



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	Sunday, January 26th, 2020
<b>Time</b>	3:00 for 4:30PM
<b>Location</b>	Society common space, 5th floor students centre, Saint Mary's University
<b>Present</b>	Crystal Witter (Board Chair), Rami Zokari (Vice-Chair), Azhar Rahman, Adam Snow, Jason Yi, Henry Peng, Rhea Nankani, Joshua Lafond, Daphne Klajman.
<b>Resource</b>	Alison Horton (Board Secretary), Mary Navas (President and CEO)

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM, and a land acknowledgement was made.
2. Ms. Witter asked if there were any conflict of interest declarations to both the board of directors and the audience in the room. There were no conflict of interest declarations.
3. Ms. Witter asked the board for approval of the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Peng motioned to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lafond. *Motion carried.*
4. At 3:03 PM, Ms. Navas, President and CEO of SMUSA, gave the following Presidents Report; (see appendix 1).
5. At 3:14 PM, Ms. Witter, Chair of the Board of Directors and Chief Governance Officer, gave the following Chief Governance report;
  - a) The board is looking to create an advocacy policy after hearing concerns of students surrounding the code of conduct. SMUSA will be working with the Senate in order to improve the code of conduct to address issues between students and professors.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Crystal Witter, Board



- b) This semester an accessibility committee will be established at the university level. Interviews for the African Nova Scotian Community Liaison will be taking place.

## 6. Committee Reports

- a) At 3:17 PM, Mr. Yi, Chair of the Elections Committee, gave the following Elections Committee report;

- 1. The election committee had a successful nomination process. There are 4 potential presidential candidates, and 8 potential candidates for the Board of Directors. Nominations will be officially announced later in the week. The committee has been utilizing the SMUSA Street Team to help with election processes.

- a) The Board of Directors forum will be Tuesday, February 4th at 6pm in the Scotiabank auditorium. The Presidential Debate will be February 6th, 6pm, at the same location.

- b) At 3:20 PM, Mr Snow, Chair of the HR & Governance Committee, gave the following HR & Governance Committee report;

- 1. The committee will be meeting next month before the scheduled board meeting to review policies changes that were brought up by other various committees.

- c) At 3:21PM, Mr. Rahman, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave the following Finance Committee report;

- 1. The committee will be meeting with Mary on Tuesday to go over the variance analysis and the budget.

- 7. Mr. Snow motioned that the board move in-camera at 3:22PM, seconded by Mr. Zokari. *Motion carried.*

- 8. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd, 2020.

- 9. Mr Snow motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:22PM, seconded by Mr. Lafond. *Motion carried.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Crystal Witter, Board

## Internal Affairs

### **Winter Welcome Weeks 2020**

- SMUSA hosted around 10 events during Winter Welcome Weeks to welcome over 200 new students starting in the Winter Semester. We hosted a diverse range of events that are meant to be inclusive and welcoming for local and international, new and returning students. Different programming that was inclusive for all; including a Movie Night, Board Games Café, a Welcome Back Brew, Paint Night at the Gorsebrook, Academic Workshop, and our Society and Partners Expo.

### **UPass Contract**

- SMUSA is currently reviewing the proposed contract for the University Buss Pass Agreement. The Halifax Regional Municipality is proposing a new 3-year contract for it, and we are currently comparing the Upass fees for the last five years and the proposed fees from the HRM for the next three years to see how will it impact students.

### **Food Services RFP**

- SMUSA is continuing to advocate on behalf of students during the Food Service RFP for the next years. We are continuing to push our student's recommendations for more food options on campus, and more affordable and healthy food. We will know by the end of this semester what's coming on campus in the next years.

### **Food Room Expansion**

- As per my report in November, I mentioned that SMUSA in collaboration with Student Services helps manage our food room on campus, tackling the barrier of food affordability. The Food Room Expansion has been

completed, and starting tomorrow our community is able to enjoy a bigger and more options of food.

## **Academics**

- SMUSA presented to Senate in their January meeting their Academic Objectives for 2020 Winter Semester, which include:
  - Preferred Names Policy: SMUSA would like to see the successful implementation of this policy for the new academic year. This policy will aid in allowing students to receive the assistance they need.
  - Student Code of Conduct Revision: SMUSA would like to see the new Code of Conduct approved by Senate to be included in the 2020/2021 Academic Calendar. The document only handles students, and we encourage the University to see an overarching University document that encompasses, staff, faculty and students.

## **Student Wellness**

- We were pleased to continue to execute Wellness Week for the second time in the Winter Semester. With the aim of promoting student wellbeing and getting students engaged in their own wellness. A range of new and continuing events included Mindful Meditation Session, Art Therapy, Healthy Lunch for students, Self-Care Kit Making, and an Oxygen Bar, with around 300 participants throughout the week.

## **Budget Consultation**

- The University Budget is presented and approved by the Board of Governors by the end of March. I have met one on one with different University stakeholders to assure that the fees and next year's budget is in the best interest for students. We are continuing to advocate for a predictable tuition fee cohort, and regulation for international tuition fees.

### **Intercultural Competency Training for SMU Students**

- I have met with University staff to design, implement and execute an Intercultural Competency Training for SMU Students. The training consists of three models and students will be able to take it throughout the academic year, and receive a certificate and CCR hours for it.

### **SMUSA AGM**

- SMUSA's AGM is scheduled for 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm, this Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup> in the McNally Theatre Auditorium. All students are welcome to attend and hear about the work SMUSA has been doing over the past year. There will be different brainstorming and problem-solving sessions which students will be able to interact with the executive team and SMUSA Board of Directors.