**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 2023**

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| **Date** | Wednesday March 1, 2023 |
| **Time** | 6:00PM Atlantic Standard Time (Canada) |
| **Location** | 5th Floor Student Centre Building at Saint Mary’s University |
| **Invitees** | Alexander Wilson (Board Chair), Ashish Ganapathy (Vice Chair), Francesca Southwell, Mihika Mihika, Meghan Boudreau, Thomas Waithe, Nikita Nikita, Toni-Ann Bennett |
| **Resource** | Isobel Tyler (President) Rilla Barrett (Board Secretary) |

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at **6:04PM AST** on March 1, 2023.

1. **Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair provides a land acknowledgement. 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.

1. **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

No conflicts of interest declared.

1. **Approval of Previous meeting minutes**

**BIRT** the Board approves the meeting minutes from January 18, 2023.

Moved by Ms. Boudreau

Seconded by Ms. Mihika

Motion carried

1. **Recognition of elected members / welcome – Alex Wilson**

The Chair formally acknowledges all successful candidates and wishes them well on their path as the upcoming Board. Is looking forward to meeting with all new Board of Director elects individually and as groups and looking forward to their contributions to SMUSA.

1. **President’s Report – Isobel Tyler**
   1. **Appendix 1**

**Discussion:**

* The Director of Societies assisted numerous societies with large scale events and galas that are coming up this month and next month. End of year society celebration is in the works and will train incoming team members and celebrate successes.
* Over the last few months have been advocating for vegetarian option in the Gorsebrook during wing night and cauliflower bites have now been introduced. They are available through the week and during the specials. Halal options are being explored as well.
* Town hall on January 18th was held. One student attended which can be taken as a sign that SMUSA is doing good work.
* Convocations were attended by President and VP of Advocacy.
* CASA’s AGM is being hosted here at SMU and will be welcoming Student Associations from across Canada for the National AGM. CASA is excited and we are excited to host them as well.

**Questions:** Ms Southwell asks about SMUSA town hall - what was the concern of the student?

Ms. Tyler said that the student was just asking questions about campus as he was a new student.

Ms. Southwell asks what could have been done to increase attendance? Ms. Tyler says it was promoted well so not sure what could be done.

Ms. Nikita asks about CASA and if the meeting is open to others, Ms. Tyler says that it is not.

Ms. Southwell asks about what CASA’s goal is in having the meeting here and Ms. Tyler answers that they wanted to come to Halifax and usually Atlantic Canada will host a meeting. The President and the VP of Advocacy are the two delegates for CASA so it will be hosted here.

1. **Reports of Standing Committees:**
   1. **Elections Committee – Nikita Nikita**

January/February was a busy month. During the nominations period there were 26 interested candidates. 15 candidates made it through to the campaigning period. Presidential Debate and BOD Forum were held in person and guest speakers were the Honourable Minister of Economic Development Susan Corkum-Greek, and SMU alumnus and former SMUSA Board Chair Bryan Rice. The Presidential Debate and Forum were recorded and can be found on SMUSA’s YouTube. Voting period was held 15th/16th of February, 1729 members voted in this year’s election which was an increase of 12% voters. Ms. Nikita acknowledges the hard work of the candidates and CRO/DRO during the election period. The elections committee is further reviewing the policy and hopes to make changes after the CRO/DRO submit their reports.

**Comments:** The President and Chair acknowledge the hard work of the elections committee and the team. The Chair speaks to their efforts and says they upheld the democracy and were a leader in governance. Mentions that there is a reason SMUSA members are selected for positions with CASA and Students NS, and it is because the organization is reputable and the members are behind that. Sign of strength in our organization and their hard work during the election period needs to be recognized and appreciated.

* 1. **Human Resources & Governance Committee – Meghan Boudreau**

The committee has been working very hard and they met with their governance advisors. Have met with them to assist them with that process and they’ll continue to dissect the HR policies.

* 1. **Society Committee – Thomas Waithe**

They are looking at meeting with the Director of Societies as she works closely with the societies and want her perspective on the policies. Looking at adding things to policy.

* 1. **Finance Committee – Thomas Waithe**

Will be looking at the budget and fine-tuning what has been talked about during the year. Also are working on fine-tuning the policy itself.

**Comments:** The Chair would like to congratulate Mr. Waithe and would like to thank him for stepping up and filling the position as Finance Chair. HR and Finance positions have also been filled by Ms. Nikita and Ms. Southwell. The Board Chair thanks them for taking on these positions.

1. **Any Other Business**

**Board of Governors -** Ms. Southwellsays that they have had one meeting as there are new Board of Governors and they have been going over things and refreshing.

**Academic Senate –** met a couple weeks ago and will be meeting in March. Continuing to work with the SMUSA team to advocate for students.

Ms. Bennettasks about when the Prime Minister was at Dalhousie speaking with students and what the take-away was. Ms. Southwell says that the takeaway was healthcare. Questions were raised about pharmacy, dental, nutrition, eye care etc. were asked because they are not included in universal healthcare. Additional questions were raised about international graduates and why they are is such a barrier for people coming to work here and the high tuition of international students.

Ms. Southwell says it was a great experience overall.

1. **In-Camera Session**

**BIRT** the Board move to an in-camera session.

Moved by Ms. Boudreau

Seconded by Ms. Mihika

Motion carried

1. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at **6:26PM AST.**