



Saint Mary's University Students' Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date	Wednesday September 21 st
Time	7:00PM Atlantic Daylight Time (Canada)
Location	5 th Floor Student Centre Building at Saint Mary's University
Invitees	Alexander Wilson (Board Chair), Ashish Ganapathy (Vice Chair), Francesca Southwell, Mihika Mihika, Sorav Sogy, Meghan Boudreau, Thomas Waithe, Nikita Nikita, Toni-Ann Bennett
Resource	Isobel Tyler (SMUSA President), Kyle Cook (Acting Board Secretary)

1. Call to order

- a. The meeting was called to order at **7:06 PM ADT** by the Chair

2. Land Acknowledgement

- a. The Chair provides a land acknowledgement. SMUSA is located on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq Nation. This territory is covered by the Treaty of Peace and Friendship signed in 1752. We are all treaty people

3. Conflict of Interest Declaration

- a. No conflict of interest was declared

4. Welcome Statement – Alex Wilson

- a. **Discussion:** The Chair welcomes all students and the Board who are tuning in for the first Board of Directors meeting. The Chair is looking forward to a great year and has a strong Board of Directors this year. As we progress out of COVID-19, the Board will build a strong organization and help amplify the student experience at Saint Mary's. The Board Chair introduces each Board Member. Mr. Sogy is the Finance Committee Chair and Senate Representative. Ms. Southwell is the Board of Governors representative. Ms. Nikita is the Elections Committee Chair. Mr. Waithe is the Society Committee Chair. Mr. Ganapathy is the Vice Chair of the Board and will assist with Board committees when needed. Ms. Tyler is the



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President & CEO and leads the executive team. Ms. Boudreau is the Human Resources and Governance Committee Chair. Ms. Mihika is the Academic Senate representative. Ms. Bennett is a member of the Society Committee. The Chair provides a welcoming to all members of the Board of Directors

5. President's Report – Attached with the Meeting Agenda

BIRT that the Board of Directors approve the September 21st, 2022 President's report.

Moved by Ms. Nikita; Seconded by Ms. Bennett

Motion Carried

Discussion: Ms. Tyler provides an overview of her report. She discusses how Welcome Week event has concluded with over 21 events hosted over the last few weeks. Students have been enjoying the in-person engagement as many students are coming to campus for the first time. SMUSA's VP Advocacy is working on Consent Awareness Week and hosting a workshop on creating safe spaces. SMUSA's VP Academic is planning an Academic Integrity Week. Our first trivia night is happening tonight in the Gorsebrook Lounge. SMUSA's Annual plan is almost complete, and the executive team hope to have a final draft and an open house ready for mid-October. The SMUSA executive team released a summer report for increased transparency. Paid positions with SMUSA in our Gorsebrook Lounge have launched and we have received many applicants. External advocacy is underway with SMUSA VP Advocacy being elected as Chair of the Board of Directors and SMUSA's President & CEO elected as Chair of the Membership Committee for Students Nova Scotia. SMUSA hosted the Strategic Planning conference and attended the AGM Conference at Cape Breton University with Students Nova Scotia. The entire executive team attended the Maritime Student Congress at Acadia University to discuss student issues and work on professional skill development. The provincial government released an announcement to remove the 30-day out of province restriction for international students to access MSI – Students Nova Scotia has been working on this for years and are happy to see this change take place. SMUSA VP Advocacy and President/CEO attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Foundations conference in Ottawa, the Policy and Strategy Conference in Calgary. SMUSA submitted a successful bid to host CASA's AGM on Saint Mary's Campus, welcoming student leaders across the country to our campus in March of 2023.



6. Chief Governance Report

- a. N/A

7. Reports of Standing Committees:

a. Elections Committee – Nikita Nikita

- i. Ms. Nikita provides an update and states the committee have finished preparing the job description of the CRO and DRO and are in the process of getting them published on the SMUSA website.

b. Human Resources & Governance Committee – Meghan Boudreau

- i. Ms. Boudreau provides an update and states that this year the committee will be reviewing the human resources policy. They are seeing if a fairer process can be created on how the President distributes the end of year bonuses. Finally, the committee plans to create a risk management plan for the organization.

c. Society Committee – Thomas Waithe

- i. Mr. Waithe provides an update and states that over the summer the committee has met, and they want to host workshops for students who are looking to be executive members of societies. The committee desires to continuously help societies operate in an orderly manner.

d. Finance Committee – Sorav Sogy

- i. Mr. Sogy provides an update and states the committee has met over the summer and reviewed the past finance policy and plans to make amendments to outdated procedures. The committee has requested a quote for an internal audit of the Gorsebrook Lounge.

e. Board of Governors - Francesca Southwell

- i. Ms. Southwell has attended several meetings with the SMU Board of Governors and acknowledges the other students who also sit on the Board of Governors – Mr. Wilson, Mr. Cook and Ms. Tyler

8. Any Other Business



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- a. The Chair acknowledges Mr. Cook's presence for stepping in and acting as the Board Secretary for the duration of the meeting

9. In-Camera Session

BIRT that the Board of Directors move to an in-camera session.

Moved by Ms. Mihika; Seconded by Ms. Nikita

Motion Carried

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **7:19 PM ADT** by the Chair