

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union
Wednesday, July 7, 2021 – 6:00PM – 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.

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Attendance:

President:	Joseph McIntosh	Present
VP Student Life:	Emily Wilson	Present
VP Advocacy & Awareness:	Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir	Present
Director-at-Large:	Patrick Bethune	Present
Director-at-Large:	Shannon MacCarthy	Present
Director-at-Large:	Ethan Houghton	Present
Director-at-Large:	Mercedes Parsons	Present
Director-at-Large:	Anna Brownlee	Present
Director-at-Large:	Curtis Tilbury	Present
Director-at-Large:	Riley McEntee	Present
Director-at-Large:	Hannah Brown-Thiesen	Absent
 CHAIR / SPEAKER:	 Sami Pritchard	 Chair
RECORDED BY:	Armaan Dattani	Office Administrator
STUDENT MEMBERS:		

1. Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting is called to order at 6:06 PM. *BETHUNE* offers a traditional land acknowledgement:

“Hello everyone,

As we gather virtually from many different places across this province, I would like to acknowledge that I am coming to you all from North Bay, Ontario, in the territory governed by the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850. This land on which I reside is the traditional territory of the Nipissing First Nation and of the Anishinabek. Furthermore, some of us are joining this meeting virtually from other places which are within the traditional territories of other indigenous peoples. I would like to recognize and thank our partners in these diverse communities.

I would now like to take a moment to recognize the tragic discoveries of the remains of 215 indigenous children in Kamloops, BC, the remains of 751 children in Marieval, SK and the remains of 182 children in Cranbrook, BC. These three discoveries total 1,148

children's lives that have been taken, and I am sure that many more graves will be discovered as time moves forward. To put this in perspective, if we were to have a moment of silence of 1 second to honour the lives of each of these children, we would be sitting here quietly for almost 20 minutes. I would like to ask instead that we remain silent for the next two minutes to honour the lives of these children."

A moment of silence lasting two minutes was observed.

"It is my hope that through our advocacy and the services we provide that we can ensure that the discussion of Canada's monstrous past can be kept in the public discourse and that we can stand to help, learn from and lift up our indigenous student population and our indigenous community members.

Finally, one more thing I would like to note is the appointment of soon-to-be Governor General of Canada, Mary Simon, who will become Canada's first Indigenous Governor-General. The appointment of an indigenous person to the second-highest-ranking federal office in Canada after the Queen is long overdue and I am sure that Simon (who is from Nunavik in Northern, QC and is Inuk) will do an amazing job as our Governor-General.

Thank you, Merci, Miigwetch, Nakurmiik."

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

PARSONS declares a conflict of interest with point 6c in the agenda, which discusses the Constitution template.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: That the Board of Directors Meeting Agenda for July 7 be adopted as presented.

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

Discussion:

MCINTOSH proposes an amendment to the agenda.

MOTION: To add the following motion to the agenda: As the Governance

Committee recommends, that any and all policies not in the below list be dissolved and no longer recognized by NUSU and its members. This is not inclusive of any terms of reference or By-Laws. The list of recognized policies is as follows:

Board of Directors Policy (as approved April 2021)

Clubs Policy (as approved September 2019)

Code of Conduct (as approved July 2019)

Company Vehicle Operating Policy (as approved July 2016)

Conference Policy (as approved August 2016)

E-Commerce Policy (as approved July 2016)

Elections Policy (as approved September 2020)

Food Bank Policy (as approved November 2016)

Hours of Operation Policy (March 2016)

Medical Leave Policy (November 2016)

Overtime Policy (March 2017)

Professional Development Policy (December 2019)

Sexual Violence Intervention and Response Policy (December 2016)

Time-in-Lieu Policy (June 2017)

Vacation Policy (November 2016)

Discussion:

PRITCHARD asks *MCINTOSH* to clarify the purpose of this motion. *MCINTOSH* says that this motion is meant to ratify the dissolution of any policy outside of this



list. *PRITCHARD* asks *MCINTOSH* if this motion is considered an emergency motion. *MCINTOSH* and *DATTANI* confirm that it is since Policy Review Week for the NUSU staff and Executives is approaching. *PRITCHARD* reminds the Board that, in most cases, non-emergent motions need to be distributed before the meeting on the agenda or need to be postponed until the next meeting. *PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR* and *BETHUNE* agree with this addition to the agenda.

Moved by MCINTOSH;
seconded by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR.

Discussion:

There is none.

No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.

The Chair concludes the discussion and revisits the main motion as amended and calls for a vote.

No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the April 28 meeting as amended.

Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by MACCARTHY.

Discussion:

BETHUNE asks to reword the motion regarding an amendment to the Board of Directors policy. The mistake in the minutes means that the discussion following does not make sense. Since no one objects, *DATTANI* promises to make that change before it is uploaded to the website.

In the future, *PRITCHARD* asks everyone to let the Recording Secretary know when

there are issues with the minutes instead of asking to amend them.

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

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the May 31 meeting as circulated.

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

Discussion:

MACCARTHY asks *DATTANI* to add her name to the list of people who attended the meeting. *DATTANI* says that he will make that change before the minutes are uploaded to the website.

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

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a. Updates regarding the COCA Conference from Emily

Discussion:

WILSON describes the networking and seminars that NUSU staff and Executives could undertake as part of the conference. This includes learning about GatherTown, a virtual platform for interacting with new people that *WILSON* wants to use for NUSU's O-Week. *WILSON* also met with a variety of guest speakers and entertainers that NUSU may use in the future.

WILSON discusses that food banks were a hot topic in the networking sessions and she has discussed running more events to raise money or collect more products for the food bank.

- b. Updates regarding "forced vaccinations" for students living in residence at other

institutions

Discussion:

MCINTOSH updates the Board that Nipissing University will not required vaccinations, mainly because Nipissing does not offer vaccinations on campus and Nipissing does not have the same resources as larger schools. Athletes will be subject to quick tests for away games. Residence staff will be subject to quick tests as well. Everyone on campus will need to use the Nipissing Safe App to report their COVID safety.

- c. Strategic Planning presentation

Discussion:

MCENTEE leaves the call at 6:36PM.

MCINTOSH presents the strategic plan for this year. Some points of discussion include international student support and club/society support.

6. Executive Reports

a. Report From the President

MOTION: That the report from the President dated July 7 be received.

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

Discussion:

MCINTOSH elaborates on the Executive Committee update regarding the new email address for health plan questions. Multiple Executives and staff can access that email if need be.

MCINTOSH says that the virtual tour of the Student Centre will cost \$4582.15 and the map will be shared with alumni, the North Bay community, and the Nipissing community.

MCINTOSH reports that the Operational Readiness Committee has adjusted the phases of opening to match the provincial guidelines.

PARSONS and *BETHUNE* ask *MCINTOSH* to add more detail to his reports in the future.

BETHUNE thanks *MCINTOSH* for the inclusion of information regarding updates from the Executive Committee but he would like to see more details in a separate document, which would include financial information, approved decisions relevant to the Board, and tie-votes, in closed session.

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 July 7 be received.

Moved by MCINTOSH;
seconded by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR.

Discussion:

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR elaborates on the meetings that she's had recently with internal and external contacts. These include regularly scheduled meetings with the Deans of both EPS and A&S.

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR says that the posts regarding Indigenous History Month were redone to honour the mass graves found at Residential Schools.

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR elaborates on the petitions that she is helping put forward, concluding all the petitions from last year and now moving forward with petitions from the spring/summer semesters.

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR encourages everyone to join the NUSU Shinerama team.

BETHUNE asks if Turtle Island refers to North America and *PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR* confirms that it does.

*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 July 7 be received.

Discussion:

WILSON apologizes for not submitting the report on time. She elaborates on the important dates for O-Week, including training and set events. *WILSON* shares that some events, like Zumba, will be hybrid if the COVID guidelines allow.

WILSON says that the Food Bank hours have been changed and will stay the same until September.

WILSON mentions that she and the Director of Services have been working on remaking the sponsorship package.

WILSON shares that she is working on revamping the ClubHub website with *DATTANI*.

WILSON says that the Social Committee did not meet quorum so there was no formal meeting for that group.

WILSON promises to return to the Board next month with an O-Week Schedule, ClubHub update, and scheduled events that will be run throughout the year.

BETHUNE asks which date the Involvement Fair will be held, and *WILSON* answers that it will be held on September 1.

BETHUNE thanks *WILSON* for her apology and asks for the report to be submitted on time in the future.

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



Discussion:

Against the motion, *BETHUNE* suggests that, since it was late, the report not be approved at this meeting.

At 8:14PM, this motion is reconsidered. Refer to Question Period.

No noted abstentions.
BETHUNE, TILBURY, PARSONS, and one (1) other opposed.
Motion carries.

Discussion:

MACCARTHY leaves the call at 7:39PM.

WILSON walks the group through the Constitution Template, which will be distributed to the student groups soon.

TILBURY mentions that Teams should be included in the platforms that clubs and societies can use. *WILSON* notes this but she says that NUSU was not converted over to Microsoft.

BETHUNE asks if *WILSON* will add language about budgeting, appointment process, and other procedures to the Clubs Policy or the Clubs Constitution. *WILSON* says that information will be included in the policy, not the constitution. *WILSON* would like the constitutions to be distributed as soon as possible so they will be uploaded to the new ClubHub. *BETHUNE* agrees.

7. Committee Reports

a. Audit and Finance Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Audit and Finance Committee dated July 7 be received.

Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by MCINTOSH.

Discussion:



MCINTOSH reports that the Committee Report has most of the questions raised in the meeting.

No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.

MOTION: That the NUSU 2021/22 budget be approved as circulated.

Moved by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR;
seconded by MCINTOSH.

Discussion:

MCINTOSH shares that the budget is almost exactly the same as last month's budget proposal and the Audit & Finance Committee has approved the budget as circulated.

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR says that, although *MACCARTHY* is not present, she had previously asked a question about the President and Vice-President Finance & Administration's budgets for advocacy and support. *PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR* asks *MCINTOSH* to elaborate on what the advocacy budget would be used for by the President, and he says that it will be geared toward government advocacy.

BETHUNE says that he was glad for the Audit & Finance Committee to review the budget and he had spoken with *PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR* about possibly increasing the honorariums budget in the future. *MCINTOSH* confirms that the budget can be amended at any point. *MCINTOSH* reports that the Vice-President Finance & Administration budget line has not been touched since the Executive Committee hopes to keep the Vice-President Finance & Administration's budget in tact so it can be used for its purpose when a new Executive is elected.

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR asks why the Staff Travel and Tahoe budget lines were implemented. *MCINTOSH* says that he is not sure, but this budget line could be used for staff to attend conferences whereas the conference budget is meant for Executives. The Tahoe budget line is meant for gas and repairs of the company vehicle. *MCINTOSH* confirms that the notes on the righthand side of the document will be deleted before it is shared with the general student population.

DATTANI asks if the building report maintenance budget line is “apart” from the MOU, as it says in the document or “a part” of the MOU. *MCINTOSH* says he thinks it is part of the MOU. *MCINTOSH* promises to email *DATTANI* once he confirms.

MCINTOSH elaborates on the payroll and related benefits budget line, saying that the extra \$100,000 is meant for extra staff for the restaurant and bar.

No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.

b. Elections Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Elections Committee dated July 7 be received.

Discussion:

MCINTOSH confirms some tentative dates for the fall by-election.

Moved by WILSON;
seconded by BROWNLEE.

Discussion:

There is none.

No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.

c. Governance Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Governance Committee dated July 7 be received.

Discussion:

MCINTOSH highlights the motions that passed at the meeting. All pertinent information is covered in the other motions.

Moved by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR;
seconded by WILSON.

Discussion:

There is none.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carries.

MOTION: To approve the amendments made to the Hours of Operations Policy.

Moved by PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR;

seconded by BROWNLEE.

Discussion:

DATTANI highlights the following amendments:

- Added work-from-home language that includes the pandemic and other reasons why people would work from home
- Added support for employees working remotely
- Changed hours of front desk to be closed for one hour for the Office Administrator's lunch break
- Clarified unpaid lunch hour rules
- Changed notification of closed office hours to be posted at the entrance of the offices, and included staff or Exec email for questions in the notification

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carries.

MOTION: To amend the Elections Committee Terms of Reference to read that the amendments to the Elections Policy proposed by Elections Committee will be directed to the Governance Committee instead of directly to the Board of Directors.

Discussion:

PRITCHARD confirms with *BETHUNE* that the Terms of Reference are not connected to the By-Laws.

Moved by WILSON;

seconded by MCINTOSH.

Discussion:

There is none.

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

MOTION: As the Governance Committee recommends, that any and all policies not in the below list be dissolved and no longer recognized by NUSU and its members. This is not inclusive of any terms of reference or By-Laws. The list of recognized policies is as follows:

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Time-in-Lieu Policy (June 2017)

Vacation Policy (November 2016)

*Moved by MCINTOSH;
seconded by WILSON.*

Discussion:

There is none.

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

d. Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee dated July 7 be received.

Discussion:

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR says that this was mainly a brainstorming meeting, with a focus on green initiatives and Indigenous issues.

*Moved by HOUGHTON;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

There is none.

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

MOTION: To amend the Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee Terms of Reference to read that quorum is four people instead of three.

*Moved by WILSON;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

BETHUNE asked why this amendment is being made. *PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR* says that there are now five voting members with the Director of Communications being a voting member now, and quorum for five voting members is four people.

No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.

e. Shine Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Shine Committee dated July 7 be received.

Discussion:

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR says that Shine Day will have family-friendly activities like mini-putt and movie night. She is hoping to do a bottle drive for Shine Day, as well. Shinetober will have Zumba with The Studio, trivia with faculty and alumni, and a CHEL tournament on the PS4.

Moved by HOUGHTON;
seconded by WILSON.

Discussion:

There is none.

No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.

f. Social Committee

Discussion:

There is none.

8. Question Period

Discussion:

MCINTOSH asks for the Board to reconsider the motion to approve the report of the Vice-President Student Life. *BETHUNE* suggests this will give directors more time to review the report for later approval.

MOTION: To reconsider the motion to receive the report from the Vice-President Student Life.

*Moved by MCINTOSH;
seconded by WILSON.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

MOTION: That the Report from the Vice-President Student Life dated July 7 be received.

Discussion:
BETHUNE asks to table the motion.

MOTION: To table the motion that the Report from the Vice-President Student Life dated July 7 be received until the next Board of Directors meeting.

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

Discussion:
There is none.

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

The Chair concludes the discussion and revisits the main motion as amended and calls for a vote.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.*

Motion carries.

9. New Business

- a. Next land acknowledgement will be from Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir

Discussion:

There is none.

- b. Elections Policy Review Meeting to be scheduled

Discussion:

DATTANI invites all Board members, staff, and Executives to come together to discuss the Elections Policy amendments at the end of the month.

- c. Sharing committee reports along with the minutes and Executive reports on the website — is this something that we want to do?

Discussion:

PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR says that she is alright with all committee reports except those from the Executive Committee to be shared. *BETHUNE* comments that he is in favour of this because it improves transparency and shows students how the group is governed. *MCINTOSH* confirms that this is approved.

10. Closed Session

MOTION: That the Board of Directors meeting dated July 7 moves into closed session.

*Moved by WILSON;
seconded by BETHUNE.*

Discussion:

There is none.

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.*

Motion carries.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: That the Board of Directors meeting dated July 7 be adjourned.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by BETHUNE.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

The meeting moved into closed-session at 8:24PM.

9:16PM– Meeting adjourned.

Sami Pritchard, CHAIR

Armaan Dattani, SECRETARY