



January 20th, 2021 Minutes

1. Call to Order

Patrick Hickey, the NBSA Board Chair, called the NBSA Board Meeting of January 20th of 2021 to order at 6:05pm.

1.1. Roll Call

Board Directors Present:

Patrick Hickey (UNB-SRC, Chair)
Sarah Kohut (STUSU, Vice Chair)
Sydney Thorburn (MASU)
Jonathan Ferguson (MASU)
Megan Cormier (STUSU)
Charlotte Fanjoy (UNB-SRC)
Sean MacKenzie (UNBSU)
Téa Fazio (UNBSU)

Regrets:

Staff Present:

Bibi Wasiimah Joomun, Executive Director, NBSA

Guests Present:

N/A

Absent:

2. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by MASU to approve the agenda.

Seconded by STUSU.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports

3.1 Chair Update

Patrick: The executive has been fairly busy I would say since we got back. We met with Rachel Brown from PETL to get some clarification on students coming into the province, and discussing other issues. We also had our follow-up meeting with Minister Dunn to discuss our priorities, we were not going to bring up our ask of an inquiry into systemic racism in the province, but she felt the need to do so herself. We were very firm with the fact we want an inquiry, and that's what we want. It was a very good meeting in terms of our other asks we brought up, like Indigenization and support for international students, but we'll see how we get there. I did a couple interviews with CBC about last semester and general things, and they were looking for an international student who would be willing to comment, so if anyone has anyone on their council that would be interested in giving a comment I think that would be really great because I really flagged the need for support for international students. If you do that, please let me know and I'll send the contact information over asap. Also, if anyone knows any students in communications, they're also looking for a student to comment on the communication that's been going out to students from an academic communications perspective. So if you have anyone who would be willing to do that, that would be really helpful for me too.

3.2 Home Office Update

Wasiimah: I did a podcast yesterday with *What Do You(th) Think*, it's like an Atlantic podcast where they talk about student issues, so that was pretty exciting. I had a couple of meetings this week, but that will probably come up in my next report.

3.3 Director Updates

3.3.1 MASU

Sydney: Our semester just started on Monday, and we're online for the first week. For red phase, we're mostly online except for students in labs and Fine Arts. There are 15 students that are being evicted from a house, because it wasn't zoned properly for people to be living in it, so the town of Sackville took their landlord to court and the ruling was the tenants need to be out by February 1st. A lot of them have been reaching out to me, and my name has been thrown out there as someone to contact for resources and stuff. The university is looking at offering housing in residence if that's what they're interested in, and we're pretty lucky that there are

some students who chose not to come back this semester so hopefully there will be students looking for subletters. Jon, myself, and individuals from the university will be meeting with them to discuss options and how we can help moving forward.

Jon: We'll have more information on Friday when the court ruling comes out.

Patrick: This might be something we want to discuss at the end of our meeting, because this was something we discussed in our exec meeting about the various petitions going around about evictions and stuff like that.

3.3.2 STUSU

Sarah: Now that we're starting second semester and we have a good idea of what the remainder of the semester is going to look like, which is pretty much everything exclusively online and no social gatherings, which is sad but on the bright side we're running a lot of surpluses in a lot of our budgetary lines. So, exciting news, we don't have an exact number yet, but we're putting together somewhere between an \$8,000 and \$12,000 bursary for international students for this semester. So that's pretty exciting that we can do something with our money and help students, so that it doesn't just sit in our budget. I think it's going to come out sometime before our next meeting, because we're trying to put a rush on it for the obvious reasons.

3.3.3 UNB-SRC

Patrick: Since Sarah brought it up as well, we're also in the process of looking at a fund for COVID specific relief for our students. For example, we had a lot of students that had to travel from Moncton to Saint John in a taxi because all the airports are closed, so looking at supporting those types of expenses.

Charlotte: I had a meeting today with UTILE, I know they have been reaching out to various Canadian post-secondary institutions, so check your email in case they reached out to you. I set up a meeting with them for today, and they presented their ideas around student housing and how they're going to do a survey for free for Canadian institutions to partake in. I think it's a really great initiative because it's free and we get raw data that we can use in the affordability aspect of the NBSA in particular, to see if there's anything we can do to help out students and their housing fees.

3.3.4 UNBSU

Sean: Patrick already knows about this, but now that it's public I can share. Our Vice President Academic is taking a leave, and in other words I don't think he got his job back for a second term. So right now we have an interim which is Dr. Kathy Wilson who has been looking after our COVID stuff, so now there's someone filling in for that role.

Tea: We just confirmed that the SU will be running Sex Week next month, which will be the Monday to Friday before Valentines Day weekend. I'm collaborating with our VP Student Life to do a consent/coercion type project with CSASA, which will be pretty cool. I also wanted to note for you folks, that I had a meeting with CSASA today and they mentioned there is a student survivor forum that's happening on January 27th. So basically the survivors have already been selected, and they're doing a consultation with Trevor Holder and Sherry Wilson. The CSASAs have a feedback survey for students to give input on the whole sexual violence issue that's been relevant right now, and it will go to our Ministers who will be going into consultation with our administration.

3.4 Priority Updates

3.4.1 Systemic Racism and Indigenization (Sydney)

3.4.2 Health and Wellness (Sarah)

3.4.3 Sustainability (Jon)

3.4.4. Accessible Education (Kelsi)

3.4.5 Financial Aid (Sean)

4. Old Business

5. New Business

5.1 Open Educational Resources

Charlotte: Wasiimah and I met earlier this week to talk about OERs, so right now we're planning our faculty campaign which we will be lobbying in February. I've been chatting with UNBSU about it, and we're in the middle of creating a bi-campus working group.

Wasiimah: My only update is I was supposed to send an email and I did not, so I just wrote that on my agenda as a reminder. The campaign is basically just presentations to Senates and faculty committees to educate them on what OERs are, and hopefully get them to adopt and

apply for grants. CAUL is offering to eliminate the cost of textbooks, and just have it be OERs online. Charlotte and I talked about if we wanted to make it a tri-campus thing with STU, but STU is not a part of CAUL because they don't have a library, but they share a library with UNB. I updated Sarah earlier in our exec meeting about that, and she said she would be happy to sit on that if needed.

Patrick: It was good to see in the Senate meeting I just came from, the Dean of Libraries gave a presentation and said that OERs were a big priority to shape the future of libraries.

Wasiimah: I know when we were deciding our priorities that OERs didn't make it on, but the execs have decided it would be nice to have something in our pre-budget submission similar to what Students NS has advocated for in their advocacy season. So far it has been CAUL funding this, but eventually the money will run out, so we're hoping the government will come in and do this. Tomorrow there is a pre-budget consultation happening with Ernie Steves, the Minister of Finance, and other Ministers to consult on the budget. For our pre-budget submission, we have until February 11th to submit any comments, and the executive has decided it would be nice to have a public pre-budget submission to hold the government accountable.

Patrick: We've always done a pre-budget submission but we've never really publicised it to students, so we thought it would be nice to show students that we don't just advocate but we're also a part of decision-making. I'm really hoping that in that pre-budget consultation we'll see funding for things that some Ministers have promised but we have not seen the fruition of yet.

5.2 AGM Dates

Patrick: We want to throw some AGM dates out there early so everyone can get it in their calendars, and this will be online. Generally when it's in person, we'll do it right around March break and do Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We could condense that into two days, we don't necessarily need the Friday schedule because we're online. The dates the execs were looking at were March 6th and 7th, or March 13th and 14th. Really we're open to whatever works best for everyone, but I think keeping it to Saturday and Sunday would be best so we don't have to schedule around people's classes. Thoughts? Is there anyone that can't do a specific weekend? No, wow! Okay I think we'll keep it to March 6th and 7th to keep it consistent to what we usually

do, if that works for everyone. We'll double-check the dates and confirm that via email, and let me know if you realize you do have a conflict.

6. Adjournment

It was moved by UNBSU to adjourn the NBSA Board Meeting of January 20th at 6:40pm.

Seconded by UNB-SRC.

Motion passed unanimously.