



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date	Sunday, January 24, 2020
Time	3:00 PM AST
Location	Zoom Meeting
Present	Rami Zokari (Chair), Joshua Sydney (Vice-Chair), Pearl Buyanzi, Brian Tumusiime, Joshua Lafond, Rhea Nankani, Adam Snow, Jason Yi, Abhinav Gaur
Resource	Bryn De Chastelain (President & CEO) Ashwin Khattar (Board Secretary)

1. Call to Order and land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM, and a land acknowledgement was made.

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Mr. Zokari asked if there were any conflict of interest declarations to both the board of directors and the new Board Secretary on the call. There was no conflict of interest declarations.

3. President's Report

At 3:11 PM, Mr. De Chastelain, President and CEO of SMUSA, gave the presidents report (Appendix) followed by the Q&A session

4. Reports of Standing Committees;

a) Elections Committee Report-Joshua Sydney

At 3.37 PM, Mr. Sydney, Chair of Elections Committee, gave the following Election Committee report; The Committee is pleased to announce that SMUSA annual elections for "SMUSA 's President" and "Board of Directors" are swiftly approaching and the nomination period is expected to begin from February 1,2021. There will be an info session hosted by our CRO (Chief Returning Officer) and DRO (Deputy Returning Officer) where students will be able to ask the members of the board and the SMUSA's President questions. The information regarding the event will be shared on SMUSA website and other social media platforms in the very near future.

b)HR & Governance Committee Report-Adam Snow



At 3:38 PM, Mr. Snow, Chair of the HR & Governance committee, gave the following HR & Governance committee report; The committee is working on the implementation of the Human Resource policy which will be in effect by May 1,2021.

c) Finance Committee Report-Jason Yi

At 3:39 PM, Mr. Yi, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave the following Finance Committee report; The committee is working on developing and implementing a Finance Policy which is still in progress.

d)Society Committee Report-Pearl Buyanzi

At 3:39 PM, Ms. Buyanzi, Chair of the Society Committee, gave the following Committee report; The Committee did not meet in the month of January, so there is no updates. Ms.Buyanzi was able to make the final edits of the society handbook and the society policy as discussed previously.

5.Other Business

At 3:40 PM Mr. Zokari asked if there was any other business, there was no other business.

6.In Camera Session 3:43

Mr. Yi motioned that the board move in-camera at 3:43 PM, seconded by Mr. Snow, Motion carried.

8.Adjournment

Mr. Lafond motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM, seconded by Mr. Sydney, Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3;45PM

Signature: Rami Zokari, Chair of the Board of Directors

Appendix:



President's Report

Bryn de Chastelain

January 2021

Selection of Events Attended

- House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration Presentation
- January Santamarian Ceremony
- Inspiring Immigrants Maritimes Gala
- UEQ Caucus Meeting

Societies and Events

Opening Non-Academic Events

Following the increase in restrictions back in November, the university's plan for students and societies to be able to book on-campus spaces was paused. Now with the improving situation with public health guidelines, this process will be opened again to allow student groups to propose on-campus activities as needed. These will be fielded by our Directors of Societies and Events before coming to the Non-Academic Student Return to Campus Working Group.

Husky Holidays

Our Director of Societies and Engagement and Director of Events hosted a number of events over the holiday break in collaboration with the Residence Life Department. These events were some of our most successful in terms of engagement. Along with our Director of Marketing and Communications, we are reflecting on the success of these events to further develop best practices as we continue to host events in an online format.

Society Expo and Recruitment

Our Director of Societies and Engagement hosted a Society Expo on January 16th. The event was successful and we had numerous societies present on their goals and

projects. This was a change in format from our September Society Expo, which made the event slightly less formal but with greater flexibility in terms of ongoing society advertisement.

Winter Welcome Week

Our Director of Societies and Engagement and Director of Events hosted a number of online events as a part of Winter Welcome Week. Our initial plan had been to host some in-person events but they were transferred online based on provincial public health restrictions. For this reason, there are some events that are planned and proposed that are ready to go once we can hold in-person events again.

Focus on Inter-Departmental Events

Our team is beginning to focus more on collaborating with other university departments in order to improve our engagement. We are working on plans to co-host events with Student Affairs and Services as well as Residence Life.

Black History Month

Our Director of Events has been focusing on developing events for Black History Month or African Heritage Month (University Term). We have been connecting with the African Nova Scotian/Black Student Advisor and Community Liaison to ensure that there is a full schedule of events throughout the month of February.

Consent Week

Our VP Academic and Director of Marketing and Communications have developed marketing materials for Consent Week taking place January 25-29. Our VP Academic is hosting a number of events and has been very involved in the development of the week's contents.

AGM + SMUSA Presentation

Our VP Academic has planned a SMUSA Presentation to take place on January 28th. This will include our AGM and I have been connecting with the Board Chair to ensure that we are following correct governance procedure. As well, the Board Chair and I will be preparing a memo to be used in years to come when it comes to the planning and hosting of SMUSA's Annual General Meeting.

Internal/Academic Affairs

International Student Quarantine

The NS Policy on International Student Travel and Quarantine continues to be a priority item for myself and the Executive Team. There continue to be ongoing challenges both at the provincial and institutional level and we are working to have this provincial policy changed and institutional procedures altered. We were successful in getting a subsidy program in place for international students but there are still a number of challenges and we know there have been negative impacts on international students.

Communications Policy and Social Media Guidelines

Our Director of Marketing and Communications has been working on a Communications Policy, which will serve as a document guiding our communication efforts and our long-term strategies. This is a new area for SMUSA and something that our Director of Marketing and Communications feels is an important next step for the organization. As we get closer to the end of the semester, we will be connecting with the HR and Governance Committee to discuss the policy and bring forward recommendations through the committee to the Board of Directors.

Return to Work

In December, I submitted a SMUSA Return to Work plan through the Non-Academic Student Return to Campus Working Group. This was approved and has been submitted to the Return to Campus Action Team. In the next few weeks, SMUSA's Full-Time and Executive Staff will have the option to return to campus for up to 50% of working days and with up to 50% capacity. We are excited about this development and will be keen to offer on-campus support as students return to campus in a limited capacity for in-person classes which started on January 18th.

Service Delivery

Our Operations Manager has facilitated the restart of the Husky Patrol in January and we are operational Monday-Thursday 3-9pm. The Information Desk still is open every weekday and is continuing to offer UPass and ID pickup. As well, the University Bookstore has reopened with limited hours and the Atrium has limited space as an overflow for the library. SMUSA has been able to offer supervision in the Atrium to

ensure Public Health Guidelines are being followed correctly. We are hopeful that the Gorsebrook and other study spaces may be opened in the near future.

Food Room Update

The Food Room has received some additional funding and Student Affairs and Services are offering a coordinated pickup process for students and it is available multiple days throughout the week. At this time, it is still restricted to SMU students but this may change depending on public health restrictions.

Winter 2021 Delivery

A limited number of in-person classes started on January 18th. The initial feedback has been very positive and we are closely monitoring the procedures that are in place to ensure student safety. We were consulted in the development of the student informed consent form and we are continuing to provide feedback on communication efforts regarding in-person course delivery.

Strategic Planning

The University is beginning to refocus the Strategic Plan and is starting to complete internal analyses to contribute to the Strategic Plan process. There are new positions that have been hired and the University will be engaging with all stakeholders, including SMUSA to ensure that the Strategic Plan is reflective of the needs of the entire SMU community.

Sexual Violence Policy

The Sexual Violence Policy Committee has continued to meet since November and our VP Academic and Director of Marketing and Communications have reported a tremendous amount of progress in a short time. The Committee is developing a job description for a Standalone Sexual Violence Case Manager position, which has been an important component of previous SMUSA Annual Plans as well as a key goal for this year's executive team. We are hopeful to make additional progress on the Policy Review by the end of the term.

Charter Day Planning

In recent days, we have started to think about what Charter Day 2021 can and might look like. We are committed to offering some sort of celebration, recognizing that it will likely have to take place in a virtual environment. Given that we have ample time to plan the event, we are looking forward to providing students and other SMU community members with adequate time to nominate students. We will be connecting with the Board of Directors closer to the date of the event.

External Affairs

Students Nova Scotia

- Our VP External and Chair of StudentsNS has participated in numerous interviews around in-person classes and international student quarantine in Nova Scotia.
- StudentsNS is preparing materials for a GOTV campaign for the next provincial election which is likely to happen within the next six months.
- Our VP External and Chair of StudentsNS has participated in meetings with each of the 3 Liberal Leadership candidates to ensure that student issues are included in leadership platforms and in the upcoming provincial election.
- StudentsNS has continued to be active on advocating for more equitable treatment of international students. We are continuing to connect with the Minister and Deputy Minister of LAE in order to facilitate better options for students across the province.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

- Our VP External and are preparing for the “Close the Gaps” campaign, which will have a significant social media presence. We are working closely with the Counselling Centre and our Peer Supporters on promoting the campaign within the SMU community.
- I have been actively involved in CASA’s Strategic Planning process, which will dictate the organization’s direction over the next three years. This is conducted through the Governance and Internal Review Committee and is an important component of CASA’s ongoing development.

- As Chair of CASA's Board of Directors. I have continued to field numerous media requests on a wide variety of topics with many different networks. Many of these media opportunities have displayed my comments in both my CASA and SMUSA capacities.