

DATE:	Sunday, September 24 th , 2017
TIME:	4:45pm for 5:00pm
LOCATION:	CLARI Space, 3 rd Floor Atrium
PRESENT:	Ms. Deeksha Bhaskar (Chair), Ms. Jane Raeburn Jans (Vice-Chair), Mr. Lindsay Garwe, Mr. Mitchell Archibald, Mr. Ollando Brown, Mr. Omar Sameda, Mr. Oyindamola Oshobu, Ms. Valerie Caswell (joined the meeting on-call), Ms. Vicky Li
ABSENT:	None
GUESTS:	Mr. Ossama Nasrallah (President), Mr. Denis Amirault (VP Communications), Ms. Mary Navas (VP Student Affairs), Ms. Lexa Danielle Ali (VP Academic & Advocacy), Mr. Lawson Morassutti (VP Equity & Wellness) and Mr. Tristan Bray (Executive Director, StudentsNS)
RESOURCE:	Ms. Maeve Mulroy, Recording Secretary

1. Ms. Bhaskar called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.
2. Adoption of the Agenda:
 - a. **It was moved by Mr. Garwe and seconded by Mr. Sameda that the agenda be adopted as circulated. The motion was passed unanimously.**
3. Board Minutes Approval:
 - a. **It was moved by Ms. Raeburn Jans and seconded by Mr. Oshobu to approve the meeting minutes from July 9th, 2017 as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.**
4. Students Nova Scotia Presentation:
 - a. The Board heard a presentation by Mr. Bray (Executive Director, Students NS) outlining the past successes, ongoing approaches, objectives, and initiatives, as well as future directions of Students Nova Scotia.

- b. Students NS is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing/comprising six student associations, and providing an advocacy voice for over 20,000 students.
 - c. The organization aims to support accessibility, affordability, quality, and a strong student voice.
 - d. The year ahead will focus on themes including mental health, tuition and affordability, and promoting opportunity for all.
 - i. Strategies will include government consultations, round tables, and Advocacy Week.
 - ii. Budget 2018 will be submitted in April, with a prior pre-budget submission and gathering of recommendations.
5. WUSC Levy Policy:
- a. The WUSC (World University Service of Canada) Levy covers all expenses for one WUSC student each year, who is eventually able to become a permanent resident of Canada.
 - b. This year there are two new WUSC students on campus due to a delay in the arrival of last year's student until this year.
 - c. New clothing is provided for the student upon arrival and as needed, with the student being reimbursed by cheque upon return of purchase receipts.
 - d. Any money left over at the end of the year will be redirected to the next incoming first year WUSC student to provide maximal support.
 - e. Amendments were proposed to the amount of money allocated for the spring break such that the ratio of money for winter break and spring break is the same.
 - f. No other changes were proposed for the policy.
 - g. Motion to pass the policy as discussed was moved by Mr. Archibald, seconded by Mr. Garwe. The motion was passed unanimously.**
6. WUSC Endowment:

- a. The WUSC Endowment was formed out of leftover funds resulting from last year's WUSC student not being able to come to Saint Mary's due to medical issues.
- b. Professionals from the Royal Bank of Canada and Dominion Securities were enlisted to assist in creating the endowment as a safe investment option for leftover funds, with the aim of ensuring appropriate use of the funds.
- c. Since there will be multiple WUSC students from recent years who might wish to apply for access to the endowment funds, it was discussed how it should be decided which students receive money.
 - i. It was anticipated that all eligible students would wish to access the money, meaning that if the money was simply distributed evenly among all those who applied, it might not allow for a significantly helpful amount for each student.
 - ii. Possible criteria for determining which student received the funds were raised and discussed, including on-campus/community involvement and employment status.
 - iii. Two options were proposed, the first being to create an honorarium to give to select students based upon specific criteria such as achievement or involvement.
 1. For this option, a clearly delineated policy would be necessary to define the criteria for eligibility for the honorarium.
 2. The second option would be to move forward with equal access to the funds for all WUSC students who applied.
 3. The honorarium option was decided on by general consensus.
 4. Mr. Nasrallah was given the task to prepare a policy draft outlining the criteria for allotment of the honorarium from the WUSC Endowment.

a. Motion to Table the item for next meeting was moved.

The motion was passed unanimously.



7. President's Report:

- a. Welcome Weeks 2017:
 - i. SMUSA worked closely with Student Services and various other departments to plan and orchestrate Welcome Weeks 2017.
 - ii. Attendance numbers increased, nearly doubling for most events.
 - iii. Welcome Weeks 2017 aimed to be more inclusive and accessible to returning students.
 - iv. The Service Expo and Societies Fair were both held this year in the Patrick Power Library.
- b. Academics
 - i. A list of recommendations to the senate is in progress, and will be presented to the board in October.
 - ii. Focus on mental health and support for struggling students.
- c. SMUSA Programs
 - i. Calendar of fall events, initiatives, and programs will be released in October.
 - ii. Aim is to improve Husky Patrol service by providing later access to this service (1:00am during exam time), as well as earlier access at certain times to better meet students' needs.
- d. SMUSA Street Team
 - i. A large volume of applications have been received, and the hiring process will begin late September.
 - ii. Five to seven paid positions will be filled.
 - iii. Discussion is ongoing regarding whether it would be most appropriate to compensate SMUSA Street Team members via minimum wage or honorarium.
 - iv. It was noted that no GPA requirements were involved in the street team hiring process.
- e. Athletics Agreement

- i. Agreement will be signed the week of September 25th.
 - ii. A sum of \$23,000 will be paid to provide free student access to all regular season varsity games, and \$12,000 will be paid to improve non-varsity programs.
- f. Wellness Week
 - i. SMUSA Wellness Week will be taking place in the first week of October.
- g. Senate Meeting
 - i. The first senate meeting was held September 22nd, with all student senators present.
 - ii. SMUSA will give a presentation at the next senate meeting.
- h. First Year Experience Committee
 - i. SMUSA is collaborating with various departments to enhance communication with first year students through new First Year Seminars.
 - 1. These seminars will replace the previous requirement of English 1205: Introduction to Literature.
- i. Patio Update
 - i. The price of the patio has increased by \$10,000 due to proposed construction around the entrance.
 - ii. Furniture will be arriving soon.
- j. Aramark
 - i. SMUSA has been working with Aramark to address concerns including increased prices at the Gorsebrook Lounge, trivia night costs, the food committee, and guest passes for residence having been taken away from students.
- k. Government-Student Roundtable
 - i. A round table with the provincial government and Minister of Labour and Advanced Education will be happening Tuesday, October 3rd.
 - ii. Mr. Nasrallah and Mr. Morassutti will represent SMUSA.
- l. Atlantic Canadian Conference on Student Mental Health

- i. Mr. Nasrallah will attend this conference at Mount Allison University on Wednesday October 4th.
 - m. Board of Governors
 - i. The University's first Board of Governors meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017.
 - n. Convocation
 - i. Fall convocation ceremonies will be taking place September 29th and September 30th, at which various SMUSA executives and board members will be present as representatives.
8. At 6:38pm Ms. Caswell ended her phone call and took leave from the meeting.
9. Chief Governance Officer's Report:
 - a. Report from the Capital Fund Committee meeting
 - i. Ms. Bhaskar and Mr. Brown attended on behalf of the board.
 - ii. After detailed on-going discussions with university administration, it was decided that the patio will receive half of its funding from SMUSA, and half from the university.
 - b. Ms. Bhaskar met with the President of the university, Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, who was very pleased with welcome week and the level of student engagement that it generated.
 - c. Ms. Bhaskar is now working along with HR & Governance Committee and Finance Committee members to prepare the charter for each and start work on the Board's work plan as discussed at the beginning of the year.
10. SMUSA Annual General Meeting:
 - a. The annual general meeting will be held October 19th at 6:30pm.
 - b. It will be preceded by a town hall which has been tentatively set for October 16th in the Loyola building, room 290, during which students and university administration will come together.
11. Other Business:
 - a. The change in color on the SMUSA website was noted.

- i. Mr. Nasrallah characterized the new colour scheme as an endeavour to refresh SMUSA's branding presence, with the logo and SMUSA colours not being impacted.
 - b. It was proposed that a clearly defined protocol should be adopted regarding the participation of the wider student body in future board meetings.
 - i. Procedures should be implemented to grant students motions to speak during the meetings.
 1. Ms. Bhaskar is working on creating this protocol.
12. In-camera:
 - a. **It was moved by Mr. Archibald and seconded by Mr. Semeda that the meeting move in-camera at 7:01pm. The motion was passed unanimously.**
13. Out of camera:
 - a. **The Board arose out of camera at 7:20pm.**
14. Adjournment:
 - a. **It was moved by Mr. Semeda and seconded by Mr. Brown that the meeting be adjourned at 7:24pm. The motion was passed unanimously.**