent changes in staffing, StudentsNS has been forced to reconsider our approach to engagement for the year, notably with respect to how we can successfully meet our goals outlined in the Annual Plan. Staff members have explored multiple options that we will present to the Board of Directors. We have received a proposal for work on developing the organisation's engagement activities, but have significant concerns with respect to cost, timing and deliverables relative to annual plan priorities. This item will likely be in camera as it relates largely to human resources.

*Decision items:* No formal decision.

*Attachments:* None.

**Motion to move in camera.**

**Moved by ASU.**

**Seconded by StFXSU.**

**Motion to move our of camera**

**Moved by StFXSU.**

**Seconded by ASU.**

- 6) Disable the Label Report Engagement Activities (0:00 on Recording 2)

*Overview:* The Disable the Label Report is ready for release next week. The Annual Plan indicates that engagement activities should be undertaken in connection with each research project. Staff are proposing to pursue two initiatives at the time: 1) an online petition calling on the Province to cover the up-front cost of psycho-educational assessments for students with learning disabilities (immediately) and 2) projects identifying physical access barriers on campuses that choose to participate (implementation in January). The aim of the second activity would be to educate students about physical accessibility barriers and gather information on such barriers.

*Decision Items:* Whether StudentsNS should 1) create a petition calling on the Province to cover the up-front cost of psycho-educational assessments for students with learning disabilities, 2) work with interested groups on each campus to identify and draw attention to physical access barriers, and 3) whether to pursue additional engagement activities in support of the objectives of the Disable the Label report.

Attachments: Disable the Label Report final copy – particularly worthwhile consulting the recommendations section.

Possible preparation:

- Reflect on possible projects that could be pursued on your campus to engage students around elimination discrimination against students with disabilities
- Think about groups on your campus who could be interested in taking action, through promoting the petition or pursuing more significant activities

**Motion to prepare a petition calling for the Province to cover the up-front cost of psycho-educational assessments.**

**Moved by ASU.**

**Seconded by CBUSU.**

**Approved by unanimous consent.**

**Motion to pursue campaigns with interested campus groups to draw attention to physical access barriers.**

**Moved by StFXSU.**

**Seconded by SMUSA.**

**Approved by unanimous consent.**

7) Mental Health Campaign (8:40 on Recording 2)

Overview: The development of a mental health campaign is a priority in the 2014-15 Annual Plan. Equity Officer, Kayti Baur, has been in contact with campuses across the campus in gauging interest in the development of such a campaign. The first step towards developing a campaign is to appoint a Steering Committee. Kayti has been in contact with individuals at SMU (Equity Office), Acadia (Mental Health Society), StFX (Equity Office) and Dalhousie (peer-support group) regarding the project already.

Decision Items: To consider appointing a steering committee to begin work on a mental health campaign.

Attachments: None.

Possible preparation:

- Contact Kayti by email to see who she has expressed interest on your campus
- Think about groups on your campus who could be interested in taking action
- Think about how StudentsNS could partner with other organizations in pursuing this initiative

**Motion to appoint Mental Health Steering Committee at next meeting of the Board of Directors.**

**Moved by StFXSU.**

**Seconded by CBUSU.**

**Approved by General Consent.**

8) Quarterly Financial Report from the Vice President Administration (16:00 on Recording 2)

Overview: The Governing Policies require that the Vice President Administration prepare a quarterly financial update for the Board of Directors at the beginning of October. The Quarterly Financial Report projects a position of surplus and that the organisation is

generally on budget to date, with some significant variability imminent as a result of staffing changes.

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

*Attachments:* Draft Quarterly Financial Report.

### **Motion Tabled.**

#### 9) Update on Board Survey (21:00 on Recording 2)

*Overview:* The Board of Directors has been provided an opportunity to provide feedback on the organisation's progress and operations to date. Ben Gunn-Doerge is responsible for collecting that feedback.

*Decision items:* None

*Attachments:* None.

### **No decision-item.**

#### 10) Board Dynamics Discussion: (24:00 of Recording 2)

*Overview:* There have been a few grievances expressed by Board members about the way members have been interacting outside of formal meetings. Since this will be a discussion about Board member interaction, it will likely be had in camera.

*Decision items:* None.

*Attachments:* None.

### **No decision-item.**

## **REPORTS**

### **Reports of the Officers** (39:00 of Recording 2)

- President
- Vice President Administration

### **Reports of the Staff** (46:00 of Recording 2)

- Executive Director

### **Reports of the Members** (51:30 on recording)

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

## ADJOURNMENT