

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union
Wednesday, March 2, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - 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 2, 2022 - 5:00 p.m. - Zoom

Attendance:

President:	Joseph McIntosh	Present
VP Finance & Administration:	Montana Taylor	Present
VP Student Life:	Emily Wilson	Present
VP Advocacy & Awareness:	Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir	Present
Director-at-Large:	Patrick Bethune	Absent
Director-at-Large:	Shannon MacCarthy	Present
Director-at-Large:	Ethan Houghton	Present
Director-at-Large:	Mercedes Parsons	Absent
Director-at-Large:	Anna Brownlee	Present
Director-at-Large:	Riley McEntee	Regrets
Director-at-Large:	Harikesh Panchal	Absent
CHAIR / SPEAKER:	Sami Pritchard	Chair
RECORDED BY:	Jillian Aelick	Office Administrator
STUDENT MEMBERS:		

1. Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting is called to order at 5:10PM. Ethan Houghton offers a traditional land acknowledgment.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There is none.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: That the Board of Directors Meeting Agenda for March 2, 2022 be adopted as presented.

*Moved by HOUGHTON;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

There is none.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the January 24, 2022 meeting as circulated.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by HOUGHTON.*

Discussion:
There is none.

*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, 2022 be received.

*Moved by MACCARTHY;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

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, 2022 be received.

*Moved by MACCARTHY;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

c. Report from the Vice-President Finance and Administration

MOTION: That the Report from the Vice-President Finance and Administration dated March 2, 2022 be received.

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

Discussion:
There is none.

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

d. Report from the Vice-President Student Life

MOTION: That the Report from the Vice-President Student Life dated March 2, 2022 be received.

Moved by WILSON;

seconded by TAYLOR.

Discussion:
There is none.

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

6. Committee Reports

a. Governance Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Governance Committee dated March 2, 2022 be received.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by WILSON.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

b. Presentation of By-Laws

MOTION: That the Board of Directors approve the By-Laws to be sent to AGM to be voted by members.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:
MCINTOSH reviews the major changes to the by-laws.

No noted abstentions.

*No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

7. Question Period

8. New Business

a. Next land acknowledgement will be from Harikesh Panchal

b. Reports from the Board

No discussion.

c. University Governance Training

d. Appeals Committee

The Chair will call for nominations to fill the one vacant position with Directors-at-Large.

MOTION: That the Board of Directors elect Emily Wilson to fill the vacant position in the Appeals Committee.

*Moved by TAYLOR;
seconded by MACCARTHY.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

9. Closed Session

MOTION: That the Board of Directors meeting dated March 2, 2022 moves into closed session.

*Moved by TAYLOR;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*



Discussion:

There is none.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carries.

The meeting moved into closed-session at 5:37pm.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: That the Board of Directors meeting dated March 2, 2022 be adjourned.

Moved by MACCARTHY;

seconded by TAYLOR.

Discussion:

There is none.

No noted abstentions.

No noted opposition.

Motion carries.

5:42 – Meeting adjourned.

Sami Pritchard, CHAIR

Jill Aelick, SECRETARY

President's Executive Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared by: Joe McIntosh

Match 02, 2022

Table of Contents:

- Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)
 - Day-to-Day
 - Meetings
-

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

I have attended preparation meetings for CFS's National and Provincial lobby weeks. Over the course of the next week and a half I will be attending meetings with other student leaders in Ontario to talk to and lobby with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP). In these meetings we will be discussing student issues and campaigns in hopes of gaining support from MPPs in our fight on student issues.

Day-to-Day

I still have continued helping answer student questions and concerns in regard to the health plan. I am also now working with our insurance company on reconciling the opt outs of the health plan. Again, thanks to Jill Aelick for her help with the inquiries.

With the by-election coming up I have met with and or emailed with students who have shown interests in the position of President or to answer questions they may have about the position. I have continued working on reviewing and editing our by-laws that had been looked at by the lawyer and editing for NUSU specific things that the lawyer wouldn't know.

Working with VPFA Montana, I assisted in our bookkeeping. As well as working out our CRA HST remittance.

Office of Indigenous Initiatives

We had a great lunch with students from OII (Office of Indigenous Initiatives) and spoke about some possible collaborations in the future. We appreciate the work that Romeo, Melanie and their team do to help support our Indigenous students.

Meetings

We have continued to meet with the university regarding operations and the process of hosting events on campus. Along with those meetings, we have also been in talks with the university regarding services such as maintenance, snow removal, security and safety. Again, if the Board or students have any concerns, please bring them to the executive team and we will make them a priority in our meetings with the university.

VPFA's Executive Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared by: Montana Taylor

Date: February 28,2022

Table of Contents:

- Meetings and Committee Updates
 - Office and Administration
 - To come
-

MERCHANDISE AND SALES COMMITTEE

- We are preparing a survey to send out to students to see what kind of merchandise they would buy. Showing different options for sweaters, pants etc.
- Figuring out costs of each items and how much it would be to have branded

GRADUATE RESEARCH COUNCIL

- Policy review and restructuring continued conversations

BOG PLANT AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- Plans to fix damages in... building
 - buildings getting old, building maintenance is required
- Plans for new simulation labs for different programs

BOG AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Review of semester end
 - *They had more students than last year to earn the President's award so there was a need to allocate funds for that as it wasn't budgeted*
 - *Still projecting a deficit*
- Preparing for year end
 - *Faculty and Staff are on a spending freeze, so any purchases/spending needing to be done has to be approved by VPFA Cherly Sutton or AVP Finance and Infrastructure Renee Hacquard*
- Preparing for next fiscal year

- *They are in the process of preparing things to be present at the April board meeting, for the next fiscal year, and preparing for the next academic year*

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- Continuing conversations have been how we can come up with ways for undergrad students to participate in research, so they have experience when it comes time to graduate research studies and find funding for their research.
- Policy review and restructuring continued conversations

CAMPUS SAFETY MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

- Policy reviews and restructuring
 - Subcommittees have been formed to poll/survey how we can better improve services/campus life/and anything else regarding mental health at Nipissing University
 - The four subcommittees: Staff, Administration, Students and Faculty

Administrative and Office Updates:

- Worked on rectifying year end items and ensuring things for our HST remittance for the CRA.
 - Working on any policies that need to be presented at the spring AGM
-

TO COME...

- Preparing the budget for the next fiscal year.
- We are foreseeing another surplus for this year so we are doing what we can so we can end up in a deficit because that's what our auditors have informed us we need to do.

VPAA's Executive Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared by: Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir
March 2nd, 2022

Table of Contents:

- Advocacy
- Black History Month
- National Eating Disorders Awareness Week
- International Day of Women in Science
- Random Acts of Kindness Giveaway
- Academic Week
- CFS Lobby Week
- Transition
- To come

ADVOCACY

I have continued to provide support and guidance to students that have raised concerns in regard to courses, petitions and appeals as we migrate into midterms. I also continue to meet with the Deans and Associate Deans of both faculties on a bi-weekly basis.

Nipissing University's Registrar has asked me to review the new proposed Academic Integrity Policy, to which NUSU provided a great array of feedback. This policy is intended to head to the Academic Senate for April of 2022 to be implemented in the 2022/2023 Academic Year.

As well, on Wednesday February 2nd, 2022, myself, Emily Wilson, Taijon from NUBASE, Olivo from SOCU and Adian, Danielle and Aster of the Equity Centre met with President Wamsley, Dr. Casey Phillips and Dr. Arja Vainio-Mattila to address some concerns that we have experienced and saw around campus. This meeting showed great promise for change at Nipissing University and we are grateful to the three members of the senior administration for meeting with us.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

This past month was Black History Month, a time where we celebrate Black excellence and confront and acknowledge systematic racism. NUSU produced several graphics to help educate and share with our students black culture but also to acknowledge and educate our students on anti-black racism and microaggressions. On February 15th, 2022, NUBASE and NUNS worked with Dr. Charles Anyinam to put on an event called the Black Health Experience to give insight into the Patient and Provider perspective.

NATIONAL EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

February 1st-7th was National Eating Disorders Awareness Week. NUSU produced several graphics to help educate our students and the Nipissing community about the prevalence of eating disorders and the role that we all play in them. All graphics included a trigger warning.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

On February 11th, 2022 we celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. We partnered with the Biology society to create profile highlights of some of our female identified students in the Biology program to talk about what they love about it and their hopes for the future of women and girls in STEM.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS GIVEAWAY

On February 17th, 2022 we celebrated the international day of Random Acts of Kindness by doing a giveaway for 8 students to win a gift card of their choice. The goal was to spread kindness among the laker community before Reading Week.

ACADEMIC WEEK

I am currently in the process of planning for winter Academic Week that will take place March 14th-18th, 2022. This week will have both passive and active elements with the main goal being to spread awareness of the academic resources the Nipissing University students have on campus. More details to follow!

CFS PROVINCIAL LOBBY WEEK

**NUSU Student Centre**

221 College Drive, North Bay, ON P1B 0G1

Tel: (705) 474-3450 ext. 4801 Fax: (705) 474-7732

Web: www.nusu.com

February 28th-March 4th, 2022, is the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario Provincial Lobby Week. I am currently one of the several delegates that get to meet with members of provincial parliament to discuss some of the points of action that CFS would like to see from the provincial legislature. These points of action include having OSAP transition from a loans based program to a grants based program, having more funding directed towards Indigenous students and education surrounding reconciliation, and having International students qualify for OHIP.

TRANSITION

Congratulations to Harikesh Panchal for being elected into the position of Vice President of Advocacy & Awareness! I have been meeting with Harikesh to begin his transition into this role and provide insight into what being the VPAA is all about.

TO COME...

- Academic Week Review
- Wellness Week

VPSL's Executive Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared by: Emily Wilson

Date: March 2, 2022

Table of Contents:

- General Update
 - Student Groups Update
 - Events
 - Director of Services Update
-

General Update

- Over the last month I have met with several individuals and groups. I met with Brock University Student Union to discuss the process they follow for student group elections. This conversation was to find ways to improve, standardize and simplify the election process for our student groups. I continued bi-weekly meetings with AVP Students Dr. Casey Phillips, discussing society fees and funding for students. I have also been attending CFS lobby week training sessions. I also met with some student groups by their request. Currently, I am working on preparing transition documents for the incoming VPSL as well as preparing for Student group elections, and Orientation Leader applications.

Orientation Leaders

- Orientation Leader applications were made available on February 28th, 2022 and will remain open until March 23, 2022. Starting March 14th, applicants will be able to fill out a doodle poll to select their interview time. Leader Interviews will take place between March 28th and April 1st, 2022. Any Nipissing University Student is welcome to apply to be an O-Week leader. For more information regarding applications, please email vpstudent@nusu.com.

Student Groups Update

- Student group Elections began February 28, 2022. Each student group is able to run their elections individually or with the assistance of NUSU. The nomination period began on February 28th and will continue until March 10th. NUSU will

review all nominees and place them on the voting list for the respective student group. The voting process begins on March 15th and continues until March 18, 2022. Results from the elections will be shared on March 21st, 2022. Student groups are encouraged to host information sessions with their membership prior to or during the early stages of the election period to provide their members an opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding current executive positions. It is also recommended that following the election period, current executives host a shadow period for the incoming executives to learn their role before changeover at the end of the semester. This should be a week or so of time dedicated to reviewing contact information and important documentation.

- Student Groups are able to host events in person again starting in March. Events at the Student Centre will be limited to a maximum of 50 participants until further notice. If student groups wish to host an event at the student centre they must fill out the Student centre room booking form found on the website.

Events Update

- In the past month NUSU hosted an Olympic talk with Nipissing University President Dr. Kevin Wamsley and Olympic Athletes Barbara and Nancy Olmsted. They each took 30 minutes to share their expertise and experience with us and then answer questions submitted by the audience. Thank you to everyone for attending. On February 10 NUSU co-hosted with Dr. Wamsley an olympic themed trivia and had approximately 20 students attend. Thank you Dr. Wamsley for joining us for these events. On February 15th NUSU hosted the first of several night-owls sessions this semester for our students. The student centre remained open until 10pm for students to study. Snacks, hot chocolate, coffee, and more were offered to the students who attended. The next night owls session will take place on March 1 and the Student centre will remain open until 10pm again. Moving into the exam season, NUSU will be hosting more night owl sessions and remain open until midnight. Details can be found at nusu.com/nightowls. On Sunday, February 27th NUSU hosted a free ski/snowboarding night for Nipissing students and faculty. For the month of March, NUSU hopes to continue to host virtual events for students along with a few in-person events while ensuring we follow COVID health and safety



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guidelines. To see what events are upcoming, check out NUSU's social media pages.