


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

| | | | |
|---|---|-------|---------|
| Meeting Name: | Board Meeting | | |
| Meeting Date: | December 12, 2014 | | |
| Meeting Time: | 2:15 P.M. | | |
| Venue: | Conference Call | City: | Halifax |
| Attendees | | | |
| Primary and Secondary Delegates: | Scott Byrne (Vice President College Affairs/Kingstec NSCCSA), Callie Lathem (ASU), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Alicia Silliker (VP University Affairs), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA), Amali Armory (SMUSA), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Ramz Aziz (Vice President Administration/DSU), Liam Murphy (ASU). | | |
| Other attendees: | Jonathan Williams (Executive Director), | | |
| Absent: | James Patriquin (President/SMUSA – regrets), Katie Flynn (ASTSU), Hamid Dhaduk (SMUSA), Jacqueline Skiptunis (DSU), Alicia Cox (ASTSU), Sarah Hines (CBUSU). | | |
| Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES | | | |

- 1) Roll Call (Not on recording)
- 2) Call to Order (Not on recording)
- 3) Approval of **amended** agenda (0:50 on recording)
 - a. Moved Quarterly Financial Report from the Vice President Administration from agenda item 6 to agenda item 1.

Agenda **approved by unanimous consent**

- 4) Approval of the Minutes (2:10 on recording)
 - a. October 24, 2014
 - b. November 7, 2014
 - c. November 28, 2014

Minutes **approved by unanimous consent**

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

- 5) Quarterly Financial Report from the Vice President Administration. (5:00 on recoding)

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 to approved Vice President Administration's Quarterly Financial Report

Moved by ASU

Seconded by StFXSU

Approved by unanimous consent

Motion moved to publish the Report to the StudentsNS website in whole.

Moved by ASU

Seconded by Kingstec- NSCCSA

Approved by unanimous consent

- 6) Vision Report (16:50 on recording)

Overview: At the Annual Planning Retreat, the Board of Directors gave the Executive Director permission to lead the preparation of a document articulating a long-term vision for student finance. We have almost finished preparing such a document, which articulates approved policy with respect to the Provincial government, but also applies that policy to the Federal Government in terms of the Canada Student Loan Program. Fundamentally, the vision is for a national student assistance model that (1) meets students' needs by (2) delivering grants, not loans. The project does not qualify as a policy paper, but does articulate new organizational policy, so we are seeking direction on whether the document should be released in draft for one month or not.

Decision items: What is the appropriate path for reaching agreement on the proposed Vision Paper.

Attachments: None. Due to the nature of the Position Paper, we are anxious to make sure it is worded effectively before presenting it to the Board, but will provide a copy to the Board if asked. Related Governing Policies start at Point 78, but are not explicit in this area:

<http://studentsns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/3-Governing-Policies-2014-11-07-BoD.pdf>

Item Tabled

7) Advocacy Week and Pre-Budget Submission Planning (25:10 on recording)

Overview: An Advocacy Week and a Pre-budget Submission are two top priorities in the annual plan. Staff has prepared a proposal for timelines to complete both of these projects over the next two months, with the Advocacy Week taking place the week of February 9. Basically, the proposal would recommend focusing on three separate streams of priorities (possibly PSE, inclusion and employment) and splitting up advocacy week participants based on these themes so that they can specialize in their preparations. We would also identify specific MLAs for meetings related directly to the specific themes, a number of MLAs that are identified in the attached spreadsheet.

Decision items: (1) Whether to revise and/or approve the proposed approach to the Advocacy Week, (2) whether to pursue only the MLAs identified in the spreadsheet in green or additional MLAs based on their ridings and/or interests, and (3) whether Board members should convene by school and together send a list of policy priorities (<9) to be prioritized during the advocacy week, possibly under different themes.

Attachments: Advocacy Week Proposal and Spreadsheet with MLAs.

Possible Preparations:

- Reflect on which MLAs you might specifically like to meet with and on what topic.
- Reflect on how CASA and/or the CFS conduct their advocacy weeks in Ottawa and whether there are lessons that we might apply effectively.
- Reflect on possible broad themes and policy priorities that you would like to advance through the advocacy week.
- Reflect on whether there are additional students from your school who you would want to include in an advocacy week.

No decision-item

8) Student Models (44:25 on recording)

Overview: Five-out-of-six of the Student Models are complete and available on the StudentsNS website at www.studentsns.ca/impact/case-studies. We have not begun to promote them, so we would encourage board members not to promote them yet. We will be in a position to launch the models, likely with a press release, in January.

Decision items: Feedback sought. No decision item, unless otherwise indicated by Board Members; this is a bit of a vague area where it isn't immediately clear whether an explicit motion of approval is required.

Attachments: None.

No decision-item.

9) Disable the Label Report Engagement Activities (54:40 on recording)

Overview: The Disable the Label Report was released last week. The Annual Plan indicates that engagement activities should be undertaken in connection with each research project. Staff are pursuing two initiatives at this 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). This item is simply an opportunity to discuss any steps to enhance the success of these initiatives

Decision Items: None, for information.

Attachments: None. The [report](#) is available online, as is the [petition](#).

Possible preparation:

- Reflect on how your student union could best promote students signing on to the petition.
- 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

No decision-item.

10) Mental Health Campaign (56:45 on recording)

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. Board Members have been provided two weeks to identify representatives to serve on the Steering Committee.

Decision Items: To appoint 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

Item Tabled

11) Update on Board Survey (01:03:00 on recording)

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.

REPORTS

Reports of the Officers (1:07:20 on recording)

- President
- Vice President Administration

Reports of the Staff (1:08:30 on recording)

- Executive Director

Reports of the Members (1:13:20 on recording)

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

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT