

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union
Wednesday, December 16th, 2020 – 2:00 PM – Online

Notice: Meeting may be recorded for the benefit of the secretary. The recording secretary shall keep a record of the recording for conflict resolution and organizational purposes.



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Nipissing University Student Union

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union

Wednesday, December 16th, 2020 – 2:00 PM – Online

Attendance:

President:	Hannah Mackie	Present
VP Student Life:	Shannon MacCarthy	Present
VP Advocacy & Awareness:	MyKayla King	Present
Director-at-Large:	Patrick Bethune	Regrets
Director-at-Large:	Hannah Brown-Thiesen	Present
Director-at-Large:	Aamil Mohammed Ferhath	Regrets
Director-at-Large:	Charlotte Foster	Present
Director-at-Large:	Mercedes Parsons	Present
Director-at-Large:	Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir	Present
Director-at-Large:	Curtis Tilbury	Present
Director-at-Large:	Ward Loveday	Present

CHAIR / SPEAKER:	Sami Pritchard	CFS Representative
RECORDED BY:	MyKayla King	VP Advocacy & Awareness
STUDENT MEMBERS:		

1. Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting is called to order at 2:08 PM. *MACKIE* offered a traditional land acknowledgement.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

MACKIE, *MACCARTHY* and *KING* have declared a conflict of interest for the closed session and the motion following the closed session.

MACKIE suggested that *LOVEDAY* has a conflict of interest for the same motions, as she believes he cannot maintain objectivity.

LOVEDAY declined the declaration.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: MOTION: To adopt the agenda for the Board of Directors Meeting dated December 16th, 2020, as circulated.



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*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR.*

Discussion:

There was none

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carried.*

4. Approval of Minutes from the November 23rd, 2020 Meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the November 23rd, 2020 meeting as circulated.

*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR.*

Discussion:

There was none.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carried.*

5. Board Chair

Discussion:

MACKIE informed the board that it will be PRITCHARD's last meeting with NUSU as the external board chair. The Executive Committee has stated that they would like to look for a new Board Chair. It allows the meetings to run more effectively and allows the executives to participate fully.

6. Executive Reports

a. Report From the President



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MOTION: That the report from the President dated December 16th, 2020 be received

*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carried.*

b. Report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness

MOTION: That the report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness dated December 16th, 2020 be received.

*Moved by KING;
seconded by MACKIE.*

Discussion:

There was no discussion.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carried.*

c. Report from the Vice-President Student Life

MOTION: That the report from the Vice President Student Life dated December 16th, 2020 be received.

Moved by MACCARTHY;



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seconded by MACKIE.

Discussion:

LOVEDAY asked from the list provided in the report which events were run by the clubs and societies versus what was done by her?

MACCARTHY answered that in a sense, they are all collaboratively run, as the clubs are run through NUSU, and we have to put NUSU's name on them. Regarding the ones we had to do anything for, the only event would have been the Goosechase NUSWA held.

LOVEDAY followed up, asking if Shannon was familiar with the budget spent on the event for the 12 Days of Giveaways and if she knew how much was spent overall?

MACCARTHY answered that she was familiar with it and spent under \$5,000 for the prizes to be given away.

LOVEDAY followed by asking regarding the analytics provided in the VPAA report, how can we confirm that it is students participating and viewing the posts as opposed to random followers?

MACCARTHY answered that to be entered into the draw, they must be a Nipissing student and tag another Nipissing student. She stated that they don't check every single comment to ensure that the ones commenting are Nipissing students. She said that she is the one entering the names and recognizes most of the names, and are students. If the winner is confirmed not to be a current student, that the wheel would be spun the next day again, for that day's prize, to ensure that a Nipissing student wins. The confirmation on if they are a student is done by sending an email to VPSL through their student emails. She checks in with Scott Graham every day to ensure that they are currently a Nipissing University student. *MACCARTHY* confirmed that everyone who has won is a student from Nipissing University.

PARSONS stated that she heard this from a few clubs, that NUSU is picking the executives to lead the clubs, and was looking for some more information.

MACCARTHY clarified that NUSU isn't picking who is leading the clubs but rather taking over the election process. *MACCARTHY* stated that since each club and society gets to do their election, it isn't standardized and can be biased.

PARSONS clarified that the process will be standardized, and NUSU will not be the ones considering the candidates for each club?

MACCARTHY answered that *PARSONS* is correct. *MACCARTHY* explained that she found clubs were not following the process for elections. She found some clubs were doing interviews, where there should be a group of candidates and should nominate themselves and then the membership elects who they want to represent them. This process is to ensure that all the clubs are following the policy.

PARSONS followed up by asking if more information would be coming, as she has spoken to some members from different clubs who were concerned. As there was a misunderstanding that NUSU would be picking who would run the clubs and not that NUSU would be looking over the process.



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MACCARTHY answered that, stating that there was a round table meeting and explaining to the clubs that NUSU would be doing the process. *MACCARTHY* had given the clubs dates but didn't dive into the topic thoroughly, as she was waiting for the January round table. She did state that anyone who had questions has reached out so far. *MACCARTHY* stated that if any student has questions or concerns to relay them to *MACCARTHY* or let them know a discussion with more detail is happening later.

LOVEDAY stated that he was reviewing Warren's Report and that the updates were all from October. *LOVEDAY* asked if there are any specific updates Warren has done since the last board meeting.

MACCARTHY noted that she sees all the dates were from October and double-checked to see if she inserted the wrong report. *MACCARTHY* confirmed that the wrong report was included and forwarded the correct report to the board.

MACKIE stated that she and Warren have been working closely in the last month regarding the building project. *MACKIE* noted that communication would have gone out, stating that the building project is nearing completion. Warren has been working on service contracts for the building.

FOSTER made a friendly amendment for Shannon to include Warren's correct report in the P Student Life Report.

LOVEDAY asked if there were any updates regarding the washer and dryer being installed in the student centre?

MACKIE answered that at this point, it is not a priority, as the main focus is occupancy, as well as ensuring the proper COVID protocols and regulations are in place. The focus is having our employees working out of the space before moving into considering restaurant and bar operations. The washer and dryer would support the restaurant. We are waiting until the new year to discuss the restaurant and bar, to wait for the governments' regulations.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

Note to ensure that the final report includes the correct staff report.

7. Committee Reports

a. Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee

MOTION: That the report of the Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee be received by the board.



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*Moved by KING;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

There was none

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carried.*

8. Question Period

LOVEDAY asked how students are being informed and how the board or executive committee will address students' concerns regarding *LOVEDAY*'s termination as VPFA?

MACKIE answered by stating that she appreciates *LOVEDAY* for bringing this concern forward. She suggests forwarding them to the executive committee to address them on an individual basis. In terms of employment matters, that might not be something that is communicated widely, to protect the individual, as well as the organization. If the board wishes to communicate, letting the students know *LOVEDAY* is no longer the VPFA. *MACKIE* stated that it is normally not the best practice. If this is something that we would not like to do, students who have concerns and would like to chat further can reach out on an individual basis.

FOSTER provided an update regarding Residence and international students. Residence will remain open over the winter break. *FOSTER* asked if there was an update regarding international students and bursaries?

MACKIE answered that this discussion was brought up at the Audit and Finance meeting.

MACKIE stated that it was not brought up as NUSU offering a bursary, but more of the barriers international students face when accessing these bursaries? Is it a Nipissing regulation, Provincial regulation or Federal regulation? The committee is looking deeper into why access isn't there and potentially what advocacy we can do around it.

PARSONS suggested looking out putting out a communication for the new semester regarding who students should contact regarding specific issues to mitigate any potential confusion.

MACKIE spoke to *PARSONS*' suggestion and informed the board that the VPFA email is still being used for questions regarding the health plan. The preference from the executive committee would be for students to access that email still.



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LOVEDAY followed up with a question from concerned students that were asked, “Who had the authority and what authority to dismiss the VP Finance?” As per the by-laws, the discipline of board members has to be done at a general meeting.

MACKIE responded by stating the executive committee does have that authority. In terms of the by-laws, it does have language around board members but does not around officers and executives. If this were a general student, we would not get too deep with employment matters in an open session, as it is not best practice and is confidential. On that note, all executive employment agreements have clauses around termination and how to follow through and address that process. A lawyer was consulted to ensure that all legally responsible.

FOSTER stated that she saw Ottawa University approved a pass/fail option for Fall this year and Winter 2021. She wasn't sure that students would want this. *FOSTER* was wondering if this has been something that has been a topic of conversation at any committee meetings or academic senate, or if this is an avenue we should explore? She noted that it would affect graduate students.

MACKIE answered that she and *KING* have spoken to several students and was a topic of conversation at the tail end of last winter term. From what *MACKIE* can remember, this was something the University felt was an effective option. We have had conversations with different classes, where there have been many issues, and have asked if pass/fail would be something they would want so that we could advocate for it. In certain circumstances, pass/fail can be beneficial, but it isn't sure across the board. *MACKIE* stated that she would be interested in the outcomes of these institutions. However, this is always an option.

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR asked if there was an update regarding the extension of the drop-date? She remembered *MACKIE* had spoken about this at the previous meeting, regarding her update with the Northern Caucus.

MACKIE had clarified that it was Lakehead University advocating for the extension of the drop-out date and that we didn't have to advocate for this, as Nipissing University extended it on their own.

LOVEDAY followed up with the termination, and that executive committee has the authority to remove an executive, which was mentioned by *MACKIE* earlier. *LOVEDAY* referenced By-law 8.9 and asked how the executive committee will address students, as *LOVEDAY* believes the clauses were not met.

MACKIE sought assistance from the chair, *PRITCHARD*, as *MACKIE* believes the line of questioning was getting specific. *MACKIE* stated she understands *LOVEDAY* is a director and is bringing these concerns forward, and would heavily suggest students with these concerns themselves bring them forward. *MACKIE* mentioned that *LOVEDAY* was missing some of the documentation that the executive committee forwarded to him and is unsure how objective he is in bringing these concerns forward. To answer these questions more appropriately, to have the actual students expressing these concerns come forward. *MACKIE* acknowledges a lot of generality in our By-laws and is on the list to revise them this year. She would like to reiterate



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that a lawyer was consulted, reviewed our By-laws, and the executive committee followed the practice that felt best fit.

LOVEDAY followed up by referencing the Executive of the Corporations Policy section 11, stating the executive’s discipline and the impeachment process. *LOVEDAY* asked how is the executive committee doing to address the students that the disciplinary process was not given to the executive who was removed.

MACKIE answered that the executive committee did not follow a discipline process. This wasn’t a ‘with cause’ removal, but a ‘without a cause,’ and are different. The process would have been very different if the executive would have gone the ‘with cause’ route, and the parameters are different.

PARSONS asked if there is an option to advocate for scholarships, lower, or provide some flexibility. Students are noticing their grades are dropping, due to moving onto an online format.

MACKIE stated that the University is aware of this, and conversations are happening. It is difficult because they see students before Covid who cannot maintain their scholarships.

MACKIE stated she appreciates that this is brought up, as she can reference it during these meetings. *MACKIE* did state that this is something we can advocate for to have the flexibility and compassion towards students.

9. Closed Session

MOTION: That meeting of the board of directors moves into closed session.

*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by PARSONS*

Discussion:

There was none

*LOVEDAY abstained.
No noted opposition.
Motion carried.*

10. New Business

- a. **MOTION:** That the Board of Directors Approve the Salary Increase Proposal effective December 16th, 2020.

*Moved by NAME;
seconded by NAME.*



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Discussion:

LOVEDAY proposed to table the motion

Be it resolved that motion 10a. be tabled until the next meeting of the board of directors.

*Moved by LOVEDAY;
seconded by FOSTER.
Motion carried.*

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion tabled.*

11. Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting of the Board of Directors dated December 16th, 2020 be adjourned.

*Moved by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:

LOVEDAY is speaking in opposition to the motion. He believes that adjourning the meeting without giving him an opportunity to speak to what has occurred is a terrible decision. He believes that the board has a duty and is entitled to speak to anything regarding him. He believes that he has been disciplined by the executive committee without the opportunity to speak about it and lets down the students.

PRITCHARD regained order of the meeting and advised the issue he is pertaining to was spoken during the closed session, and a closed session item isn't to be discussed outside of an in-camera session.

*LOVEDAY abstained.
No noted opposition.
Motion carried.*



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Sami Pritchard, CHAIR

Mykayla King, SECRETARY