



SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date	Sunday, February 21, 2021
Time	3:04 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) Clancy McDaniel (Executive Director of Student NS) Ashwin Khattar (Board Secretary)

1. Call to Order and land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 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 Board Secretary on the call. There was no conflict of interest declarations.

3. President's Report

At 3:05 PM, Mr. De Chastelain, President and CEO of SMUSA, gave the presidents report (Appendix) followed by the Q&A session.

4. Presentation on Students Nova Scotia

At 3:26 PM, Ms. McDaniel, gave a presentation of Students Nova Scotia to the board in regards to the work done by the organization and why SMUSA is a member.

5. Chief Governance Report

At 4:00 PM, Mr. Zokari, Chair of the Board of Directors, gave the following Chief Governance report; Mr. Zokari gave the board an update about working on the finance and the HR policy and thanked the finance and HR & Governance Committee on their hard work.

Mr. Zokari also mentioned that today is the last day for nomination of SMUSA's elections and thanked the Election Committee, CRO & DRO, and the communications team for their hard work so far.

5. Reports of Standing Committees;



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a) Elections Committee Report-Joshua Sydney

At 4:01 PM, Mr. Sydney, Chair of Elections Committee, gave the following Election Committee report; The Committee talked about the last day of the nomination period for elections. The Committee talked about the hard work involved in handling the election and mentions the success of the Election info session back in February. The committee was also featured on season 2 of "K4S" which was on 12 Feb, 2021 and thanked Mr. Snow, Mr. Gaur, Ms. Nankani and Mr. De Chastelain to feature in the episode.

b) HR & Governance Committee Report-Adam Snow

At 4:05 PM, Mr. Snow, Chair of the HR & Governance committee, gave the following HR & Governance committee report; The committee mentioned that they have begun working on the HR policy and part of the policy will focus on the hiring practices and the code of conduct.

c) Finance Committee Report-Jason Yi

At 4:07 PM, Mr. Yi, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave the following Finance Committee report; The committee talked about their work on the finance policy project and will begin the first part of review in the coming weeks.

d) Society Committee Report-Pearl Buyanzi

At 4:09 PM, Ms. Buyanzi, Chair of the Society Committee, gave the following Committee report; The Committee talked about approving a motion to change the executive meeting as stated in the society policy into the society executive social and expects to hold two society socials each year after the society summit. This motion will be finalized and approved in the March meeting.

6. Other Business

At 4:11 Pm Mr. Zokari asked if there was any other business, Ms. Buyanzi asked a question to Mr. Sydney about how many candidates do we have for the board so far? The Election Committee answered that since today is the last day for nominations, they do not have the exact number.

7. In Camera Session

Mr. Yi motioned that the board move to an in-camera session at 4:12 PM, seconded by Mr. Lafond, Motion carried.

8. Adjournment



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Mr. Snow motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:13 PM, seconded by Mr. Sydney, Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:13PM

Signature: Rami Zokari, Board Chair

Appendix:



President's Report

Bryn de Chastelain

February 2021

Selection of Events Attended

- African Heritage Month Launch
- Board of Governors Retreat
- SMUSA Election Information Session
- IDSUS Events
- UEQ Caucus Meeting
- President's Awards for Exemplary Service

Societies and Events

Start of Society Events

Our Directors of Societies and Events have been working with the Non-Academic Student Return to Campus Working Group to authorize society events taking place on campus. Certain society events have already been approved and we are working on broader communications to support other societies with planning and executing in-person events.

Gorsebrook Reopening

Our Operations Manager and I have been working on getting the Gorsebrook open again. We have had preliminary discussions with the Non-Academic Student Return to Campus Working Group and with Facilities Management in order to facilitate opening the pub before the end of the year. We are now working on preparing training for our staff ahead of bringing a plan to the Return to Campus Action Team before the end of the semester.

Welcome Week Data

As a part of the SMU Welcome Week Planning Committee, our entire team has been working with Student Affairs and Services to review the data from Welcome Weeks 2020/2021. This is particularly important because of the fact this is the first time we have ever done a Welcome program entirely online. The committee is working to plan for next year's Welcome Week program to ensure we continue to improve when it comes to meeting the needs of our students.

African Heritage Month / Black History Month

Our Director of Events has been focusing on executing events for Black History Month or African Heritage Month (University Term) with the African Nova Scotian/Black Student Advisor and Community Liaison. These events have been extremely successful and are one of the more well-attended series SMU has had in quite a while. We are excited about this partnership and have developed a strong relationship with the African Nova Scotian/Black Student Advisor and Community Liaison.

March Programming

Our Directors of Events, Societies, and Marketing and Communications are working on planning our content calendar for March and April to ensure that we have more events and opportunities available to students. Part of this will involve the continuation of election programming and there will be more social events as well, especially with the opening of the Gorsebrook, which will hopefully happen before the end of the term.

Internal/Academic Affairs

International Student Quarantine

The NS Policy on International Student Travel and Quarantine continues to be a priority. Working with the University, we were able to get an extension on the funding available to international students. We are in consistent communication with the University and the Government about this issue. This will likely be a long-term policy, which is why we are looking for a more long-term solution.

Communications Policy and Social Media Guidelines Update

Our Director of Marketing and Communications has been continuing to work on a Communications Policy and a set of Social Media guidelines. Our goal is to bring this to

the HR and Governance Committee in March in order to implement the documents before the end of the term.

Return to Work Update

SMUSA's Return to Work plan has been passed by the Return to Campus Action Team and we have had the option to be in the office for 2 days a week. We are looking to move into further phases as possible depending on the provincial government. This will add additional offices and staff capacity to the list of SMUSA's approved spaces. This will potentially include the 5th Floor Lounge as a space for student study as well.

E&I Hub Update

Work on the E&I Hub has started again with a tentative plan to finish construction in the next few years. SMUSA has a number of representatives on various committees for the E&I Hub and will be actively involved in the planning steps both in terms of space allocation and communications.

SEM Plan Update

The Strategic Enrolment Management Process is continuing after a presentation from Ken Steele. There is significant discussion taking place about how to improve retention of current students and recruitment of new students in order to offset some of the enrolment shortages we have seen in recent years. We continue to be actively involved in this process and will be bringing forward student issues that need to be addressed moving forward.

2021 Course Delivery

Senate has begun to discuss the course delivery for the Spring, Summer, and Fall 2021 semesters. There are no final decisions at this time and we will be working with the University VP Academic and Research in order to ensure that student interests are actively considered.

Charter Day

Charter Day planning is well underway and we have approval from the Non-Academic Student Return to Campus Working Group for an event in late March. We will have a small team of employees helping to run the event in LA290 and will be streaming it live for students and community members to take part in online. We are looking forward to

honouring students that have supported initiatives and projects this year and positively contributed to the SMU community.

External Affairs

Students Nova Scotia

- Our VP External and Chair of StudentsNS has participated in numerous interviews around international student quarantine in Nova Scotia.
- StudentsNS is preparing materials for a GOTV campaign for the next provincial election which is likely to happen in the Spring or Summer.
- Our VP External and Chair of StudentsNS welcomed Iain Rankin as the successful candidate for the Liberal leadership race. As he is now the Premier, StudentsNS has welcomed him and are looking forward to further discussions and collaboration for students.
- StudentsNS is preparing to hire a new Executive Director! This will take place in the next six weeks and will be completed by the start of April.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

- The “Close the Gaps” campaign is well underway and students across the country have been sharing their gaps and the challenges that they are seeing with post-secondary education during COVID-19.
- I have been actively involved in planning CASA’s Annual General Meeting for the end of March. This will be a great transition event for incoming executives and will wrap up CASA’s work for the year with a new Strategic Plan and new policy position papers.
- 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.