



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Date	Monday, October 23 rd 2023
Time	6:30 PM Atlantic Daylight Time (Canada)
Location	5 th Floor Student Centre Building at Saint Mary's University Join Zoom Meeting https://smu-ca.zoom.us/j/86310958445
Invitees	Ashish Ganapathy (Board Chair), Shaneika Carter (Vice Chair), Meghan Boudreau, Francesca Southwell, Toni-Ann Bennett, Tyler Hutchinson, Anushka Kalantri, Naima Hodge
Resource	Shiray Tan (President), Afif Tahsin (Board Secretary)
Regrets	Thomas Waithe

1. Call to order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:31 PM ADT, on October 23, 2023.

The Chair welcomes the SMU community and SMUSA members.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair provides a land acknowledgment. We are on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people, covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship. We are all treaty people.

3. Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflict of interest declared.

4. Approval of September meeting minutes (Appendix 1)

BIRT the Board approves the previous meeting minutes from September 20, 2023

Moved by Ms Kalantri.

Seconded by Ms Boudreau.

Motion passed unanimously.



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5. Welcome Statement – Ashish Ganapathy

The Chair welcomes everyone attending the October meeting. The Chair states that this meeting is crucial as it will shape the remaining part of the year. The Chair mentions that there are some exciting updates about the progress of different activities. The Chair requests the report from the Election Committee to be presented first before the President's report.

6. Report of Elections Committee – Francesca Southwell

The elections committee has been hiring for the CRO and DRO positions and the nominated candidates' names will be presented during in-camera session. The selected candidate names will be announced in the next board meeting.

7. President's Report – Shiray Tan (Appendix 2)

President & CEO Shiray Tan highlighted SMUSA's key priorities, including concluding the RFPQ process for a new residence with a focus on affordability, student employment, accessibility, and preserving residence life culture. The organization is actively advocating for improved food services, reduced wait times, and more diverse menu options. SMUSA also organized the Society Summit to support society executives and gather feedback for better services, while planning Halloween-themed events to engage students. Advocacy efforts extend to ensuring student representation in non-grade appeals and fostering connections with external stakeholders, such as alumni and partners. Additionally, SMUSA welcomed new team members, reinforcing their commitment to enhancing the student experience.

The Chair provided members of the Board the opportunity to ask questions, and a discussion followed.

Ms. Southwell thanked the President and inquired about the opinion from students will be collected regarding food service. The President replied that how the opinions of the students will be collected by the support of the street team and a survey. The President also mentioned that opinions can be collected directly from the students in the residence dining.



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Ms. Boudreau asked how the feedback of different events is being collected from the participants. The President replied that though direct communication has been done with the participants, a solid feedback is required to be collected.

Ms. Carter asked to elaborate about student involvement in non-grade appeal. The President replied that steps are being taken to ensure that student representation is present in decision-making processes related to registration appeals and appeals concerning academic suspension or dismissal.

Ms. Kalantri asked about the procedure of student involvement in non-grade appeal. The President replied that the procedure is not finalised yet, but discussions are ongoing.

a. Motion to Approve

BIRT the Board approves the President's Report.

Moved by Ms. Bennett.

Seconded by Ms. Southwell.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Chief Governance Report – Ashish Ganapathy

The Chair expresses that around 200 students showed up at the Michelle Obama event, making it a successful one. The Chair states that the review process for the President is being formalised, to make it more transparent. The Chair mentions that a new ad-hoc sub-committee for Sustainability Policy has been formed and expects to hear a short report from the sub-committee in the meeting. The Chair congratulates Afif Tahsin, the newly appointed Board Secretary for 2023-24.

9. Reports of Standing Committees:

a. Human Resources & Governance Committee – Meghan Boudreau

The committee met on October 11, 2023 to discuss the bonus related documents. They met again on October 19, 2023 to discuss. They are also discussing about the concession plan of the full-time staffs.

b. Society Committee – Toni-Ann Bennett

The committee is finalising policy of different societies. The committee had an eventful time in October.



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c. Finance Committee – Thomas Waithe

The Finance Chair, Mr. Waithe provided the following report in written format after the meeting:

The finance committee has spent the past month laying the groundwork for their objectives in the upcoming year, focusing on enhancing the existing policy framework. After consultations with advisors and staff, they found that the current finance policy is highly resilient and well-aligned with the organization's goals. As a result, only minor adjustments are needed, indicating the effectiveness of their planning and dedication for the upcoming financial initiatives.

The Chair asks Board members if they have any questions. There was no question.

10. Reports of ad-hoc sub-committees:

a. Sustainability Policy Committee – Anushka Kalantri

The sub-committee had a meeting among the members and they discussed about the goals of the committee. They will be finalising a policy for this committee soon.

The Chair asked if she is hopeful that the committee will have a positive outcome.

Ms. Kalantri replied that she is optimistic about the committee's work.

11. Any Other Business

12. In-Camera Session

BIRT the Board move in-camera.

Moved by Ms. Boudreau.

Seconded by Ms. Hodge.

Motion passed unanimously.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM by the Chair.