**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

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| **Date** | Monday, 8th November 2021 |
| **Time** | 3:00PM Atlantic Daylight Time (Canada) |
| **Location 1** | 5th Floor Student Centre Building at Saint Mary’s University |
| **Location 2** | Join Zoom Meeting  <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86495660543?pwd=cFJvV21acDhIWm1ISlhMbVEweXpCUT09>  Meeting ID: 864 9566 0543  Passcode: 945176 |
| **Present** | Joshua Sydney (Board Chair), Alex Wilson (Vice Chair), Joshua Lafond, Brian Tumusiime, Mihika Mihika, Adam Snow, Pearl Buyanzi & Miyah Basden |
| **Regrets** | Pearl Buyanzi and Abhinav Gaur |
| **Resource** | Franklyn Southwell (SMUSA President), Kaylie Dolan (Board Secretary) |

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 pm.

1. **Land Acknowledgement**

Mr. Sydney, Board Chair, offered a land acknowledgement.

1. **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

At 3:09 pm, Mr. Sydney asked the Board if there were any conflict-of-interest declarations to be made. There were no such declarations presented.

1. **President’s Report**

At 3:10 pm, Mr. Southwell, SMUSA President, gave the Board the President’s Report (see Appendix), which was followed by a Q&A session.

1. **Reports of Standing Committees:**
   1. **Elections Committee – Joshua Sydney**

At 3:32 pm, Mr. Sydney gave the following Elections Committee report:

* + - Throughout the month of October, the Elections Committee held interviews for the positions of Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer
      * Two named individuals were recommended for the above positions
      * Mr. Lafond motioned to approve the named individuals, seconded by Ms. Mihika
      * The motion was carried by a unanimous vote
  1. **Human Resources & Governance Committee – Adam Snow**

At 3:34 pm, Mr. Snow gave the following HR & Governance Committee report:

* + - The HR & Governance committee, which met last week, was congratulated by Mr. Snow for their efforts thus far in working on the HR Policy
      * The first policy amendments will be coming from the Society Committee on behalf of Joshua Lafond
      * Mr. Snow motioned to amend Society Policy – Section 1: E, seconded by Mr. Lafond
      * The motion was carried by a unanimous vote
      * Mr. Sow made a second motion to amend Society Policy – Section 3: E, seconded by Mr. Wilson (jointly by Mr. Lafond)
      * The motion was carried by a unanimous vote
  1. **Society Committee – Joshua Lafond**

At 3:37 pm, Mr. Lafond gave the following Society Committee report:

* + - The Society Committee has been applauded for consistent efforts thus far in supporting societies as they recover from a year of general inactivity due to the pandemic
      * The Society Committee is currently in the process of mending policies which could be rendered ineffective due to the realities of the post-pandemic world
    - Mr. Lafond was pleased to report that the September 23rd SMU Society Expo was a great success for both pre-established and new societies
  1. **Finance Committee – Brian Tumusiime**

At 3:39 pm, Mr. Tumusiime provided the Finance Committee’s report.

*Unfortunately, the audio/video recording of the meeting did not allow for proper discernment of what was said by Mr. Tumusiime.*

1. **Any Other Business**

At 3:40 pm, Mr. Sydney asked if there were any questions following the standing committee presentations. There were no such questions posed. Mr. Sydney proceeded to ask the Board if there were any outstanding matters to be addressed. None was presented.

1. **In-Camera Session**

At 3:41 pm, Mr. Sydney made a motion to move the Board to an in-camera session, seconded by Mr. Lafond (jointly by Mr. Snow). The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

1. **Adjournment**

At 3:42 pm, Mr. Sydney made a motion to adjourn the respective segment of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Snow. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

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**Appendix**

**Advocacy**

**Micro-credentialing, SNS & Advocacy Week:** The province has been working with many post-secondary institutions in assisting them create a new micro-credentialing framework that will allow universities to create new ways for industry to have influences on the workforce in a more reactive sense. This is how PSE institutions can work more in-sync with the needs of industry, thereby increasing the employability of students. SNS is designing a policy around how we will persuade the government to implement this policy while consulting both industry and students in the process. We are also planning our asks for advocacy week, where we will be meeting with all provincial level politicians.  Also, advocacy will be happening from November 22nd to November 26th.

**Women in politics:** We're planning on hosting a woman in politics event in partner with SNS, Equal Voice, and the Department of Political Science here at SMU. This event will bring people together to discuss the struggles that women have faced in the political sphere. This event will likely happen in January 2022.

**Meeting with Ian Rankin:** October 19th myself, Adrian and student leaders from across Nova Scotia attended a virtual roundtable discussion with MLA Ian Rankin to discuss the proposed bill for setting fixed elections in the summer by the PC conservatives. The sentiment from all the student leaders was unanimously against any proposed bill because we all believe that it would hinder our outreach for GOTV campaigns since in the spring and summer most students are not on campus, and just based on this summer’s federal and provincial election, we know that a virtual campaign was not ideal for us either. A lot of students rely on having on campus polling stations and being able to attend live debates on campus as well.

**Internal Projects and Events**

**Consent week**

Within the past few weeks, SMUSA has been hosting various workshops and initiatives for students. We partnered with student services to host consent week which highlighted events and workshops like Bystander intervention training, how to support survivors of sexual violence, and confidential and consent talks.

**Student success week**

We also hosted a student success week workshop which was geared at giving students tips and guidance of how to transition from high school to university. So, we hosted various workshops such as Academic success, understanding your degree, and how to get involved on campus.

**Walk in solidarity for reconciliation and community drum**

To honor the first national day for truth and reconciliation, SMUSA was proud to be a part of the ceremony and walk around campus that offered an opportunity to reflect on the history of our indigenous community and acknowledge all the calls to action and being allies to that community. I am elated to share with you that through partnership with the President’s office, SMUSA has purchased our new community drum which will serve to enhance all our indigenous events such as the mawio’mi and that should be taking place on campus later this month, and beyond. We will also be hosting the official awakening ceremony of the new community drum on December at 1pm in LA 290.

**Barbershop talk**

On October 4th, SMUSA and the Counselling centre partnered to host a barbershop talk right here on campus in LA 290. The event was moderated by the Nova Scotia Brotherhood who are the community experts on conducting these events within Nova Scotia. So, the event was a first of its kind here on campus and it offered the opportunity for the men in our community to have a sit down and talk about mental challenges they endure that stem from racism. The event went well, and our next project will be to offer a similar event for the women as well.

**Drag Show**

October 12th SMUSA hosted a drag event in the Gorsebrook Pub. It was basically a concert event by a band whose lead singer is a drag queen. The event went well and had a great turnout as well by our students. The purpose of a lot of these events this year is to ensure that we create something that caters for everyone. It is important that everyone in our community feels supported and we find ways to appropriately do so.

**October 15th Vaccine status deadline**

The deadline for submission of proof of Vaccine for students either living on residence or attending classes on campus as now past. So, the next question a lot of students have been asking is what happens next? Despite the deadline there are still students who have only received one dose of the vaccine, and there are many international students who have been fully vaccinated but have yet to obtain their actual records from either their home country or even from nova scotia health because of all the delays and backlog in their system. So, we just ask the university to exercise some patience with these students and before you decide on administering punitive measures, let us reach out to these students individually and continue to do follow ups and work with them on getting their vaccines and proof of vaccines for now. SMUSA has been working hard to remind students to submit their proof and showing them how to do so. We have been advocating a lot through our social media channels, and in person since within the last weeks we had staff manning tables in Loyola and in the SUB to remind and help students to submit their proof of vaccine.

**Halloween party and Food Drive**

On October 28th, 2021, we hosted a Halloween party in the Gorsebrook lounge. It was a 19+ event and it was well received by our students. It had a full house all night, and we gave away cash prizes to the best costumes.

**SMUSA Residence Committee**

The SMUSA residence committee had our first meeting last Thursday. We have 5 students from residence on the committee along with myself, Isobel and Kyle representing SMUSA. During the meeting, we established our terms of reference, and students gave us some general feedback as to what they want the committee to focus on and issues they want addressed.

**Sexual Violence Advisor**

The new Sexual Violence Advisor is Dee Dooley. She is former SMU alumni, and she is returning to work under student services. My executive team had an opportunity to meet up with her now that she is on campus. We will be working with her to advertise and promote her office on our social medias, so students are aware. Her office is room 409 in the student union building and her office hours are from 8am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday.

**Sobey Innovation Hub**

So just for a quick update, as for the new building, 17% of their construction for the new hub is done. It is still on track to be completed by 2023. And on November 23rd, 2021, there will be a ceremony for the new building which is the official groundbreaking since construction started during the pandemic. So, anybody who wants to attend just let me know and I will let Margret Murphy know to add you on the invite list.

**Wellness week**

We are planning on hosting Wellness week November 22nd to 26th 2021. We will be releasing the calendar of events next week now that we have finalized all of our events. Kyle and Adrian have been working on getting Wellness Week together. It has come a long way. We have many stakeholders from all departments within SMU participating. Therapy Bunnies. Sex Toy Bingo. Massage Chairs. Zumba. Yoga. There will be a lot of communications work involved here, with a lot of website embedding that isn't the easiest work. Getting there.

**Health Plan:**

Our Communication manager Adrian is working with our health plan coordinator Sarah to ensure that all Health Plan marketing is done well in advance, so students know their plan when they travel, are getting prescriptions, and are in need of coverage. We are creating a plan that will take us right to the end of our terms, so we don't have to worry about notifying students when their opt-in / opt-out dates are coming. Our media channels will be programmed to release all of the info at specific times.

**Street Team:**

We reached out to all the students who applied for the street team. Adrian, Isobel and Cathie set up interviews these last two weeks week, and they now have a list of successful candidates. Once they have officially been on boarded, I will meet them all. To say the least, the team is very excited to get these people ready to hit the street and start spreading awareness of all the events we will have on campus.

**Comms Assistant:**

So, Allison who was our communications manager resigned last month because she is now working with the Federal government. So, Our VP of External Adrian did a transition session with her for a week to take over her role. We also hired an assistant who is a student. So, Maddy Brophy has been hired as our communications assistant. She will be assisting the Marketing office with developing a photo library for the bar that we can use for promotions. She will also be assisting with marketing for welcome week for January 2022. Sponsorship work is already being started on this, as we aim to have a fun and inclusive welcome week after our students return from summer break.

**Residence Holiday Committee:**

Isobel and Adrian will be working with the residence staff to bring a little holiday cheer to all the students in residence that are staying over the holidays. We will have 12 days of programming over the break that will consist of games, movies, and fun activities both in person and virtual.

**Movember:**

Our team is working with both Student Services and The Gorsebrook Lounge staff to get a movember fundraiser going. Marketing for this will start next week. Shave off will be at the end of the month in The Gorsebrook Lounge.

**Pride Positive Space & Women’s Center:**

We finally cleaned out the pride centre and it is now known as the pride positive space. Hours and purpose for both of these will be marketed more to students. Posts went up this week. Hoping to get some more student engagement here. As for the LGBTQ Pride coordinator role, we have been working with student services to get this role hired by the university. So, far the latest update is that the university is working on a salary budget. Hopefully by next spring 2022, there should at least be a job posting for it.