

NIPISSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Nipissing University Student Union
August 22, 2022 - 6PM - 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:	Riley McEntee	Present
VP Finance & Administration:	Montana Taylor	Present
VP Advocacy & Awareness:	Harikesh Panchal	Present
VP Student Life:	Preston English	Present
Director-at-Large:	Adam Strang	Present
Director-at-Large:	Emily Cooke	Present
Director-at-Large:	Jared Gagne	Present
Director-at-Large:	Mercedes Parsons	Present
Director-at-Large:	Anna Brownlee	Present
Director-at-Large:	Josee Laforest	Present
CHAIR / SPEAKER:	Sami Pritchard	Chair
RECORDED BY:	Sarah Pecoskie-Schweir	Strategy & Infrastructure Assistant

STUDENT MEMBERS:

1. Formal Opening – Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting is called to order at 6:01 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement

STRANG offers a traditional land acknowledgement.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There is none.

4. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION: To adopt the agenda for the Board of Directors Meeting dated August 22, 2022, as circulated.

*Moved by GAGNE;
seconded by COOKE.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

5. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the July 18, 2022 meeting as circulated.

*Moved by COOKE;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

6. Closed Session

- a. MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors meeting dated August 22, 2022 moves into closed session. BIFRT the Board of Directors allow staff member Sarah McGowan to attend the Closed Session.
- b.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by COOKE.*

Discussion:
There is none.

No noted abstentions.

*No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

**The meeting moved into closed-session at 6:04pm.
The meeting moved out of closed-session at 6:33pm.**

7. Business Arising from the Minutes
a. Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee Election

MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the elect Anna Brownlee to the Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by COOKE.*

Discussion:

PANCHAL noted that they are only looking for one director to sit on this committee.

BROWNLEE self-nominated.

PARSONS self-nominated.

PARSONS withdrew nomination.

PARSONS proposed amendment to the motion reading:

MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the elect Anna Brownlee to the Campaigns and Green Initiatives Committee.

Amendment seconded by COOKE

Motion carries

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

b. Social Committee Election

MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the elect Mercedes Parsons to the

Social Committee.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by GAGNE.*

Discussion:

ENGLISH noted that they are only looking for one director to sit on this committee.

PARSONS self-nominated for this position.

TAYLOR proposed amendment to the motion to read:

MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the elect Mercedes Parsons to the Social Committee.

Seconded by COOKE

Motion carries

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

8. Executive Reports

a. Report From the President

MOTION: BIRT the report from the President dated August 22, 2022 be received.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

McENTEE gave an overview of their report.

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

b. Report from the Vice-President Finance and Administration

MOTION: BIRT the report from the Vice-President, Finance and Administration dated

August 22, 2022 be received.

*Moved by COOKE;
seconded by GAGNE.*

Discussion:

TAYLOR gave an overview of their report.

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

c. Report from the Vice-President Advocacy and Awareness

MOTION: BIRT the report from the Vice-President, Advocacy and Awareness dated August 22, 2022 be received.

*Moved by COOKE;
seconded by STRANG.*

Discussion:

PANCHAL gave an overview of their report.

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

d. Report from the Vice-President Student Life

MOTION: BIRT the report from the Vice President, Student Life dated August 22, 2022 be received.

*Moved by COOKE;
seconded by STRANG.*

Discussion:

ENGLISH gave an overview of their report.

PARSONS asked what the Ice Breaker series is.

ENGLISH states that the Ice Breaker Series is a way to help students meet other students especially after the isolation that students faced during COVID. Events will be sorted out at the next Social Committee meeting.

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

9. Committee Reports
a. Governance Committee

MOTION: BIRT the report from the Governance Committee dated August 22, 2022 be received.

*Moved by COOKE;
seconded by GAGNE.*

Discussion:

McENTEE reiterated the Governance Committee report that is found in the President's Board Report.

PARSONS asked where the committee reports are.

McENTEE said that each committee chair notes their committee reports in their executive reports.

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

i. Bereavement Leave Policy

MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the Bereavement Leave Policy, as recommended by the Governance Committee.

*Moved by BROWNLEE;
seconded by GAGNE.*

Discussion:

PARSONS asked if two days of bereavement leave is considered the norm.

McENTEE said that employees will be accommodated for more time, it just would not be considered a paid bereavement leave, employees would have to use vacation days or Time-in-Lieu.

TAYLOR noted that the Ontario Employment Standards Act dictates two job protected unpaid bereavement leave days and NUSU decided to make them paid days.

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

ii. Whistleblower Policy

MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the Whistleblower Policy, as recommended by the Governance Committee.

*Moved by COOKE;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

PARSONS asked why it is called a whistleblower policy, as she believes it carries negative connotations.

McENTEE said that whistleblower appears to be the norm and doesn't believe it carries a negative connotation.

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

iii. Opportunities Fund Policy

MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the Opportunities Fund Policy, as recommended by the Governance Committee.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by BROWNLEE.*

Discussion:

TAYLOR stated that the reason that summer students aren't included in this initiative is because that term is a part of the budget of the next executive committee.

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

b. Audit & Finance Committee

MOTION: BIRT the Budget Line titled "Discretionary Fund" be renamed to "Opportunities Fund", as recommended by the Audit and Finance Committee.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by COOKE.*

Discussion:

TAYLOR explained the reasoning behind the budget line title change to prevent student confusion and to make it more transparent.

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

MOTION: BIRT the report from the Audit and Finance Committee dated August 22, 2022 be received.

*Moved by COOKE;
seconded by GAGNE.*

Discussion:

There is none.

No noted abstentions.

*No noted opposition.
Motion carries.*

c. Elections Committee

MOTION: BIRT the report from the Elections Committee dated August 22, 2022 be received.

*Moved by STRANG;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

McENTEE reiterated the Elections Committee report that is found in the President's Board Report.

PARSONS asked if there is a different marketing strategy that NUSU is going to attempt to get more applicants for elections.

McENTEE said that NUSU will be utilising the TVs in the student centre and in residence, highlighting current directors on social media, highlighting it at the Welcome BBQ and discussing it with interesting students.

ENGLISH stated that our Graphic Designer can assist with this once hired.

TAYLOR said that directors engaging in events and activities will encourage other students to consider becoming directors as well.

COOKE said that utilizing her own social media can encourage engagement among students.

McENTEE added that it will be highlighted during orientation week, as well as asking NUFA to share graphics on their social media.

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

d. Social Committee

MOTION: BIRT the report from the Social Committee dated August 22, 2022 be received.

*Moved by PARSONS;
seconded by GAGNE.*

Discussion:

PARSONS asked if there are any events being planned for International Students.

ENGLISH said that he will bring this to the social committee to discuss possible ideas.

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

10. Question Period

PARSONS noted that NU Residence has a lengthy waiting list and asked what NUSU is doing to help students that are struggling to find housing and are on the waitlist for Residence.

McENTEE said housing is a big concern that NUSU has and that NU Residence had stopped accepting applicants a while back. McENTEE noted that NUSU is planning a meeting with Nipissing University to discuss the housing issue and how best to support students. Added that the meeting is also to help advocate for students who have found accommodations further away. McENTEE also noted that many students are finding accommodations in cities like Sudbury that are over an hour away. Added that NUSU is optimistic and will provide the board updates

COOKE asked what are the initiatives that could provide more housing, looking long term like building more accommodations?

McENTEE said that with the municipal elections coming up, he will be meeting with the candidates and the Nipissing University President to discuss these issues. These concerns would be raised immediately in these meetings. Ensuring that they hear these concerns and are not ignored. A root to this issue lies with the pandemic and students in Thiebault Terrace moving home for a year or two when classes were online, and then those houses either sold or rented to non-students. Added that the university is asking homeowners to rent out extra-bedrooms to students struggling to find housing accommodations.

PARSONS asked if International students have been guaranteed spots in residence.

McENTEE said that Nipissing University does not reserve spaces for International students in residence. NUSU has been speaking with Residence Life and the International Office a lot about this issue. Noted the NUSU will be donating bikes to the International Office to aid in travel. NUSU is trying to support the International Office as best they can to help support International students.

11. New Business

a. Next land acknowledgement will be from Preston English

Discussion:

There is none.

b. Food Bank Policy

MOTION: BIRT the Board of Directors approve the amendments of the Food Bank Policy.

*Moved by GAGNE;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:

McENTEE noted that there have been drastic changes to the Food Bank Policy as it has not been reviewed since 2016. The 2016 policy is based on a 2010 guidebook issued by the federal government, as well as things that were incorporated into this policy that were not necessarily rules that were being adjusted. The amended policy heavily focuses on usage, guidelines, and giftcard policies surrounding foodbank use by students. McENTEE notices a lot of students abusing the gift cards by using the extra gift cards in addition to food bank use and that in part was due to lack of consistency on NUSU part.

PARSONS asked if the amount of \$20 a month was too low to accommodate dietary restrictions at the food bank.

McENTEE said the gift cards are meant to be used for obtaining something that we do not have at the food bank currently that falls within their dietary restrictions. A large majority of food bank items accommodate dietary restrictions as much as possible.



COOKE asked how strict the gift card policy will be in ensuring that they only go to students with dietary restrictions and cultural/religious restrictions. Noted that a lot of students in the past requested gift cards since NUSU does not provide meat at the food bank.

McENTEE said that they did not consider meat a need for gift cards, but accommodations will be made for Halal meat and Kosher items. However for the most part it will be used for dairy and gluten allergies.

PANCHAL left the meeting at 7:24pm

McENTEE also noted that e-gift cards would be provided if NUSU does not have physical gift cards available. Also noted the new tracking system for physical and monetary food bank donations.

PANCHAL joining the meeting at 7:26pm

No noted abstentions.
No noted opposition.
Motion carries.

c. NUSU Vehicle Update

Discussion:

TAYLOR noted that the Traverse did arrive back in early late July. It came in the colour red so it was wrapped in black to prevent association with Candore. The vehicle was purchased with extended warranty. Wildlife on campus (Groundhogs) chewed some of the wires on the vehicle because the undercoat was made of vegetable oil and is now in the shop being fixed. This was not covered under maintenance but there are plans to prevent this from happening in the future.

d. O-Week Update

Discussion:

ENGLISH noted that orientation leader training will be one day only and will occur on Monday, August 29th, 2022. Themes have been sorted out. Nipissing University is trying to push the Owl found in its crest in marketing so NUSU is incorporating it into their O-Week theme. The Theme will be Retro/Throwback. ENGLISH discussed the

various events and programming for the week. Noted that there are lots of options for alternative programming during O-Week.

ENGLISH added that there are 19 leaders for this year, but NUSU executives, NU faculty, and NUSU staff will be assisting with events.

ENGLISH also noted that Shine Day will occur on Saturday, September 3rd, 2022. Added that NUSU hosted Community Shine Trivia Night on Thursday, August 18th, 2022 and raised over \$850!

12. Adjournment

MOTION: BIRT the meeting of the Board of Directors dated August 22, 2022 be adjourned.

*Moved by COOKE;
seconded by PARSONS.*

Discussion:
There is none.

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

7:39pm – Meeting adjourned.