

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union**  
Wednesday, March 31, 2021– 6:30PM– 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**  
Wednesday, March 31, 2021– 6:30PM– Zoom

**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   | Present              |
| Director-at-Large:       | Charlotte Foster       | Regrets              |
| Director-at-Large:       | Mercedes Parsons       | Present              |
| Director-at-Large:       | Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir | Present              |
| Director-at-Large:       | Curtis Tilbury         | Present              |
| CHAIR / SPEAKER:         | Sami Pritchard         | Chair                |
| RECORDED BY:             | Armaan Dattani         | Office Administrator |
| STUDENT MEMBERS:         | Ethan Houghton         |                      |
|                          | Emily Wilson           |                      |
|                          | Joseph Gagnier         |                      |
|                          | Joseph McIntosh        |                      |
|                          | Anna Brownlee          |                      |
|                          | Riley McEntee          |                      |

**1. Call to Order**

The Board of Directors meeting is called to order at 6:40 PM. *MACKIE* offers a traditional land acknowledgement.

**2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There is none.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION:** That the Board of Directors Meeting Agenda for March 31, 2021 be adopted as presented.

*Moved by MACKIE;*

*seconded by MACCARTHY.*

**Discussion:**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from the February 8, 2021 meeting as circulated.

*Moved by BETHUNE;  
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

**Discussion:**

There is none.

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

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from the March 2, 2021 meeting as circulated.

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

**Discussion:**

There is none.

*MCENTEE* joins the meeting at 6:45 PM.

*No noted abstentions.  
No noted opposition.*

*Motion carries.*

## **5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **a. Update from President regarding changes to Nursing degree requirements**

After consulting with the Program Director, *MACKIE* confirms that the faculty and staff are not aware of any changes to the Nursing degree requirements. Normally, students who do not pass the required courses, such as Anatomy, are given opportunities to repeat the course soon after, but, last month, *FOSTER* had heard that they would not be given that opportunity. *MACKIE* says that, while this is not corroborated by Nursing faculty and staff, there is some miscommunication surrounding students being expected to reapply to the Nursing program before repeating their courses. *MACKIE* and *KING* will continue to investigate since this seems potentially problematic.

*PARSONS* asks for more information regarding scholarship requirements in virtual learning environments and their flexibility with lowering grades due to difficulties faced in virtual learning environments. *MACKIE* says that, unfortunately, other students' rights issues have taken the forefront, such as academic dishonesty. However, *MACKIE* says that she expects the response from administration to be that lowering grades are not all attributed to virtual learning so no changes should be made. *MACKIE* says that all scholarships were honoured, which was an issue that could have arisen in light of financial instability. If virtual learning persists as a result of COVID-19, *MACKIE* warns that athletic scholarships may be in jeopardy and more work to protect those should be done over the summer. *MACKIE* suggests that future advocacy explore scholarships and bursaries that are not grade-dependent.

## **6. Executive Reports**

### **a. Report From the President**

**MOTION:** That the report from the President dated March 31 be received.

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

### **Discussion:**

*BETHUNE* thanks *MACKIE* for including information regarding advocacy efforts,

especially concerning the lock-down browser and bolstering *BROWNLEE's* leadership.

*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 31 be received.

*Moved by KING;  
seconded by PARSONS.*

**Discussion:**  
There is none.

*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 31 be received.

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

**Discussion:**  
There is none.

*No noted abstentions.  
No noted opposition.*

*Motion carries.*

## **7. Committee Reports**

### a. Audit and Finance Committee

**Discussion:**

There is none.

### b. Elections Committee

**Discussion:**

There is no formal report, but *MACKIE* would like to congratulate all the incoming Directors and Senators.

### c. Governance Committee

**Discussion:**

*MACKIE* confirms that a meeting will be held within the next week or so to discuss policies and club/society processes.

*BETHUNE* says that the Governance Committee should be reviewing the Terms of Oversight, as discussed earlier. *MACKIE* confirms that it will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

### d. Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee

**Discussion:**

There is none.

### e. Shine Committee

**Discussion:**

There is none.

f. Social Committee

**MOTION:** That the report from the Social Committee dated March 31 be received.

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

**Discussion:**  
There is none.

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

**8. Question Period**

**9. Closed Session**

**MOTION:** That the Board of Directors meeting dated March 31, 2021 move into closed session.

*Moved by BETHUNE;  
seconded by PARSONS.*

**Discussion:**  
There is none.

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

**The meeting moved into closed-session at 7:01PM.**

**10. New Business**

**11. Adjournment**



**MOTION:** That the Board of Directors meeting dated March 31st, 2021 be adjourned.

*Moved by MACKIE;  
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

**Discussion:**

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

8:37 PM – Meeting adjourned.

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Sami Pritchard, CHAIR

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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

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Nipissing University Student Union

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## **President's Report to the Board of Directors**

Prepared by: Hannah Mackie

Wednesday, March 31st, 2021

### **In this Report:**

- Advocacy
- Student Centre
- AGM and Elections
- Miscellaneous
- Meetings and Committees
- Health Plan
- To Come

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### **Advocacy**

This last month we were able to speak in the Senate about Lockdown Browser and the negative impacts it has had on students. While we recognize that platforms like these have made testing far more accessible in some areas, they have a long way to go in others. Thank you to our incoming Director, Anna Brownlee for presenting on the issue to NUSU.

Spirit of the North Week is this week, where we will be highlighting the importance of Northern Education, the benefits it provides to students, communities and the province as a whole, but also the challenges our geographic sector face.

### **Student Centre**

If folks were in attendance at the AGM, you would have heard me speak to the Student Centre progress. At this point construction has finished to the point of reaching substantial completion. The team is still working through some deficiencies, but ultimately the building is ready for use. This week, we are walking through to identify the appropriate COVID related needs (directional signage, hand sanitizer stations, etc.) We also met with the university team to review insurance requirements. It is beginning to seem as though general student use will be delayed to the summer at least, if not the fall.



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### **AGM and Elections**

This last month has included the preparation and execution of our Spring AGM. We had record attendance, and were able to ratify our new executives, directors, and student senators. We were grateful to have Dr. Casey Phillips attend and speak to the student services Nipissing provides through his department in Student Development and Services. This was done, as many students do not find their way to support until their upper years, and we often hear from students they wish they knew about them sooner.

March 15th-19th was the week of our Director and Senator elections. We were able to fill 8 of 10 available director positions, and also fill both the undergraduate faculty student senator positions. There remains two director positions vacant, along with the graduate student senator position, and we will host a by-election in the fall for those positions.

### **Miscellaneous**

It was great being able to speak to incoming students at Nipissing's virtual open house Saturday, March 20th. I provided two presentations, one in the morning and one in the afternoon speaking to the supports and services we provide surrounding student life and academics, respectively.

I have been doing some club/governance crossover work with Shannon to get club elections sorted and set up well for next year.

### **Meetings and Committees**

Most of my committees have continued with the same time allocation from last month. I have nothing major to update from these currently.

Dr. Nathan Colborne (Current Speaker of Senate) and Sandy Landriault (Secretary of Senate) were kind enough to meet with the incoming executive senators, Mykayla, Armaan, and I to have an introductory meeting/conversation regarding Senate and related committees.

I also had a meeting of the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee (a Nipissing University Committee) where some great historical data was shared to assist the group with strategic



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planning in the future around enrollment. There were lots of great questions and discussion, and I was happy the our incoming President Joseph MacIntosh was able to join me.

### **Health Plan**

We've just recently signed the new/updates agreement with ACL/WeSpeak. There has been an increase in fee, but this will allow students to continue with the same level of coverage, and is also cumulative of a lack of incremental increases over two to three years. With this, we have also finalized our ancillary fees for the year of Fall 2021, which were run by the NUSU Audit and Finance Committee. We were able to invite members of the incoming executive team to the Ancillary fee meetings with the university as well.

### **To Come**

The last month in my position will be on transition and board orientation with the entire incoming group, but specifically Joseph MacIntosh and Joseph Gangier.



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

Prepared by: Mykayla King  
Wednesday, March 31st, 2020

March was a busy month, as we held our second Wellness Week of the school year and worked on the transition of incoming VPAA, 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

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### **Campaigns**

On March 8th, it was International Women's Day, which we celebrated by posting a series of graphics for students to engage with by tagging their friends and family, along with an informative post, regarding some of the issues women and girls face globally. We have a lot of engagement on all of the posts. We partnered with the sorority, Alpha Gamma Phi, to bring Erika Eileen back to discuss strategies to honour your identity and authenticity while leading others to do the same. This session was quite insightful, and the students who attended stated that they enjoyed the session. We continued on our International Women's Day celebration by hosting a Women's Health campaign during the remainder of the week. The topics covered in the Women's Health Campaign included; mental health, heart disease, ovarian and cervical cancer, and skin cancer. Most of these affect everyone. However, the signs and symptoms may look differently in women.

In March, we also held our second virtual Wellness Week. We followed the same format of the first Wellness Week by focusing on the different types of wellnesses. Students had many opportunities to be engaged and to win amazing prizes. Each day we posted graphics regarding various important topics and tips to help with your wellness. From these posts, a second post later that day was posted to advertise a giveaway for a Wellness bundle. Students needed to tag a fellow laker on the giveaway post and comment on one thing they had learned from that post. Each day at 4 pm, Sarah McGowan would go live to announce the winner on



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Instagram Live. We also hosted a Goosechase scavenger hunt throughout the week. We originally planned on giving gift cards to the top 4 winners. However, we had a 6-way tie for first place. We shifted our plans and decided to provide these students with a \$75 gift each. We also had two presentations; the first was a resume-building presentation run by the Nipissing University Career Development and Education centre. Students also had the opportunity to put this presentation on their RSD if they attended. The second presentation was a Financial presentation which RBC presented. This presentation was intended to last an hour, with a Kahoot at the end. However, there were quite a few students who were quite engaged and were asking questions. The presenters did a fantastic job answering all the questions, and later after the presentation, following up with some tools they had mentioned. Some of the topics discussed were budgeting, mortgages, loans, and credit. I would like to thank the Career Development and Education Centre and RBC for presenting to our students.

We also hosted two events, the first being a games night, where we played Jackbox Games. We had 15 students pre-register. However, we only had 12 show up! After the event, I had five students stay and mention that they enjoyed the event and would love for more Jackbox games nights. The next event we hosted was a Fandom Trivia Night. We had over 50 students sign up with ten teams! I had Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir help write the questions and help host the event. We had five rounds of trivia, the first four had 15 questions, and the final round had ten questions. The team who had the most points at the end of the five rounds won! Each team member on the winning team received a prize. Thank you, Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir, for helping run this event!

I would like to thank Sarah McGowan for all her hard work to make Wellness Week a success! Without you, Wellness Week would have looked much different!

### **Student Advocacy**

I have been working with students to assist them through the petitions process. I have noticed that since updating the flowcharts the previous VPAA Charlotte Foster had made, I have been able to show a visual to the students on how the process works. I am finishing up some final changes, and hopefully, soon, we can publish them on the website for all 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**

The transition has been happening between myself and Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir. As mentioned, she has been involved with Wellness Week. The transition has mostly been happening with the group of incoming executives. However, within the next coming weeks, the transition will be more heavily weighted in April. I have spoken with the Petition Exec committee, and Sarah will be attending these meetings in the coming weeks.



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## **Things to Come**

Exam Preparedness campaign will be happening soon, to help students with getting prepared for exams.

Transition for Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir is going to be the main focus for April.

## **Sarah's Report**

### **Committees:**

#### ***Chamber of Commerce***

We are actively looking to support local businesses as we have moved into the next colour phase. Communication from the Health Unit has become better but we are advocating for clearer information to be shared with business owners.

#### ***Labour Market Group***

The Labour Market Group is working towards their Workforce Week which is taking place in April. This is annual and will happen virtually. It includes a "Get Job Ready" event to support job seekers with resume and interview help, as well as a job fair.

#### ***Students Who Make A Difference***

Tajion Graham and Shandon Ashitei were recognized by the North Bay & District Multicultural Centre as "Students Who Make A Difference" along with elementary, high school and college students.

#### ***International Women's Day***

The posts for International Women's Day were received well and had great interaction from people tagging each other.

#### ***Director/Senator Elections***

We have been able to fill 8 out of 10 Director spots, 1 Education & Professional Studies Senator spot and 1 Arts & Science Senator spot. In the Fall we will be running a by-election to fill the remaining 2 spots on the Board and a Graduate Studies Senator position.

#### ***Virtual Wellness Week***



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We had great engagement with Virtual Wellness Week both through social media and our events. The giveaways were received well and were easy for students to see who won. Students also participated in GooseChase and enjoyed it. Thanks to the campaigns committee for their work on this.

### ***Dave Marshall Leadership Awards***

Congratulations to everyone who received the Dave Marshall Leadership Award including Charlotte and Mykayla.

### ***Anti-Asian Racism***

We released a statement in light of the atrocities happening against the Asian community. We have posted graphics regarding anti-Asian racism in Canada and resources for Asian youth. We will continue to advocate for our students and their needs.

To date, there has been no statement from either the university or the Faculty Association.

### ***Executive Transition***

Joe, Joseph, Sarah and Emily have been doing a fantastic job with open communication, attending meetings and working on items such as O-Week. Armaan and I have been preparing items for after May 1st while Hannah has been actively working on items currently.

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

Prepared By: Shannon MacCarthy

Wednesday, March 31st, 2021

The month of March was incredibly busy as always. Moving into the last month of my two years at NUSU is requiring a lot of wrap up and focus on transition, while also keeping up with some of the events, Committee meetings, Club and Society management, policy updates, and more.

### **This Report:**

- Clubs & Societies
- Events & Programming
- Transition
- Miscellaneous
- Warren's Report
- Things to Come

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### **Clubs & Societies**

#### Elections

Elections have been taking place this entire month - and are just wrapping up now! It was the first time we implemented management and assistance from NUSU for Club and Society elections. With a few hiccups learning how to navigate this new process, it was overall well received. On Monday this week, we sent out a thank you email, thanking groups for their understanding and patience through this time, as well as a Google Form feedback to collect anonymous, open reviews about the election process to better improve the process for the next year.

#### T-Shirt Orders

With extra funds available in the Club and Group Support budget line, we are getting the (interested) Clubs and Societies t-shirts for their executives. Student groups were able to personalize their t-shirts with their logo, text and number of shirts for their team.

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## Events & Programming

\_\_\_\_\_ There are still some events taking place for the remainder of the semester. We are in the middle of the NU Small Business Showcase, where we collected Small Business submissions from Nipissing University alumni and current students. We will be highlighting those on NUSU's social media channels. We are also going to be hosting a Music Trivia, as well as a Goosechase in April to promote mental health, themed to "Act Like a Kid". We were planning to do Wellness Wishes again this year with the Social Committee, however when reviewing the few submissions we received, the Committee struggled to come up with ideas, therefore decided to drop the event until next year.

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## 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.

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## Miscellaneous

### Ancillary Fee Committee Meetings

The last month we have been attending the Ancillary Fee Committee meetings with some University administration to review, and finalize the Ancillary Fees for the 2021-2022 year. We have been attending these meetings (Hannah and I) alongside our incoming executives Emily and Joe, to give them an understanding of the Ancillary Fees for their year.

### Lakers Orientation Committee Meetings

Lakers Orientation Committee meetings are beginning again! We had our first meeting this week, and are beginning to engage in conversations about Lakers Orientation from SLT, NUSU, Residence, etc. Emily has started attending these meetings (as well as the NSO Advisory

Committee meetings that have begun as well).

### Open House

On Saturday, March 20th I attended the Nipissing University Open House through Unibuddy - the platform they were putting to use for the event. From 10-12, I was available to potential and incoming students to talk about the different Clubs and Societies with the student union, and other great ways to get involved as a student. There were also some clubs present at the virtual Open House like NUBASE, NUSWA, and more. The morning was slow, but there were students joining my chatroom to talk about the great opportunities.

### Annual General Meeting

On Wednesday, March 24th, NUSU hosted the AGM. We had great attendance, and didn't struggle to meet quorum which was incredibly rare. The Clubs and Societies were asked to attend this years AGM.

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## **Warren's Report**

### **March**

- Our old office is now completely empty (Minus the desks that belong to NU)
- Began conducting interviews for O-Week Coordinators with Emily and Armaan
- Our Nightclub house lights aren't operating properly - I had a few calls with the A/V consultant and will be following up with them next week
- NU I.T department has made changes to our wi-fi system in the building, we now have a "nusuoffice" private network setup
- Met with Hannah to discuss our lease document for the Student Centre
- Had Food Bank budget meeting with Staff and incoming Exec team
- Did a building walk through with our Architects to check status of deficiencies and to start a list of items to be repairs under warranty (There are some cracks in drywall caused by swings in moisture in the building)
- Met with our AGCO liquor inspector to walk through the Bar & Restaurant - Next steps will be to have the Fire Dept issue our official capacity numbers..
- Conducted O-Week Coordinator & Leader Interviews - Emily selected - Katie Caliciuri, Hannah Brown-Thiesen & Jessica Srouji for Coordinators, Leaders have been posted at [nusu.com/oweekleaders/](http://nusu.com/oweekleaders/)
- Attended internal building meetings

- Attended Social Committee meetings
- Scheduled a meeting between NUBASE and Cheryl Sutton Mar 25th at Noon
- Attended Student Centre Insurance meeting with NU and our provider
- Met with a plumber from D&H Mechanical on site to discuss hot water issue in building
- Had a walkthrough with Terry.K and Dave.M to begin conversation about cleaning and to install HVAC control computer
- NU will be filming a convocation address in the building on April 29th
  - Walkthrough with Maggie.D & Brendan scheduled for Apr 19th
  - Started cleaning/dusting furniture in atrium in preparation for filming

#### Food Bank

- **98 Students** visited
- **133 Bags** of food were taken
- **48** - \$10 Gift cards were given out
- **Spent \$1750.46** restocking food (incl. 10 Gift Cards)

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#### 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.

- Wrap Up
- Transition
- Last month!!!!