

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 5:30 PM – ZOOM

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.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union
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Attendance:

President:	Hannah Mackie	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	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	Absent
 CHAIR / SPEAKER:	 Sami Pritchard	 Chair
RECORDED BY:	Armaan Dattani	Office Administrator
STUDENT MEMBERS:	Joseph Gagnier	
	Joseph McIntosh	
	Emily Wilson	

1. Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting is called to order at 5:37 PM. *MACKIE* offers a traditional land acknowledgement. In recognition of International Women’s Day, *PRITCHARD* also acknowledges the missing and murdered Indigenous women of Canada.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There is none.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: That the Board of Directors Meeting Agenda for March 2 be adopted as presented.

Moved by MACCARTHY;

seconded by BETHUNE.

Discussion:

MACKIE pointed out that the date should be changed to reflect the new date of the meeting since it was rescheduled. The agenda will be amended to read March 9.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

4. Approval of Minutes from the February 8 Meeting.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the February 8 meeting as circulated.

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

Discussion:

Since the minutes from the February 8 Board Meeting were not distributed, *BETHUNE* makes a motion to table until the next Board meeting to allow attendees enough time to review it before approving it. This motion was moved by *MACKIE* and seconded by *MACCARTHY* with no abstentions or opposition.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

5. Executive Reports

a. Report From the President

MOTION: That the report from the President dated March 2 be received.

*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:

There is none.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

b. Report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness

MOTION: That the Report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness dated March 2 be received.

*Moved by KING;
seconded by MACKIE.*

Discussion:

KING adds that the Director of Communications and *PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR* found a website that will ensure randomness when choosing giveaway winners. The Director of Communications created a video, shared by *KING* with the Board of Directors, to demonstrate how it works. *BETHUNE* asks how the website would exclude multiple entries (referring specifically to a situation in which an individual would hypothetically comment multiple times to increase the odds of being chosen) and *KING* answers that the website has logistics in place to do so. *BETHUNE* thanks *KING* and the Director of Communications for preparing the presentation. *TILBURY* asks about the privacy settings the website employs in order to protect the identities of student accounts that engage with the NUSU social media accounts. *KING* promises to look into it further.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

c. Report from the Vice-President Student Life

MOTION: That the Report from the Vice-President Student Life dated March 2 be received.

*Moved by MACCARTHY;
seconded by TILBURY.*

Discussion:

There is none.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

6. Committee Reports

a. Audit and Finance Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Audit and Finance Committee dated March 2 be received.

*Moved by MACKIE;
seconded by KING.*

Discussion:

MACKIE brings attention to the Health Plan fee increase and that the committee has accepted the changes. The reason for this change is because the use of the health plan has exponentially increased and, thus, surpassed the cost of the health plan. The increase in fee was negotiated by an intermediary, so the increase is a small fraction of what the health plan provider had initially proposed. *MACKIE* elaborates that the protocol for fee increases as agreed upon by NUSU and Nipissing University asks for Board approval. In addition to an increase in the Health Plan fee, the Bus Pass fee will increase as it does every year in accordance with an agreement between the City of North Bay and Nipissing University.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

b. Elections Committee

Discussion:

MACKIE says that there is no formal report but the election for Senator and Director positions will be under way soon. *MACKIE* reports the deadline date (March 10 at 11am), campaign period (March 15 to March 19), and the date results will be announced (March 22 or March 23).

c. Governance Committee

Discussion:

MACKIE says that the Office Administrator has reviewed all current, relevant NUSU policies with comments and suggestions.

d. Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee dated March 2 be received.

*Moved by KING;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

There is none.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

e. Social Committee

Discussion:

The February report, dated March 2, for the Social Committee will be included in the next Board meeting.

8. Question Period

MACKIE asks *MACCARTHY* and the Office Administrator to remind her to include the Social Committee report and the Feb 8 agenda to the next Board Meeting.

FOSTER reports that students in Residence whose professors hosted online lectures over Reading Week are complaining about the workload persisting throughout the Reading Week break. *MACKIE* says that, in some cases, instructors are unfamiliar with the format of Nipissing University semesters and students should be encouraged to communicate with their professors to readjust the workload. Without specific professors being mentioned, the appropriate Associate Dean, *KING*, and *MACKIE* cannot act on the complaints.

FOSTER said that there was a program change in Nursing, that students must pass the Anatomy class with a certain mark or they will lose their place in the program. If it is CNO change, there is nothing that the Executive Committee can do. If that is a miscommunication, *MACKIE* will clear it up with a representative from the Nursing department.

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR raises the issue of a lack of events geared toward mental health, rather than campaigns. These should extend past Wellness Week.

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR confirms that she will bring the issue to the next Social Committee Meeting but would like the Board of Directors to be cognisant of the gap in events. To elaborate, *MACKIE* asks *KING* and *MACCARTHY* to explain what Wellness Week is. *KING* reports that Wellness Week is an interactive week of events and information sessions about maintaining mental and physical health, including stretching at your desks, puppy Tuesday, games night, RBC financial wellness, Trivia Night, and promoting the Drag Show, hosted by the Equity Centre. Graphics shared online will include setting boundaries and nutrition. In addition, *KING* says NUSU will host a passive component via the GooseChase platform.

10. Closed Session

MOTION: That the Board of Directors meeting dated March 9 be moved into closed session.

*Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:

There is none.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

The meeting moved into closed-session at 6:09 PM.

11. New Business

MACKIE informs the Board that she is planning on getting sweaters or long sleeves for the board members as a token of appreciation for their time on the Board. She shares a poll to assess what the Directors would prefer. Results from the poll indicate that the Directors would prefer crewnecks, with 78% voting for crewnecks. The shirts will have the NUSU logo on the front and "Director" on the sleeve and they will most likely be blue.

MACKIE invites all the Directors to attend the AGM, as well as share the graphics and invite any members to the event. Those who are running in the election will have to be there, as this is when the new roles will be ratified. Dr. Casey Phillips will be in attendance, too.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: That the Board of Directors meeting dated March 9 be adjourned.

*Moved by MACCARTHY;
seconded by FOSTER.*



Discussion:

There is none.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

Sami Pritchard, CHAIR

Armaan Dattani, SECRETARY



100 College Drive, PO Box 5002
North Bay, ON P1B 8L7
Tel: (705) 474-3450 ext.4801 Fax: (705) 474-7732
Web: www.nusu.com

Nipissing University Student Union

President's Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared by: Hannah Mackie

Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021

In this Report:

- Advocacy
- Miscellaneous
- Meetings and Committees
- Health Plan
- Finance
- To Come

Advocacy

In various spaces, I have been pushing for the university to make a statement about Black History Month, but unfortunately, they did not come through. The Northern Caucus is making tracks with organizing the Spirit of the North Week. The event will be taking place from March 22nd to 26th, so keep an eye out! We set a work plan and also are working on the Northern Lobby document for the Fall of 2021.

Ontario Lobby Week is taking place this week, and I am very excited to be joined by our Director Mercedes! This is a great opportunity to speak to MPP's about education issues in Ontario and lobby for change.

Miscellaneous

I put together the materials for the virtual open house for Nipissing occurring on March 20th. Emily Wilson will be joining me for that presentation. I also have been working on transition with the incoming executives.

Meetings and Committees

I have continued on the President Search Committee, which has been a great experience. These meetings have taken up multiple hours of multiple days over the last month. I have worked with the elections committee to get the materials out for the Director/Senator elections.



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The board of Governors had a special meeting in February as well to discuss the ongoing financial climate with universities.

I also engaged in another round of the board of governors and academic senate committees I sit on this month.

Health Plan

With Armaan's assistance, I was able to wrap up another round of health plan opt outs. There were a lot of data corrections and student correspondence. We also met with ACL to discuss the increase to the health plan fee for Fall 2021. They were able to negotiate a fair increase with the insurance provider.

Finance

We are currently reviewing the lease agreement, and continuing work of the budget for the student centre.

To Come

Upcoming is the director/senator election, and our Semi-Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be taking place on Wednesday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m. Directors are strongly encouraged to attend. This will be a point of focus for me for the rest of the semester, as well as executive transition.



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Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness' Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared by: Mykayla King

Tuesday, March 2nd, 2020

February has been a busy month, as I was working on campaigns and began the transition of Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir. The report outlines what I have been working on in regards to Campaigns, Student Advocacy and Transition. It will also include Things to Come and Sarah's Report.

In this Report:

- Campaigns
- Student Advocacy
- Transition
- Things to Come
- Sarah's Report

Campaigns

In February, we held two campaigns; Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships. Sexual Health took place each Thursday. We would post a graphic talking about what sexual health is, having a healthy relationship with a partner, what STIs are and supports individuals who have tested positive. We received some feedback from Stephanie Vennard, SVPEC, who had a student reach out stating that our posts were great but were high level. The student was hoping for a post to be published regarding; supports/support groups, where to get tested, how to have the conversation with a partner. The student also had mentioned that there is a stigma attached to STIs. I took the opportunity to utilize the feedback given and created a final post for the campaign from that feedback. Overall, it was a well-perceived campaign. After a conversation with Stephanie, it would seem like this type of campaign was much appreciated and hopes it continues in the future.

The second campaign that took place was the Healthy Relationships campaign, which took place during the second week of February, during Sex Positivity Week. The campaign was in collaboration with Stephanie Vennard and the SVPE Outreach Team. This campaign is intended to promote healthy relationships leading up to Valentine's Day. This campaign covered five different types of relationships; Friends, Family, Coworkers, Significant Others/Partners and



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Self. Each day covered; what the relationship was, the importance of that relationship, what it could look like, and tips on building a stronger relationship. The campaign was well-received, with comments like “These posts have been great! Keep it up:)”.

In March, we have three campaigns: Women’s Health, Exam Preparedness and Body Image. Wellness Week is also taking place during this month.

Student Advocacy

Due to the recent announcement of the stay-at-home order extension, Nipissing University announced that classes would remain online for the remainder of the semester. Many students have reached out to me expressing concerns due to the lack of communication or miscommunication within their program. However, many other problems have been expressed. I have been in conversations with the Deans, expressing these concerns and advocating for the students. These conversations with the Deans have been going over well, and students have mentioned that they have seen a change.

I have also been working with Deb Lafrate with the Registers Office to review the advocacy flowcharts to post them on the website. Deb has provided me with some good feedback to ensure that the information is accurate but also clear. Once these changes have been made, they will be ready to be posted for students to utilize.

I continue to attend the weekly and monthly committee meetings, such as; Petition Exec, AAAPC and ACC. I have also been attending Academic Senate and Board of Governors meetings.

Transition

As I mentioned in my previous report, in my ‘Things to Come’ section, I began working with Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir. I have started meeting with Sarah to cover various topics, such as; Advocacy, Campaigns, Shinerama and other issues important to the role of VPAA. Sarah and I will be meeting weekly to review these topics as she prepares for her term in May.

Things to Come

In March, we have three campaigns: Women’s Health, Exam Preparedness and Body Image. Wellness Week is also taking place during this month.

I will also be working more on the transition of Sarah.



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Sarah's Report

Committees:

Chamber of Commerce

We have been dealing with the lockdown from a business perspective and the lack of communication from the Health Unit has been detrimental. We have been advocating for clarity and the release of statistics and reasoning behind these measures. This is especially because big box stores like Walmart can remain open with numerous people entering but small businesses are only able to do curbside.

Labour Market Group

The Labour Market Group continues to work on statistics and research in the North Bay and Parry Sound regions. I have attached a report for the directors to see the unemployment rates for youth. This is important to note as we will start to see repercussions of this in relation to students returning back to school in the Fall or needing to use the student food bank even more.

Elections

I encourage everyone to reach out to fellow students to let them know about the Director/Senator elections deadline which is March 10th. It is important to have a well-rounded Board that shows the needs of different student groups. Social media posts will be continuing to go out so please share these in an effort to engage new groups and members.

Black History Month

The "Time To Educate" series that we collaborated on with NUBASE went extremely well. We were able to have numerous groups from the Lakers community record videos about influential Black Canadians. It was great to see these videos being shared by others. Thank you to Taijon Graham for all of his hard work editing these videos and to the entire NUBASE team.

It has been noted by many students that the university and faculty association put out little to no content regarding Black History Month. This included it not being mentioned in Academic Senate, not being included in the Alumni newsletter and no actual statement or email being sent to the student body celebrating it.

Food Bank

The Student Food Bank is being used at a higher rate than we have ever seen before. We will be meeting to discuss how to make the student food bank, and the donations needed, sustainable. If any directors



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have potential corporate contacts who may wish to donate to our student food bank please contact Warren.

Vice-President Student Life's Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared By: Shannon MacCarthy

Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021

In the last months of my time at NUSU, things have been incredibly busy wrapping up my two years at NUSU, helping Emily transition into this new role, continue to host engaging events for students, working with other inter-office departments and external University departments, etc.

This Report:

- Clubs & Societies
- Upcoming Events
- Transition
- Orientation
- Warren's Report
- Things to Come

Clubs & Societies

Club & Societies Events

While Clubs and Societies have been busy organizing and preparing for their elections to take place during March, our student groups have still been running a number of great events for students to be engaged with this month. Each Club/Society event must be submitted to NUSU for review and approval, and as a reminder, Clubs and Societies are only permitted to run events online for the time being, no in-person events will be approved.

Club Events That Took Place

- NCCF: Women's Bible Study
- NUPHES: Zumba
- NCCF: Coffee Time with Jesus
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Sorority Playlist
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Virtual Galentine's Day
- NUPHES: Yoga
- Best Buddies: Paint Night
- NUSWA: Winter Goosechase



- NUSWA: Social Work Podcast Cafe
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Online Silent Auction
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Yoga with Ashley
- NUPHES: Zumba
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Jackbox Games
- NUNS: Let's Talk About Clinical Drop In Q&A
- Alpha Phi Sigma: Movie Night
- NUNS: Nursing Trivia
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Chapter Meeting
- NUPHES: Weekly Instagram Contest
- NUNS: Academic Writing Workshop

Upcoming Club Events

- NUPHES: Virtual Trivia Night
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Alumni Chat
- NUPHES: Virtual Cooking and Trivia
- NUSWA: Social Work Panel
- Best Buddies: Bingo Night
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Paddle Making
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Chapter Meeting
- NUPHES: Virtual Paint Night and Trivia
- NUCC: Relay for Life
- Alpha Gamma Phi: Zoom Workout
- Best Buddies: Zumba Night

Elections

During the month of March, Club and Society elections will take place to find new Executives, Ambassadors, and Year-Representatives for the 2021-2022 academic year. Interested students should keep an eye on NUSU social media, and individual Club and Society accounts.

Events

_____ We are still meeting with the Social Committee to confirm the events for the remainder of the semester. The calendar that holds all of the events that have been planned for the winter semester in collaboration with NUSU and the Social Committee is still shared with you folks to access, and review at any point.

Transition

Since Emily has been elected in her position, I have been working hard to plan her transition schedule, checklist, and materials. Emily has been, and will continue to meet with me, and attend relevant meetings (Social Committee, NSO Advisory, Lakers Orientation, etc.). The Executives and I have a checklist prepared with each item we need to be discussing with incoming executives, that staff are also able to review to keep an eye on what topics have been covered.

Orientation

Emily and I, along with other staff at NUSU have been working hard to get orientation prepared. Applications for both Coordinator and Leader positions have opened, and she is in the middle of Coordinator interviews right now.

Warren's Report

February

- Returned to the Office Feb 1st - Did a building walkthrough and there are still quite a few things from the deficiency list that have not been completed. The list can be viewed here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bNatYYIS8fOxG_u4S1b5SIAhz_uKqvrleu8CQsITxIY/edit?usp=sharing
- Met with Armaan & Shannon to have an initial services meeting and welcome him to the team
- Took over the food bank for Shannon Feb 3rd moving forward. I created a new gift card log sheet and student usage sheet. They can be found here

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10PGPQWBhdU4AoTlxENkANz1nqn6op2Jb/view?usp=sharing> and here

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ziQaNx1LFSGq6UvJLTabfBBH4CsF0DhxGNe2xnvR98s/edit?usp=sharing>

- Cleaned and organized the storage room in the new office
- Had walkthrough with Dave.D and the Universities Insurance underwriter to inspect the boilers in the mechanical room, kitchen equipment, and electrical room
- Met with the Social Committee to discuss events for the rest of the semester
- Picked up a new phone base for Mira's office phone (Mira you have a Voicemail)
- Setup computers at; Front desk, VP Finance, Services and Advocacy offices
- Met with Taijon from NUBASE and I will be attending their meeting with NU Comms dept on Feb 18th
- Met with Dave.D and Greg.F from NU to discuss wifi connectivity in the SC
- Attended Campaigns committee meeting Feb 11th
- Had a walkthrough of the building with the Electrical contractor Feb 12th to identify all panels and disconnects. I need to label panels for easy identification.
- **Office was closed Feb 15th & 16th**
- Met Bell technician Feb 18th at the building to install fax line
- Attended meeting between NUBase & NU Comms dept on Feb 18th
- Attended welcome meeting for new Exec team on Feb 19th
- Had maintenance systems training for HVAC, heating and plumbing systems in the building all day on Feb 23rd
- Cleaned all of the garbage from our old office and the last few personal items people left - I will still need to remove some expired food and shelving from the campus food bank.
- I received draft restaurant logos from 9 Lives design in a meeting with Dave.N and Sarah on Feb 23rd - If you would like to see any of the preliminary designs, please let me know and I will send out an email

Food Bank

- **83 Students** visited
- **114 Bags** of food were taken
- 46 - \$10 Gift cards were given out
- **Spent \$1217.79** restocking food (incl. 10 Gift Cards)
- We received a substantial donation of 2 full grocery carts of food from Nipissing's HR department on Feb 24th.



Things to Come

While it is good to know what I have done, I know you are happy and eager to know what is to come for the next Board of Directors meeting. Below are some things that will likely be talked about in my next Board Report.

- Clubs & Societies
- Events
- Orientation
- Transition
- Miscellaneous
- Warren's Report