



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

<b>Date</b>	Sunday, March 21, 2021
<b>Time</b>	3:00 PM AST
<b>Location</b>	Zoom Meeting
<b>Present</b>	Rami Zokari (Chair), Joshua Sydney (Vice-Chair), Pearl Buyanzi, Joshua Lafond, Rhea Nankani, Adam Snow, Jason Yi, Abhinav Gaur
<b>Absent</b>	Brian Tumusiime
<b>Resource</b>	Bryn De Chastelain (President & CEO) Ashwin Khattar (Board Secretary)

### 1. Call to Order and land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM, and land acknowledgement was made.

Mr. Zokari congratulated the CRO, DRO, the Election's Committee, and the Communications team for a successful election process. Mr. Zokari thanked everyone who voted in the election. Mr. Zokari congratulated the incoming President Mr. Franklyn Southwell and the incoming new Board members Adam Snow, Joshua Lafond, Mihika Mihika, Alex Wilson, and Miyah Basden for the year 2021-2022.

### 2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

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

### 3. President's Report

At 3:07 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 3:24 PM, Mr. Sydney, Chair of Elections Committee, gave the following Election Committee report; The Committee congratulates CRO, DRO and the Communication team as well as the incoming President and the incoming board members. Mr. Sydney gave a recap of activities involving election preparation which were done last month.

**b)HR & Governance Committee Report-Adam Snow**

At 3:27 PM, Mr. Snow, Chair of the HR & Governance Committee, gave the following HR & Governance committee report; The Committee has completed most of the work on the new HR policy and code of conduct and going to the final stages of the final draft. The committee plans to pass the new policy in the upcoming board meeting.

**c) Finance Committee Report-Jason Yi**

At 3:29 PM, Mr. Yi, Chair of the Finance Committee, gave the following Finance Committee report; The committee discussed about their work on the new finance policy and will be having a second round of review by rotating the draft among the executives' groups and governance advisors. The Committee plans to pass the new policy in the upcoming board meeting.

**d)Society Committee Report-Pearl Buyanzi**

At 3:30 PM, Ms. Buyanzi, Chair of the Society Committee, gave the following Committee report, The Committee. The Society Committee attended the second society executive social on March 6 hosted by the society Coordinator. The event was successful with 15 executives in attendance and executives gave report on how the impact of COVID-19 in the past year has been for the societies. The committee was able to get some feedback on the society policy and the ways to improve. The main issue for societies was getting a good attendance rate for the virtual events.

**5.Other Business**

At 3:32 Pm Mr. Zokari asked if there was any other business, there was no other business.

**6.In Camera Session**

Mr. Lafond motioned that the board move to an in-camera session at 3:32 PM, seconded by Ms. Nankani, Motion was carried.

**7.Adjournment**

Mr. Lafond motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 PM, seconded by Mr. Yi, Motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:32PM



Signature: Rami Zokari, Chair of the SMUSA Board of Directors

**Appendix:**



## President's Report

Bryn de Chastelain

March 2021

### Selection of Events Attended

- SLRA Ceremony
- CASA Board Drop-Ins
- UEQ Caucus Meeting
- Government Roundtable

### Societies and Events

#### Charter Day

Charter Day planning has continued and we are going ahead with filming on March 26<sup>th</sup>. 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 on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had a strong number of applications and have filled each award. We are now working on preparing bios and information for our hosts. We are looking forward to honouring students that have supported initiatives and projects this year and positively contributed to the SMU community.

#### Start of Society Events

We have had a handful of society events take place on campus after the last provincial shutdown. We have also been aware of a number of Residence events that have been approved to take place on campus as well, signalling a strong shift to more in-person programming. This is a positive development and we are ensuring that societies will have similar options over the summer months in order to facilitate higher society engagement.

#### Gorsebrook Reopening

Our Operations Manager and I have been working on getting the Gorsebrook open again. We have submitted a plan to RTCAT in the hopes of getting the Gorsebrook

open before the end of the semester. We have had positive meetings with the Non-Academic Student Return to Campus Working Group and with the Liquor Operations Committee. We are hopeful to receive approval in the coming days and weeks in order to open at some point in April.

### **Pack Leaders**

With the SMU Welcome Week Planning Committee, our entire team has been working with Student Affairs and Services to plan and organize the hiring process for our 2021/2022 Pack Leaders. We have already started to advertise the positions and we have had a strong response to this point. We have a number of plans in place to ensure we have a large enough number of engaged volunteers for the Fall and Winter Welcome Weeks.

### **April Programming - Giveaways**

With some funding from a few of our budget lines, we are engaging in a few giveaways over the next few weeks in order to give SMU students a boost during the end of classes and the start of final exams! We have seen a very positive response to this point and are excited to pursue some of our other giveaways in the next few weeks!

### **April Programming - Easter**

Alongside the Non-Academic Student Return to Campus Working Group, we are in the planning stage of an Egg Hunt on the SMU field around the week of Easter in order to offer students a fun chance to get outside and enjoy the weather. We are still getting approval for this event but hope to be able to confirm in the next few days.

## **Internal/Academic Affairs**

### **Executive Team Update**

After the 2021 SMUSA Election, we have been working with the new President in order to develop a hiring process and team structure for the 2021/2022 Academic Year. The incoming President has decided to keep the Executive Team structure the same and we have moved forward with advertising the position. We are hopeful to have the Executive Team hired by the first week of April.

### **Policies Update**

Our Director of Marketing and Communications has been continuing to work on a Communications Policy and a set of Social Media guidelines. As well, our VP Academic has been working on a draft policy for SMUSA's Hiring Processes. We will be bringing all of these documents to the HR and Governance Committee for initial discussions in late March/early April.

### **Budget Updates**

SMUSA has been actively involved in the University's budget process and has engaged in a wide range of consultations regarding the fee structure for next year. We are continuing to work with University officials in order to solidify a predictable tuition model for international students and we are feeling quite pleased with the culmination of the entire budget process for this year.

### **SMUSA Wellness Week**

Our Executive Team is in the process of planning a number of events for a Wellness Week at the end of April. The plan will be to provide students with an opportunity to participate in mental health training, LGBTQ+ events, and receive prizes as a reward for getting through the semester and year! We are looking at this as a last chance to engage with students before the new team comes in and as a way to celebrate the hard work students have been doing all year.

### **E&I Hub Update**

Construction for the E&I Hub will be beginning shortly. SMUSA has been actively involved in consultations around several of the spaces in the E&I Hub, specifically the plans for the Intercultural Commons. We have also been actively involved in the

development of a communications plan for the E&I Hub and have been working with the University to determine the best options in terms of communication for both new and future students.

### **SEM Plan Update**

The Strategic Enrolment Management Process is continuing with some significant changes coming for the remainder of 2021. There is a strong budget with a number of programs and initiatives currently in development in order to improve the recruitment and retention of students at SMU. We are currently reviewing our representation within the SEM process in order to facilitate a smooth transition for next year's President and executive team.

### **2021 Course Delivery**

The Fall 2021 Course Delivery method continues to be an important topic within the University and particularly at Senate. We have been a part of multiple conversations around the importance of providing students with the opportunities to study from home while still maximizing in-person opportunities where possible.

### **External Affairs**

#### **Students Nova Scotia**

- The StudentsNS Executive Director recently participated in interviews and produced an Op-Ed regarding the quality of post-secondary education and the value during the COVID-19 pandemic
- StudentsNS is preparing for the provincial budget. We are hopeful to see further investments in students and the post-secondary sector.
- StudentsNS has hired a Co-op student for the summer as a Policy and Research Analyst. The student is from SMU and will bring important perspective to the organization.
- StudentsNS is contributing to presentations about Open Educational Resources across the province at various institutions. In connection with the New Brunswick Student Alliance and UPEI, these presentations are also taking place in other maritime provinces.

- StudentsNS is preparing to hire a new Executive Director! This will take place in the next few weeks and will be completed by the start of April. We have a number of strong candidates and are beginning to schedule interviews in the coming days.

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

- SMUSA participated in the “Close the Gaps” campaign put on by CASA. The purpose of the campaign was to have students across the country have been share their gaps and the challenges that they are seeing with post-secondary education during COVID-19. These were based off of 7 main thematic areas: Mental Health Funding, Student Financial Aid, Student Employment, Internet Access, International Work Restrictions, Childcare, and Discrimination
- CASA is preparing a voter engagement campaign for the next Federal Election to ensure that students are able to vote safely and easily whenever an election is called. This campaign will be similar in nature to the successful Get Out The Vote Campaigns in 2015 and 2019.
- As Chair of CASA’s Board of Directors. I have continued to field media requests mostly on the continuation of COVID-19 and its impacts on students across the country.