

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union

Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7PM

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
 Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7PM
 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	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:	Harikesh Panchal	Regrets
CHAIR / SPEAKER:	Sami Pritchard	Chair
RECORDED BY:	Jillian Aelick	Office Administrator
STUDENT MEMBERS:		

Formal Opening – Call to Order

Call to Order – January 24 at 7:02 PM – Chairperson Sami Pritchard calls the meeting to order.

1. Land Acknowledgement from Emily Wilson

As we begin this NUSU Board of Directors meeting, it should be acknowledged that NUSU is in the territory of the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and that the land on which the Board gathers is the Nipissing First Nation Traditional Territory and the traditional territory of the Anishinabek. Many of us gather as settlers on this land, virtually, from many different territories. NUSU respects and is grateful to hold this event on these lands with all our relations.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There is none.

3. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: That the Board of Directors Meeting Agenda for January 24, 2022, be adopted as presented.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by WILSON.*

Discussion:

There is none.

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

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the November 22, 2021 meeting as circulated.

*Moved by HOUGHTON;
seconded by PARSONS.*

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the December 10, 2021 meeting as circulated.

*Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

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 January 24, 2022, be received.

*Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

PARSONS asks what was the Board of Governors reason for raising the increase. MCINTOSH explains that there is usually an increase over time but due to Covid there was a delay.

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

b. Report from the Vice-President Finance and Administration

MOTION: That the Report from the Vice-President Finance and Administration dated January 24, 2022, be received.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by BETHUNE.*

Discussion:

There is none.

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

c. Report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness

MOTION: That the Report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness dated January 24, 2022, be received.

*Moved by PARSONS;
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 January 24, 2022, be received.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by BETHUNE.*

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 be received.

*Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

There is none.

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

b. Elections Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Elections Committee be received.

*Moved by HOUGHTON;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

PARSONS asks what NUSU will be doing differently to promote the by-election?
MCINTOSH explains that the election committee will be meeting next week to discuss possible advertising techniques to promote the elections. There have also been multiple students reaching out to NUSU executives today with questions and interest in running the by-election.

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

TILBURY joins at 7:16

c. Governance Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Governance Committee be received.

*Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

BETHUNE brings up a discussion from the Governance meeting for directors to use the red X or green checkmark for everyone to vote on each motion. MCINTOSH asks this to be noted to be used in all future meetings.

*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 be received.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

e. Shine Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Shine Committee be received.

Discussion:
The Shine Committee no longer meets.

f. Social Committee

MOTION: That the report from the Social Committee be received.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

7. Question Period

WILSON rejoins the meeting at 7:25.

BETHUNE says that he had a student reach out to him regarding in-person convocation ceremonies this year? PECOSKIE-SCHWEIR explains that there has been no communication but there is the assumption that there will be no convocation this spring.

TILBURY informs the board that he will be stepping down from the board of directors due to a busy schedule. He will be leaving the Governance and Audit and Finance Committees. PRITCHARD explains that we will not be replacing him on those committees until the executive receives an official resignation letter. BETHUNE thanks TILBURY for his great work on the board these past two years and that he will be missed.

8. New Business

- a. Next land acknowledgement will be from Curtis Tilbury

TILBURY will be stepping down from the board of directors, NUSU will notify the director who is next on the schedule for the next land acknowledgement.

- b. NUICE Report

MCINTOSH reads the NUICE Report that praises NUSU for their partnership with NUICE and thanking them for their support.

- c. Elections and 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 one nominee to fill the vacant position in the Elections Committee, these being __, __, __.

The motion did not receive a mover or seconder.

Discussion:

BETHUNE asks for clarification for the number of available positions on the elections committee. MCINTOSH asks the directors who will be running for the upcoming by-election or directors election. MACCARTHY, BROWNLEE, HOUGHTON, and BETHUNE are currently on the elections committee. Discussion ensues regarding the appeals and election committee members. BROWNLEE will step down to run in the upcoming election, MACCARTHY and HOUGHTON will stay on. BETHUNE asks if he can move over to appeals from the elections committee if that will help the situation. BETHUNE steps down from the election committee. MACCARTHY agrees to be the DRO for the elections committee. MCENTEE is undecided if he will run in the upcoming election, therefore he cannot be on either committee. POI BETHUNE wants clarification if Riley McEntee can run as a director in the upcoming election. PRITCHARD clarifies

he cannot run if he is on appeals. MCENTEE will inform the executive of his intentions by no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2022, to fill the empty position on the appeals committee.

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

MOTION: That the Board of Directors elects Patrick Bethune to fill the vacant position in the appeals committee.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

There is none.

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

d. Reports from the Board

MCINTOSH explains that while reviewing the by-laws there currently is the expectation for directors to interact with students and get involved, this time during the agenda will be a time for directors to provide verbal reports of communication they have received from students or ask questions to the executives. BETHUNE asks for verification of when to use Question Period or Reports of the Board. MCINTOSH clarifies that if it pertains to remarks or questions from students to use the "Reports from the Board" agenda item if there is a question for the executive or board.

e. Committee Changes

MCINTOSH explains that PARSONS will be stepping down from Governance. Once it is official, there will also be spots available on the Governance and the Audit and Finance Committees once TILBURY has submitted his resignation.

f. Student Groups Policy

MOTION: Be it read that the Governance Committee recommends to the Board

of Directors to adopt the Student Groups Event Booking Policy.

*Moved by BETHUNE;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

There is none

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

9. Closed Session

MOTION: That the meeting of the Board of Directors be moved into Closed Session.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by BETHUNE.*

Discussion:

Moved into Closed Session at 7:48PM.
Moved back into open at 7:59PM.

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

10. Adjournment

MOTION: That the Board of Directors meeting dated January 24, 2022 be adjourned.

*Moved by MACCARTHY;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

*No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.*

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NUSU Student Centre

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Meeting adjourned at 8 PM

Motion carries.

Sami Pritchard, CHAIR

Jill Aelick, SECRETARY

President's Executive Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared by: Joe McIntosh

January 19, 2022

Table of Contents:

- Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)
 - Day-to-Day
 - Board of Governors (BoG)
 - Meetings
-

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)

On January 13th I attended the Ontario Executive Committee. This meeting was a review of the things going on in and with CFS since our last meeting in October. This included review of their work, campaigns and also a review of their audited financial statements.

Day-to-Day

I still have continued helping answer student questions and concerns in regard to the health plan. Thanks to Jill Aelick for her help with the inquiries.

With the start of a new semester myself and the rest of the NUSU team have been preparing for the winter semester. I have been working on reviewing our by-laws that have been looked at by the lawyer and editing for NUSU specific things that the lawyer wouldn't know. I have also been reviewing the campus Sexual Violence Prevention, Support and Response Policy for Students for the Action Against Gender-Based Violence Committee.

Board of Governors (BoG)

Last week on January 13th we attended Nipissing University's Board of Governors. During this the board voted for increasing international student tuition. NUSU voted against this change due to our students having been hit financially also over the last few years. With fewer hours at their jobs, increased living costs, and the scarcity of campus employment opportunities, our students have been overwhelmed and stressed. We

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have seen an increase in usage at our student food bank by both domestic and international students. We asked the board and university that with the passing of the motion that the following is done:

- That supports and services for international students increase
- That every office at the university, including NUSU, is responsible to provide support and services to international students, and not just depend on the international office
- That the Board of Governors will continue to look for alternative revenue sources so that the onus is not on international students to cover the costs as we have seen at other institutions

Meetings

I had my monthly meeting with President Kevin Wamsley. If anyone has any concerns they can email me so that I can bring it directly to him. We have also been meeting 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: January 19th, 2022

These last couple months have been busy with meetings from different committees and different events. November 23rd, 25th, 29th, and December 1st we hosted Night Owl study sessions and provided students with snacks, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, therapy dogs to help those studying for finals. On Giving Tuesday we prepared Holiday Baskets for students who registered for them, filled with some grocery items, treats and some holiday cheer! On behalf of the executive team \$400.00 was donated to Giving Tuesday that went towards helping students who need financial assistance in offsetting their educational costs. This year with the help of the Lakers men's volleyball team \$2855 was raised for Movember. December 1st, 2021 we started our 12 days of giveaways. Students were selected at random who either commented on the NUSUtalks instagram page or signed up through the google form.

In this report:

- Meetings and Committee Updates
- To come

BOD AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Approval of a \$5000 budget line for Sales and Merchandising
- We reviewed the credit card logs for months of December and January.
- Committee approved a \$5,000 increase to the Food Bank Budget line for a total of \$10,000.

MERCHANDISE AND SALES COMMITTEE

- The Audit and Finance Committee approved a \$5,000 line to be implemented to the budget.
- First meeting to be held January 20th, 2022



BOG AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- A presentation from the provost to increase International tuition from \$19,325 to \$21,000 for 2022-2023 school year and \$23,000 the year after. NUSU voted NO. Motion passed and was presented to the Board of Governors where it was also passed and NUSU kept the vote as NO.
- University is projecting another year of being in a deficit.

SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

- Members have been coming 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.

BOOKKEEPER

- Our part time bookkeeper has signed and submitted all required paperwork and will be starting the week January 24, 2022

TO COME...

- January 21st, 2022 at 4pm is the last day for winter start students to opt out of the health plan
- Planning and preparation of the next budget

VPAA's Executive Report to the Board of Directors

Prepared by: Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir
January 24th, 2022

The end of the Fall Semester consisted of NUSU's Wellness Week, as well as assisting students with any concerns that they had before entering into the exam period. After the Winter Break the beginning of January consisted of planning Campaigns for the Winter Semester, assisting students with any concerns or appeals that resulted from the Fall term and aiding students who had questions in regards to the commencement of classes.

Table of Contents:

- Advocacy
- Wellness Week
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Campaigns Prep
- To come

ADVOCACY

With the end of the semester and the beginning of a new one, I have been busy meeting with students to address concerns or how the petitioning and appeals process works. I have been meeting with the Deans and Associate Deans of both faculties to connect them with students who are experiencing concerns, but also to discuss plans to make the winter semester more successful than the fall. As well, through Senate Committees I have been reviewing the new Academic Integrity policy that will be presented to the Academic Senate shortly.

WELLNESS WEEK

Wellness Week ran from Monday November 22nd to Thursday November 25th, 2021. Each day of Wellness Week was themed to allow students to destress and learn about various wellness activities to alleviate stress experience by the end of the semester. On Music Monday, we had Therapy Dogs come to the NUSU student Centre

for students to interact with as they made their way to class, as well as having a Music Themed Trivia Night that took place over zoom. Take Time Tuesday saw Student Learning and Transitions come to the NUSU Student Centre to aid in exam preparation. As well, on Tuesday we had our first night of Night Owls where the NUSU student Centre was open until midnight to allow for a quiet place for students to study. On Wellbeing Wednesday NUSU hosted the MENTAL Strength Men's Forum that was facilitated by students Devon Doodnath and Kristan Johnson and Nipissing University's Student Counselling services. On Throwback Thursday we had colouring sheets and word puzzles available for students to take if they needed a study break and it was also our second night of Night Owls. Everyday during Wellness Week we held a giveaway where students could win a gift bundle that matched the theme of that day. As well, we offered a variety of different snacks and drinks every day of Wellness Week to students to take as they completed homework and studied for exams. Thank you to Sarah McGowan, Jill Aelick and our Student Centre Assistants -Emily, Leanne and Taylor, for all your help with making Wellness Week a success!

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

I have been asked by Provost, Dr. Arja Vainio-Mattila, to sit on a working group that will help to develop a strategic plan in terms of Nipissing University's Academic future. The main goals of this committee is to incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusion as well as an anti-racist sentiment into curriculum at Nipissing University.

CAMPAIGNS PREP

I have been working with Sarah McGowan and our SCA, Leanne, on mapping out all of the campaigns for the remainder of the Winter Semester. Sarah McGowan and myself have been meeting with Nipissing University's Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Coordinator to work on collaborative campaigns for the Winter Semester. Sarah McGowan has been working with NUBASE to help assist them in preparation for Black History Month that is coming up. As well, we have been preparing for how NUSU will participate in Bell Let's Talk Day that will occur on January 26th, 2022.

TO COME

- Bell Let's Talk Day
- Black History Month

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.