**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

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| **Date**  | Wednesday, September 20th 2023 |
| **Time** | 6:30 PM Atlantic Daylight Time (Canada) |
| **Location** | 5th Floor Student Centre Building at Saint Mary’s University |
| **Invitees** | Ashish Ganapathy (Board Chair), Shaneika Carter (Vice Chair), Francesca Southwell, Thomas Waithe, Toni-Ann Bennett, Tyler Hutchinson, Anushka Kalantri, Naima Hodge |
| **Resource** | Shiray Tan (President), Anubhav Gupta (Acting Board Secretary) |
| **Regrets** | Meghan Boudreau |

1. Call to order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:34 PM ADT, on September 20, 2023.

The Chair welcomes the SMU community and SMUSA members and hopes it is a great semester ahead.

1. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair provides a land acknowledgment. We are on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq people, covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship. We are all treaty people.

1. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Anubhav Gupta, a member of the Executive, is serving as the acting Board Secretary.

1. Approval of Previous meeting minutes (Appendix 1)

BIRT the Board approves the previous meeting minutes from April 22, 2023

Moved by Ms. Southwell.

Seconded by Mr. Waithe.

Motion passed unanimously.

1. Approval of AGM meeting minutes (Appendix 2)
BIRT the Board approves the AGM meeting minutes from April 22, 2023.

Moved by Mr. Waithe.

Seconded by Ms. Carter.

Motion passed unanimously.

1. Welcome Statement and Introduction of Board Members – Ashish Ganapathy

The Chair introduces the Board members with their role on the board: Toni-Ann Bennett – Societies Committee Chair, Thomas Waithe – Finance Committee Chair and Board of Governors Representative, Shaneika Carter – Vice Chair, Tyler Hutchinson – Board Member, Anushka Kalantri – Board Member, Francesca Southwell – Elections Committee Chair, Naima Hodge – Academic Senate Representative, and Meghan Boudreau – HR & Governance Committee Chair and Academic Senate Representative.

The Chair welcomes the four incoming Board Members (Ms. Hodge, Mr. Hutchinson, Ms. Carter, and Ms. Kalantri) and welcomes back the four returning members (Ms. Boudreau, Ms. Southwell, Mr. Waithe, and Ms. Bennett).

The Chair extends his thanks to the VP Advocacy for taking time out of his day to serve as the Acting Board Secretary.

1. President’s Report – Shiray Tan (Appendix 3)

President Shiray Tan provided a detailed report highlighting Welcome Weeks and the Society Expo. Student engagement was emphasized as a top priority. Feedback was collected from students to enhance events. Changes in academic achievement scholarship were noted, and new staff positions were successfully filled. Three key pillars were established: Student Engagement, Student Support, and Representation.

The Chair provided members of the Board the opportunity to ask questions, and a discussion followed.

Ms. Southwell thanked the President and inquired about the biggest issues from universities and students across the country. The President responded that SMUSA’s federal advocacy partner, CASA, provided an interesting perspective as students across Canada are facing the same issues, but the order of priority may differ in other regions as opposed to the Maritimes.

Mr. Waithe asked about the MoU and the issues presented. The President replied that the agreement is between the Government of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Universities.

Ms. Carter sought common suggestions from student feedback during Welcome Weeks. The President’s said most common feedback was: not enough food, not enough snacks. Event suggestions included more movie nights, snowman-building competitions, cooking competitions.

The Chair asked for clarification on "EDIA" under the MoU. The President expanded on the acronym and defined it as “Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility.” The President said that by emphasizing EDIA, students who need the most support receive it, which includes more funding for accessibility needs.

* 1. Motion to Approve

BIRT the Board approves the President’s Report.

Moved by Ms. Southwell.

Seconded by Ms. Hodge.

Motion passed unanimously.

1. Chief Governance Report – Ashish Ganapathy

The Chair acknowledges the absence of the Chair of the HR & Governance Committee, Meghan Boudreau, and conveys her regrets.

The Chair welcomes everyone to the Fall Semester and congratulates the SMUSA Executive for successful Welcome Weeks based on a huge turnout and “great social media vibes.”

The Chair elaborates on the numerous training sessions conducted over the summer, including at the Board Retreat which were extremely beneficial. He emphasised that Board training was a key priority and tangible strides have been made towards it. The Chair says that the positions for CRO, DRO and Board Secretary are open, and thanks the Board for putting their faith in him. He thanks the previous board members as well, and wishes all members of the SMUSA and SMU community a great year ahead.

1. Reports of Standing Committees:
	1. Elections Committee – Francesca Southwell

Ms. Southwell was pleased to share the Team’s Goals discussed over the summer:

1. Start planning early – as elections are stressful to organize.
2. Increase awareness about elections.
3. Increase voter turnout and student engagement.

Ms. Southwell is looking forward to accomplishing these goals with the assistance of CRO and DRO.

She extended her thanks to previous Elections Committee Chair, Ms. Nikita, who took time out to work early with Francesca.

* 1. Human Resources & Governance Committee – Ashish Ganapathy

Committee met with SMUSA Pres to create her Review for the year, This doc will be complete by October. Transparency, adaptability, and accountability.

Review will help the Committee and BoD hold President accountable.

* 1. Society Committee – Toni-Ann Bennett

Show great appreciation for Ajay Sawlani for working with her over the summer.

Met with colleagues.

6 Societies ratified over the summer.

* 1. Finance Committee – Thomas Waithe

Mr. Waithe began his report by saying that the Committee reflected on the past year. They considered broader financial landscape and sought feedback from colleagues. The Committee identified the following key areas:

1. Risk-Management and Contingency Planning: manage and address potential risks.
2. Sustainability and Ethical Finance: Implemented sustainable practices in financial operations with socially responsible investments. Continue to explore avenues that improve sustainable options.

The Chair asks Board members if they have any questions, and the following discussion ensued:

Ms. Southwell asked Ms. Bennett if 6 new societies were ratified. Ms. Bennett clarifies that there were 2 new and 4 returning societies ratified, including the Drama Society, Debate Society, and Japanese Society.

Mr. Waithe congratulates the VP Advocacy, Anubhav Gupta, on becoming Governance Committee Chair for Students Nova Scotia. Mr. Gupta extends his thanks to Mr. Waithe.

Ms. Tan expresses her thanks to the Board for being extremely supportive. She gives a shoutout to Mr. Hutchinson for showing to every event during Welcome Weeks.

1. Any Other Business
2. In-Camera Session

BIRT the Board move in-camera.

Moved by Mr. Waithe.

Seconded by Ms. Bennett.

Motion passed unanimously.

1. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM by the Chair.