

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union
Monday, November 23, 2020 – 4:30 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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Web: www.nusu.com

Nipissing University Student Union

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union

Monday, November 23, 2020 – 4:30 PM – Online

Attendance:

President:	Hannah Mackie	Present
VP Finance & Administration:	Ward Loveday	Present
VP Student Life:	Shannon MacCarthy	Present
VP Advocacy & Awareness:	Mykayla King	Present
Director-at-Large:	Patrick Bethune	Present
Director-at-Large:	Hannah Brown-Thiesen	Present
Director-at-Large:	Aamil Mohammed Ferhath	Present
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
CHAIR / SPEAKER:	Sami Pritchard	CFS Representative
RECORDED BY:	Rebecca Dubeau	Office Administrator
STUDENT MEMBERS:		

1. Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting is called to order at 4:34 PM. *MACKIE* offered a traditional land acknowledgment.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

BETHUNE declared a conflict of interest for point 7A.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda for the Board of Directors Meeting dated November 23rd, 2020, as circulated.

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

Discussion:



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There was none.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes from the October 26th, 2020 Meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the October 26th, 2020 meeting as circulated.

Moved by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR;

seconded by MACCARTHY.

Discussion:

FERHATH noted that *TILBURY* was present, not absent.

Friendly amendment to mark *TILBURY* “present.”

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

5. International Student Issues

FOSTER noted that there are some concerns coming from international students. A letter was forwarded by *FOSTER* to the Board of Directors. During the winter break, students are asked to leave residents for the duration of that break. A number of international students have expressed concern around this but the concern is more so this year considering restrictions with COVID. While these students often spent the break elsewhere (e.g. at a friend or roommate’s home), it is going to be very difficult to coordinate this year.

FERHATH noted that international students are not eligible for International students cannot submit applications (even ones specific for international students) as they are not residents of Canada.

FOSTER mentioned that NUSU’s auditor recommended setting up a bursary for students. The leftover funds could potentially be used to create a bursary specific to international students as a short-term fix until the problem is solved at a university-level.

FERHATH noted that international students have mandatory UHIP and also the health plan and asked why both of these health insurances are necessary.



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LOVEDAY noted that UHIP does not technically count as insurance as outlined by the insurance provider and so international students are required to have both.

FERHATH noted that he did receive a refund for the health plan this year.

LOVEDAY noted he will look into UHIP and the student health plan more.

MACKIE noted that it is a problem acknowledged by the CFS and has gotten international students into some issues regarding health care in Canada before.

MACKIE noted that it would be beneficial to bring these concerns to the university-level. Universities across Ontario target international students as a source of revenue. In terms of an action plan, *MACKIE* offered to the board to create a presentation that will be presented to the Board of Governors to have this addressed appropriately by the university.

FOSTER noted that another piece in terms of residence, international students are restricted by the student visas that restrict the number of hours they can work. There is little to no option for them to be able to afford a trip home, especially if it is across the globe.

FOSTER noted that there needs to be accountability from the university..

FERHATH noted that there is a two-week quarantine period for students entering the country.

MACKIE noted that Residence is planning to make acceptances for those students who are just entering the country and allowing them to move into Residence earlier than others.

MACKIE noted that the goal of the presentation is to get a response from the university and to get them to create a plan of action to help international students who are struggling as a result of a lack of support. This topic will be brought up at other BOD meetings to keep the conversation going.

6. Executive Reports

a. Report From the President

MOTION: That the report from the President dated November 23rd, 2020 be received.

Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by BETHUNE.

Discussion:

FOSTER asked about the Response Committee regarding the two cases of COVID. A student has felt uncomfortable entering the Athletic Centre after those two positive cases were present in the



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that building specifically. It has also been noted that the athletic centre has since-been very vacant and seems as though students are uncomfortable visiting the space.

MACKIE noted that the operational readiness committee has not yet met this month but is something she can bring up this point. Everything the protocols and guidelines set by the university are based on consultations with the health unit's perview. The university likely will not do more outside of what the health unit recommends. Ultimately, it is up to the students whether or not they feel comfortable visiting the space.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

FOSTER exited the meeting at 4:59 PM.

b. Report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness

MOTION: That the report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness dated November 23rd, 2020 be received.

Moved by KING;

seconded by MACCARTHY.

Discussion:

BETHUNE asked when Wellness Week happened as it was only briefly mentioned in the report..

KING noted that it took place last week and that there will be more details in the next report to the board.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

c. Report from the Vice-President Finance and Administration

MOTION: That the report from the Vice President Finance and Administration dated November 23rd, 2020 be received.

Moved by LOVEDAY;



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seconded by MACCARTHY.

Discussion:

MACKIE asked for the recommendation regarding the health plan as he cited low-numbers. *LOVEDAY* says NUSU is planning to meet with ACL this week and plan to ask them how we can better-promote the health plan to students. *MACKIE* asked if there was a plan for an advertising campaign for the winter semester. our responsibility. *LOVEDAY* said that yes and he will look back on material sent out in fall and potentially elaborate more in the Winter semester. There is no concrete plan yet.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

d. Report from the Vice-President Student Life

MOTION: That the report from the Vice President Student Life dated November 23rd, 2020 be received.

Moved by MACCARTHY;

seconded by LOVEDAY.

Discussion:

MACCARTHY gave a verbal update regarding Wellness Week as her report was submitted while the week was still happened. The Bingo event was well-attended. The trivia nights used a new platform and after a few minor hiccups, the platform and the events went well.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

7. Committee Reports

a. Elections Committee



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Patrick Stepping Down

BETHUNE was moved to a Zoom waiting room for this discussion at 5:10 PM.

MACKIE noted that this point has been brought to the board as the committee has a recommendation but felt they could not make the decision. Members of the Committee were asked at the November 9th to step down from the committee

MACCARTHY asked who was the DRO and the CRO of the committee.

MACKIE noted that she was the DRO and *FOSTER* is the CRO of the Elections Committee.

BETHUNE reentered the meeting at 5:13 PM.

MACCARTHY noted she would be interested if no Directors wanted to fill the seat on that committee.

MOTION: That the Board of Directors ratify *MACCARTHY* as a member of the elections committee.

*Moved by MACCARTHY;
seconded by KING.*

Discussion:

There was none.

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

MOTION: That the report of the Elections Committee be received by the board.

*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:

MACKIE noted that the Nomination form and the Information Package should be released to the membership sometime this week to allow students ample time to look over the documents and decide whether or not they wish to run for a position.



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

b. Audit and Finance

MOTION: That the finalized terms of reference for the Audit and Finance Committee be approved by the Board of Directors.

*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:

MACKIE noted that this was to fix our mistake from last week (the wrong terms of reference was distributed in place of the Audit and Finance Committee terms of reference.)

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

c. Governance Committee

MOTION: That the report of the Governance Committee be received by the board.

*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:

MACKIE noted that there has been some productive conversation regarding the Safer Spaces Committee's terms of reference. next, the committee will look at the the sexual violence policy.

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

d. Green Initiatives Committee



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MOTION: That the report of the Social Committee be received by the board.

*Moved by MACCARTHY;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

There was none.

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

e. Campaigns and Green Initiatives:

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

*Moved by KING;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:

KING noted that the committee will be meeting again this week.

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

8. Question Period

BETHUNE asked if the amount for Director honorariums increased or decreased this year.

MACKIE noted that the budget for the honourariums has decreased since last year. There will be a second round of honorariums in the Winter semester.

9. Closed Session

MOTION: To recess for 5 minutes prior to closed session.

Moved by LOVEDAY;



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seconded by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR.

Discussion:

There was none.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

MOTION: That meeting of the Board of Directors moves into closed-session.

Moved by MACKIE;

seconded by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR.

Discussion:

There was none.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carried.

*The meeting moved into closed session at 5:32 PM.
The meeting reentered open session session at ? PM.*

10. New Business

MOTION: That the NUSU Board of Directors creates a new standing committee called the 'Oversight Committee', pursuant to section 11.1 of NUSU's By-Laws.

*Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

Reason why this TOR and creation of the committee to ensure that we have written down policy for people to address their concerns with the executives. It might be difficult for people to come forth with serious allegations. This is a way for people to address serious issues without retaliation.



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Motion to table this motion until the document has reviewed by the governance committee

*Moved by MACKIE;
Seconded by BETHUNE.*

MACKIE believes that this is an important document, but feels that we should take some time to do some research.

PARSONS and *BETHUNE* have asked to sit in on the governance committee. *MACKIE* will be sending the invite to everyone.

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

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

MOTION: That the NUSU Board of Directors approves the Oversight Committee terms of reference.

*Moved by none;
seconded by none.*

Discussion:

This motion was not entertained at this meeting.

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

MOTION: That the NUSU Board of Directors proceeds to the nomination of members of the Oversight Committee.

*Moved by none;
seconded by none.*



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Discussion:

This motion was not entertained at this meeting.

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

10. Adjournment

MOTION: That the meeting of the Board of Directors dated November 23rd, 2020 be adjourned.

*Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by BROWN-THIESEN.*

Discussion:

There was none.

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

7:31 PM – Meeting adjourned.

Sami Pritchard, CHAIR

Rebecca Dubeau, SECRETARY