



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	Sunday, September 27, 2020
<b>Location</b>	Online
<b>Present</b>	Rami Zokari (Board Chair), Joshua Sydney (Vice Chair), Joshua Lafond, Rhea Nankani, Adam Snow, Jason Yi, Abhinav Gaur, Pearl Buyanzi, Brian Tumusiime
<b>Resource</b>	Joshua Sydney (Vice Chair), Bryn de Chastelain (President & CEO)

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:26pm and a land acknowledgment was made.
2. Mr. Zokari congratulated students who recently graduated and meeting attendees were asked if they wanted to declare conflicts of interest. There were no conflicts of interest declarations.
3. At 3:27pm, all Board members along with the President and CEO of SMUSA introduced themselves to the student population, stating their areas of study, the committees on which they serve and in what capacity.
4. At 3:30pm, Mr. de Chastelain delivered his President's Report. (see appendix 1)
5. At 3:47pm, Mr. de Chastelain delivered the President's Annual Plan. (see appendix 2)
6. At 4:05pm, Mr. Yi asked the Board for approval of the annual plan, seconded by Mr. Snow. *Motion carried.*
7. At 4:06pm, Mr. Snow motioned to enact the conflict resolution policy, seconded Mr. Lafond. *Motion carried.*

Signature: Rami Zokari, Board Chair



Saint Mary's University Students' Association

8. At 4:07pm, Mr. Snow made a motion to amend section 2 E part ii to state that, "*The Committee interviews candidates for the CRO and DRO positions and completes interviews by the last day of October.*" (As opposed to the last day of September) The motion was seconded by Mr. Yi. *The motion carried.*
9. At 4:07pm, Mr. Snow made a motion to amend section 2 E part iii to state that, "*The Committee recommends a CRO and DRO to the Board for approval no later than the first meeting of November each year.*" (As opposed to the first meeting in October) The motion was seconded by Mr. Yi. *Motion carried.*
10. At 4:08pm, Mr. Snow made a motion to amend section 2 E part iv to state that, "*The Committee gives the Board a report within the first seven days of November, including proposed policy changes to take effect in the upcoming election.*" (As opposed to the first business day in November) The motion was seconded by Mr. Yi. *Motion carried.*
11. At 4:09pm, A motion was made to go to an in-camera session by Mr. Lafond, seconded by Mr. Sydney. *Motion carried.*
12. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 4:10pm, seconded by Mr. Lafond. *Motion carried.*



## President's Report

Bryn de Chastelain

September 2020

### Summer 2020

#### Selection of Events Attended

- Various University Town Halls to aid in the communication of University decisions to students
- University's Conversation on Anti-Black Racism
- Various Welcome Week events including, but not limited to the Santamarian Ceremony, Faculty of Arts Welcome Sessions, and Drop-in Socials
- Various sessions for international or out-of-province students about the Atlantic Bubble and testing protocols
- Residence Pride Picnic

#### Selection of Projects

Death of a Student Protocol: Alongside SMUSA's General Manager, assisted in the University's creation of a formal protocol for a student death.

Peer Support Program: With Student Affairs and Services, SMUSA has continued to fund a Peer Supporter position for the 2020/2021 year. This program will be delivered differently this year as it moves to virtual operations with a group focus.

HealthyMinds NS: The Nova Scotia Healthy Minds Suite has finally been made available to all students regardless of institution. This is a huge improvement on the previous model and will allow more SMU students to access support they need.

Dean of Arts Search: As a Member of the Dean of Arts Search Committee, I was involved in meetings throughout the summer to create a plan for the position moving forward.

Welcome Weeks Fall 2020: SMUSA's Director of Events and Director of Societies and Engagement created and facilitated a Welcome Week program that was accessed by students from around the world. We also secured \$10,000 in Sponsorship which exceeded internal expectations.

Website and Social Media Renovations: Our Director of Marketing and Communications has undertaken a full renovation of our website and a review of our Social Media strategies.

Academic Sessions: Our VP Academic has focused on creating and delivering a number of academic sessions on a range of topics from "How to be an Online Student" to understanding how to apply to graduate or professional schools.

## **Current and Ongoing Projects**

### **Reopening Plan**

At this time, there are still no students on the Return to Campus Action Team; however, we have been working closely with university representatives to develop relevant plans for the Student Centre and for SMUSA processes. We are hopeful to determine when we can open SMUSA spaces for societies and staff moving forward.

### **Winter 2021 Delivery**

With the recent announcement that the Winter 2021 semester will be delivered as a blend of online and in-person classes, we are continuing to work with the University to determine the implications for students. Our VP Academic remains on the committee for extra-curricular activities for the Fall and I have been included on the Winter 2021 Planning Committee. Through these bodies, we are hopeful we can contribute to a positive experience for students next semester.

### **Winter Welcome Week**

With a blended delivery model in Winter 2021, we are pursuing a number of sponsorship opportunities and an increase in the number of in-person events. We are looking forward to working with relevant University Departments to produce a strong Welcome Week Program.

## **Budget Development**

With our Accounting and Payroll Manager, we will be creating a quarterly budget for October-January based on our intake of Fall student fees. Following this, we will be creating another quarterly budget in January for February-April.

## **Service Delivery**

We have successfully been providing UPass Pickup since the start of September. We will be continuing this process throughout the semester and allowing the University to utilize the Information Desk as a pickup location for students. We are in the process of planning to open the Husky Patrol in early October and aiming to get the Gorsebrook back open towards the middle of the semester. We are hopeful that we will be able to provide all of our services for students by the time more students are back on campus in January.

## **Society and Event Support**

We are in the process of creating an updated Society Event Risk Management form to allow societies to host a greater number of events on campus. We are hopeful that more societies will have this option as the semester goes on, while ensuring that everyone involved is safe and healthy.

## **RA's for Black Lives Matter**

I am sitting on the University's review committee for anti-black racism in residence. We are working to improve the experience of black students in residence, specifically in terms of improving reporting processes and better supporting educational practices in residence assistant training.

## **Creating Brave Spaces**

With the SMUSA General Manager, Director of Events, and the University's African Nova Scotian and Black Student and Community Liaison, we are working on creating brave spaces on SMU campus, specifically through the future E&I Hub.

## **External Affairs**

### **Municipal Projects**

- Our VP External has been coordinating Councillor and Mayoral debates for the beginning of October ahead of the upcoming municipal elections
- We have been consistently collaborating with Halifax Transit to determine the best possible processes and rates for UPass Delivery at campuses in the Halifax Regional Municipality
- Our VP External and I have been a part of an ad-hoc working group on student safety including Student Union Presidents, University Administrators, representatives from Halifax's restaurants and property management, as well as the Deputy Minister of Labour Advanced Education, the Mayor, and Nova Scotia's Chief Medical Officer.

### **Students Nova Scotia**

- Our VP External has worked extremely hard as Chair of StudentsNS and has taken on a number of provincial media opportunities
- Our VP External has been working with the Council of Atlantic University Librarians to develop a Maritime Repository for Open Educational Resources
- Our VP External has met several times with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education to discuss issues facing students due to COVID-19
- We are preparing to be involved with a virtual StudentsNS Advocacy Week sometime in November and are hopeful to be able to take in-person meetings safely

### **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations**

- I have been elected Chair of CASA and have been involved in a tremendous number of media requests throughout May-September
- I have presented to multiple government committees and have continued to work to advocate for student interests federally

- We have conducted multiple virtual conferences, bringing together our 23+ members to focus on ongoing collaboration

### **Maritime Provincial Higher Education Commission**

- I have attended two quarterly board meetings as the Nova Scotia representative for MPHEC
- Alongside other students, I contributed to an MPHEC Quality Assurance Review of Saint Mary's review processes.