**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

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| **Date** | Sunday, 30th January 2022 |
| **Time** | 3:00PM Atlantic Daylight Time (Canada) |
| **Location** | Joshua Sydney is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  Join Zoom Meeting  <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81083403735?pwd=akx4ZTJNL080U3YrVWhOdFEwaUZMQT09>  Meeting ID: 810 8340 3735  Passcode: 349095 |
| **Invitees** | Joshua Sydney (Board Chair), Alex Wilson (Vice Chair), Joshua Lafond, Brian Tumusiime, Mihika Mihika, Adam Snow, Pearl Buyanzi, Miyah Basden & Abhinav Gaur |
| **Regrets** | Brian Tumusiime |
| **Resources** | Franklyn Southwell (SMUSA President), Kaylie Dolan (Board Secretary) |

1. **Call to order**

At 3:14 pm, the meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Mr. Sydney.

1. **Land Acknowledgement**

At 3:15 pm, Mr. Sydney offered a land acknowledgement, recognizing that Saint Mary’s University is located on the unceded, traditional land of the Mi’kmaq nation.

1. **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

At 3:15 pm, Mr. Sydney asked the Board if there were any conflict-of-interest declarations to be made. No such declarations were brought forth.

1. **Approval and Adoption of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

At 3:16 pm, Mr. Snow made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Fall 2021 semester, seconded by Mr. Wilson. Ms. Basden made a motion to adopt the Minutes, seconded by Mr. Lafond. Motions carried.

1. **President’s Report**

At 3:17 pm, Mr. Southwell, President of SMUSA, gave the President’s Report (see Appendix). No questions were posed.

1. **Reports of Standing Committees:**
   1. **Elections Committee – Alex Wilson**

At 3:22 pm, Mr. Wilson gave the Elections Committee report, highlighting the upcoming electoral campaign period (February 4th, 5 pm AST – February 15th, 5 pm AST) and voting days (February 16th, 9 am AST – February 17th, 5 pm AST), the virtual Board of Directors Forum (February 8th, 7 pm AST), and Presidential Debate (February 10th, 7 pm). All students are encouraged to attend these engaging events. Special thanks sent to CRO, DRO, and Mr. White (SMUSA Communications) for their help during the election period. No questions were posed.

* 1. **Human Resources and Governance Committee – Adam Snow**

At 3:26 pm, Mr. Snow gave the Human Resources and Governance Committee report, highlighting the upcoming work this term on HR and Finance policy, working alongside other committees to deliver these policies, reviewing the report from CRO and DRO with possible Elections Committee amendments, and reviewing the annual Governance budget with intent to bring it forth at the next Board Meeting. hope to bring it forth at the next Board meeting. No questions were posed.

1. **Any Other Business**

At 3:28 pm, Mr. Sydney asked the Board whether there was any other business yet to be discussed. None was presented.

1. **In-Camera Session**

At 3:29 pm, Mr. Wilson motioned to move to an in-camera session, Ms. Basden seconded, motion carried.

1. **Adjournment**

Mr. Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Basden seconded, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 3:36 pm.

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**Appendix**

**External Affairs**

* CASA has cancelled the in person super conference that was scheduled to be held in Ottawa in February this year due to gathering restrictions in Ottawa. So, the CASA advocacy week will be held virtually again this year. We will be discussing the following theme areas: financial barriers to post-secondary education, health and wellness, educational materials, Indigenous students, and international students.
* **SNS**

Students Nova Scotia which SMUSA is proud to be a part of has continued to make strides in making recommendations to the provincial government for reforming the policy around access to Medical Service Insurance (MSI) for internationals. Currently international students must wait 13 months to be eligible for opt in, and we are lobbying for a reduction to 3 months. So, now we’re just waiting for a final decision by the department of health.

* **Meeting with Immigration Minister**

Dr. Rob extended an invitation to a meeting earlier this month with the minister and deputy. I was able to lobby for increased investments into Co-op programs, Gradate to Opportunity (GTO) programs, and other experiential learning opportunities that would afford our students more job experience opportunities while pursuing their degree and post-graduation as well to find permanent full-time jobs.

* **New VP of Academic**

Amanda Cadeau is no longer with SMUSA as of January 1st, 2022. So, Kyle Cook our VP of Advocacy filled into her role as our primary Senate representative, and the rest of her portfolio was divided amongst the executive team.

**Welcome Week for Winter**

* **Virtual welcome week programing** 
  + Our VP of student affairs coordinated with student services to host virtual welcome week events. Participation was low, and the students who attended events expressed their hope to see a return of in person events during the rest of the semester.

**In-person Course Transition**

* **Ongoing updates for in-person aspects of courses** 
  + With the delay of in-person courses until January 24th, students finally returned on campus last week. The return to campus did come with concern about potential changes based on public health or internal guidelines. A lot of students were quite disgruntled about being back due to safety concerns. But the university has remained firm on their stance to keep them in the classrooms, although they have cancelled all in person events until February 14th, 2022. Students are looking for more guidance under what circumstances in-person components would be suspended and how information will be communicated.

**Elections**

* **SMUSA President and Board elections**
  + The election schedule has been set and calls for nominations will be going out next week. SMUSA elections and candidates’ debate will be

held later in February 2022 and will be held virtually. However, campaigning will be in person as long as classes remain in person.

**Black History month**

* **Planning committee**
  + Planning for black history month events is on-going. The final calendar of events is just about done. So, the calendar should be released sometime this week. So far, some events you can expect to see include a guest speaking event, trivia night, barbershop talk, movie night, networking event and vendor’s market. And it will be an entire month of celebrations of black history and black excellence.

**Charter Day**

* This week we will start to think about what Charter Day 2022 can and might look like. We are committed to offering some sort of celebration, recognizing that it could likely have to take place in a virtual environment again. However, if possible, we can do a scaled down in person event that would just include staff and recipients of awards. Given that we have ample time to plan the event, we are looking forward to providing students and other SMU community members with adequate time to nominate students. We will be connecting with the Board of Directors closer to the date of the event.

**Annual General meeting**

* As per customary, our annual AGM normally takes place this time of year. So, I think plans will be put in place to host one within the next two weeks. During our staff meeting tomorrow we will look at scheduling a date and time. And of course, we will work with our board of directors to get this approved and ensure we follow proper governance procedure.