

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

Meeting Name:	Board Meeting		
Meeting Date:	December 19, 2014		
Meeting Time:	2:15 P.M.		
Venue:	Conference Call	City:	Halifax
Attendees			
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Callie Lathem (ASU - partial), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Jacqueline Skiptunis (DSU), Amali Armony (SMUSA), Alicia Silliker (VP University Affairs/StFXSU), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Scott Byrne (VP College Affairs/Kingstec NSCCSA – meeting chair), James Patriquin (SMUSA)		
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director)		
Absent:	Katie Flynn (ASTSU), Alicia Cox (ASTSU), Liam Murphy (ASU – regrets), Sarah Hines (CBUSU), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA – regrets), Ramz Aziz (/Vice President Administration – regrets), Hamid Dhaduk (SMUSA - regrets).		
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES			

- 1) Roll Call (0:00 on recording)
- 2) Call to Order (1:00 on recording)
- 3) Approval of **amended** agenda (1:10 on recording)
 - a. Add discussion around Dalhousie Dentistry situation

Agenda **approved by unanimous consent**

- 4) Approval of the Minutes (2:00 on recording)
 - a. December 12, 2014

Minutes **approved by unanimous consent**

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

- 1) Dalhousie Dentistry situation (3:00 on recording)
- 2) Appointment of StudentsNS President (27:10 on recording)

Overview: The President of StudentsNS, James Patriquin, has submitted a letter of resignation to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors needs to decide on an appropriate process for appointing a replacement.

Decision items: Whether to appoint the new StudentsNS President at the present meeting and, if so, who to appoint.

Attachments: [Bylaws](#) and [Governing Policies](#).

Possible Preparations:

 - Reflect on who you believe could best serve StudentsNS as President.
- 3) Vision Paper (33:00 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 drafted 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 paper also articulates the advantages of this approach as compared to a free tuition direction. 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: A draft of the Vision Paper is attached. 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>

Motion to defer approval of the vision paper until after feedback has been received and a presentation has been made at the next in-person board meeting.

Moved by SMUSA

Seconded by StFXSU

Approved by unanimous consent

- 4) Advocacy Week and Pre-Budget Submission Planning (57:50 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 pursue only the MLAs identified in the spreadsheet in green or additional MLAs based on their ridings and/or interests, and (2) whether to identify themes based upon which to approach MLAs or to wait to select themes when the Board of Directors can next meet in person.

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.

5) Executive Director Hiring Process (01:13 on recording)

Overview: The Executive Director's contract expires on April 9. The Board of Directors will need to agree on a job description and to appoint a new Executive Director. Considerations include timeline for advertising the Executive Director position, completing the hiring, and transitioning in the new Executive Director.

Decision items: (1) Whether to approve the proposed Executive Director job description, based upon the job description approved by the Board of Directors in March 2014 with minor revisions; and (2) whether to revise or approve the proposed hiring plan for the new Executive Director, or at least the timeline for advertising the position.

Attachments: Draft Executive Director Job Description and Transition Plan.

Motion to accept the proposed Executive Director job description

Moved by SMUSA

Seconded by StFXSU

Approved by unanimous consent

Motion to post Executive Director position

Moved by ASU

Seconded by StFXSU

Approved by unanimous consent

6) Mental Health Campaign (01:33 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 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

7) Update on Board Survey (01:38:40 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 (01:47 on recording)

- President
- Vice President Administration

Reports of the Staff (01:47:30 on recording)

- Executive Director

Reports of the Members (01:52 on recording)

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

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT