

<b>Students Nova Scotia</b>		<b>Board of Directors</b>		students 	
		<i>Meeting Minutes</i>			
Meeting Name:	Board Meeting				
Meeting Date:	March 14, 2015				
Meeting Time:	10:30 A.M.				
Venue:	StFX	City:	Antigonish, NS		
<b>Attendees</b>					
Primary and Secondary Delegates:	Callie Lathem (ASU), Liam Murphy (ASU), Brandon Ellis (CBUSU), Sarah Hines (CBUSU), Liam Shannon (CBUSU), Scott Byrne (VP College Affairs/Kingstec NSCCSA), Alexander Elderkin (Kingstec NSCCSA) Brandi Gilligan (Kingstec NSCCSA), Evan Fairn (Kingstec NSCCSA), Benjamin Gunn-Doerge (StFXSU), Brandon Hamilton (StFXSU), Troy Mrazek (StFXSU)				
Other attendees:	Jonathan Williams (Executive Director)				
Absent Primary Delegates:	Katie Flynn (ASTSU), Alicia Cox (ASTSU), Hamid Dhaduk (SMUSA - regrets), Alicia Silliker (VP University Affairs/StFXSU), Amali Armony (SMUSA - regrets)				
Quorum (50% of Members represented?): YES					

- Roll Call (0:00 on recording)
- Call to Order (1:16 on recording)
- Approval of Agenda (3:00 on recording)
- Approval of the Minutes

- Pending Preparation

## DISCUSSION & APPROVAL

### 1. Dalhousie Student Union Membership Decision (3:39 on recording)

Overview: The DSU Council voted to terminate that organization's membership within StudentsNS. StudentsNS representatives were not given an opportunity to present to Council in advance of the decision. Much of the meeting will consider the implications of this Council Vote for the development of StudentsNS.

Decision items: None.

Attachments: Notice of Termination of the DSU's Membership

### 2. Appointment of Vice President Administration (21:00 on recording)

Overview: Ramz Aziz, DSU President, was appointed as VP Administration for StudentsNS in August, but resigned upon the DSU's renunciation of membership within StudentsNS. The Vice President Administration has a number of responsibilities. Firstly, they must take on the responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President. Secondly, they are responsible for proper record keeping, including the collection and filing of minutes, registration of members, policies and other materials required by the Registry of Joint Stocks. Finally, they are required to oversee the organization's financial management, including through monitoring respect of policies applicable to financial management, reviewing monthly credit card and bank statements, working with the Executive Director to prepare the annual budget, and overseeing the Annual Financial Report.

Decision items: To appoint a new Vice President Administration.

Attachments: [Bylaws](#) item 33 and [Governing Policies](#) item 30 outline responsibilities of the Vice President Administration, better to use links than attachments given attachments have changes to item numbers.

### Appointment of Brandon Ellis as Vice President Administration

ASU: In favor

CBUSU: In favor

Kingstec NSCCSA: In favor

StFXSU: In favor

### 3. In-Camera Item

### 4. Lunch Break – Will include Executive Director Candidate

5. Quarterly Financial Report (35:23 on recording)

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. Given their resignation, the Executive Director and the President have prepared an update for the Board.

Decision items: Whether (1) to amend and/or approve the Quarterly Financial Report.

Attachments: Draft Quarterly Financial Report – January.

**Motion to approve the Quarterly Financial Report**

**Moved by ASU**

**Seconded by StFX**

**Approved by unanimous consent**

6. Discussion of possible bylaw amendments (50:36 on recording)

Overview: Amendments to the Students Nova Scotia bylaws must be made via special resolution, so this is simply a discussion item. Two issues have been raised for discussion among the officers and the Executive Director: (1) Distribution of votes and (2) Officer titles. In terms of votes, the Board of Directors needs to reach agreement on how votes will be distributed among members in light of the seeming pending membership of additional NSCC Student Associations. Previously, the possibility of allocating three total votes to be shared by the NSCCSAs had been discussed, but this or another model needs to be entrenched in StudentsNS' bylaws. It's worth noting that StudentsNS generally operates by consensus, there has been only one disputed vote at the Board in 2014-15 for example, so it would be a shame to lose possible members as a result of a disagreement over votes that are rarely used anyway. With respect to officer titles, there are concerns that the relatively recent transition towards the President and VP titles has generated external and internal confusion and may merit being reconsidered.

Decision items: Discussion item.

Attachments: (1) Briefing note and (2) Budget spreadsheet with options for resources and expenditures, and financial update up until the end of February, i.e. with two more months of information than the Quarterly Financial Report.

7. In-Camera Item

8. In-Camera Item

9. In-Camera Item

10. 2015-16 Budget Discussion (1:19:45 on recording)

Overview: The disaffiliation of the Dalhousie Student Union will remove approximately \$92,000 from StudentsNS' 2015-16 base operating budget. We are projecting a 45% drop in member contributions. The Executive Director, in partnership with the Officers, has prepared a number of budgetary scenarios for the Board in which basically all discretionary expenditures are removed from the budget. The most critical consideration is the staff complement. Options for consideration include downsizing the staff complement, increasing

member fees and/or securing bridge funding to allow for further steps to support the organization's financial health in 2015-16.

*Decision items:* What staff complement is required for StudentsNS to deliver the value that members expect and what resources can be secured, if any, to help offset the resource shortfall resulting from the disaffiliation of the Dalhousie Student Union.

#### 11. Governing Policy Amendments (1:26 on recording)

*Overview:* The Governing Policies regulate the operations of the Board of Directors and the organization more generally. The Executive Director, in consultation with the Officers, has prepared proposals to clarify the voting process at the Board, better address travel expenses associated with board meetings and change the process of policy renewal. With respect to voting, the proposed change would clarify that the Board will seek consensus, first asking whether motions have unanimous support before, if unanimity is not indicated, entering into discussions that would precede a vote. For travel costs, it has been suggested that StudentsNS develop a travel fund that members may choose to opt in to and have their costs of participation in board meetings covered. Finally, the last proposal would extend the validity period for position papers from three years to five, removing the necessity for StudentsNS to renew its policies on funding and accountability, funding and fees, and international students in 2015-16.

*Decision items:* Whether to approve the proposed Governing Policies amendments indicated in track changes in the attached document.

*Attachments:* Governing Policies with proposed amendments in track changes.

*Possible Preparation Questions:*

- Can we afford to establish the travel fund given StudentsNS' current financial difficulties?
- Would the Board be comfortable extending the period of application of position papers from three years to five, given that otherwise StudentsNS staff may have to dedicate significant time to position paper renewal in 2015-16?

**Table decision to next meeting**

## REPORTS

### Reports of the Officers

- President
- Vice President Administration

### Reports of the Staff

- Executive Director

## **Reports of the Members**

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**