

Board of Governors – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the NSCC Board of Governors, held on April 22, 2021 remotely via Microsoft Teams.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Judith Ferguson (Chair)
Howie Doiron (Vice Chair)
Daniel Abbott
Dima Aburub
Mike Buist
Lore Bowers
Trevor Capern
Karen Churchill
Jim King
John Lindsay
Sara Napier
Jackie Poirier
Quentrel Provo
Jeff Ransome
Yvan Silva
Rustum Southwell
Paul Tingley
Marlene Usher

Also Present:

Don Bureaux, President
Monica Foster, CFO & VP College Services
Anna Burke, VP Academic
Lynn Hartwell, VP Campuses & Communities
Christabell Pinchin, Secretary, Board of Governors
Erin Elliott, Executive Assistant to the President

Chris Daly, Director, Policy, Planning & Research
Michelle Bussey, Executive Director, NSCC Foundation

Board Members Regrets:

1. Call to Order

Quorum being present, Judith Ferguson, the Chair, called the meeting to order. She welcomed Yvan Silva, Quentrel Provo and Jackie Poirier to the meeting. She noted that it is the final meeting for Paul Tingley. The Chair congratulated Daniel Abbott on receiving the Student Life Professionalism Award and the NSCC Entrepreneurship Business Innovation & Leadership Award. The Chair also congratulated Quentrel Provo who was just honored with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

The Chair acknowledged that we are in traditional Mi'kmaq unceded territory and ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq Nation. Our relationship is based on a series of Peace and Friendship treaties between the Mi'kmaq Nation and the Crown, dating back to 1725. In Nova Scotia we recognize that we are all Treaty people.

She reminded Governors that we act in the best interest of the College, we demonstrate good judgement and act in an ethical manner, maintain confidentiality and comply with the Board's By-Laws and policies. She noted we encourage diverse conversation but leave with one voice.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared for the regular portion of the meeting.

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3. Consent Agenda

It was moved by Rustum Southwell / Lore Bowers

That the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda for the April 22, 2021 meeting as presented. (Agenda; Minutes, February 18, 2021; Committee Chair Update (Programs/Succession), Occupational Health & Safety Policy, Sustainability Policy, Sexual Violence Policy, and Governance Committee Terms of Reference.)

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

4. Move to In-Camera

<<See In-camera Minutes>>

It was moved by John Lindsay / Daniel Abbott

That the NSCC Board of Governors Meeting of April 22, 2021 move to In-Camera.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

5. Governors' Dialogue

It was moved by John Lindsay / Daniel Abbott

That the Governors' Dialogue Meeting of April 22, 2021 adjourn and the regular meeting resume.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

6. President's Update

Don Bureaux provided an update. He referenced the report included with the meeting materials and provided additional remarks. Today is the last day of classes and there are 20 weeks until the beginning of classes in September. Don provided an enrolment update noting the target this year is 10,450 plus 100 ALP students. This is a count that we want to take at the end of September. At the beginning of September, we aim for about 10,800 due to attrition throughout the month of September. This equates to about 7,000 new and 3,500 returning. The College is up 34% for applications from this time last year. That is an increase of 4,000 applications. The conversion of this number is key to go from applicant to confirmed student. We are just over 5,000 confirmed students. We are at about 84% of our first-year enrolment which is up 8% from this time last year. Looking at our matrix with campuses and all schools, enrolment is looking strong across the board. Don cautioned that this is an uncertain year. International student enrolment is an area the College is keeping a close eye on. International students are not marketed or recruited. The College has seen a 57% increase in international student applications. This is up almost 1,600 from last year. There are 939 confirmed which is up 320 from this time last year.

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The Federal Budget has been released. There was a bit of a surprise to the budget. Training of Human Capital and Major Infrastructure dollars was expected; however infrastructure dollars weren't included as anticipated.

Don noted that the College will be communicating in May the delivery model for September. Some institutions have already announced their plans. He also noted that we are working closely with provincial government and maintaining great relationships.

7. Committee Updates

Foundation Update:

John Lindsay provided a brief update on the Foundation. The Foundation has been very active with preparations for the Lead the Way Campaign. He noted active canvassing will begin soon. Huge work on refining and clarifying the case for support is underway. The Advisory Committee and Connector Committee are working on engagement plans. John indicated Board members may see an email from him asking for their support.

The Chair thanked John and the Foundation Team for their important work.

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee:

Marlene Usher, Chair Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided a meeting update. She indicated it was a good meeting and a large part of the meeting focused on the Business Plan and Operating Budget. Bruce Spares presented his internal audit update. There were no issues or concerns raised. Glenda Barrett reported statutory liabilities.

Capital Projects' Update

Monica Foster provided a brief update. She indicated all projects are basically complete at this point and anticipates only one more update on the three projects. She noted the three projects included a residence at Strait Area Campus, the COGS residence, and an expansion on the Institute of Technology Campus. These are all self-funded projects that have been underway this past year and a half. All are on budget and furniture is being installed with just a bit of landscaping to finalized.

Downtown Sydney Campus Update

Monica Foster provided a brief update. She referred to the report that was included in the meeting materials. In the early phase of the project with an anticipated completion of September 2024. Steel work began two days early. Parcels of land and taking ownership has continued with only the fire station land still to transition which is expected in May. Working with CBRM and community engagement. Geothermal feasibility has shown 100% heating and cooling possibility from the harbor. Site remediation on the O'Neill property is complete. Monica noted 20% of the budget tenders are complete. 90% of tenders are expected to be complete by September. Governors discussed the huge demand in Cape Breton on human resources and supplies.

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Programs Committee Update:

Paul Tingley, Chair of Programs provided a brief meeting update. He indicated it was the first meeting for Quentrel Provo and welcomed Yvan Silva back to the Board and welcomed him to Programs. The Workplan was reviewed, and Christine Arsenault provided an enrolment update. There were a number of programming items which were covered during the in-camera portion of the meeting. Paul noted 100 additional seats for the Adult Learning Program (ALP). He thanked Sara Napier for taking over as Chair of Programs.

Governance Committee Update:

Rustum Southwell, Chair of Governance provided a brief update on the meeting. He indicated that this committee meets twice a year. During the meeting Joe Fraser, Director Human Rights and Equity Services provided an update on the department's developments and progress. This was Joe's final meeting as he is leaving his role at the College to become the CEO of Human Rights Commission for Nova Scotia. It was the first meeting for Quentrel Provo to the Committee. Chris Daly is taking over from Rosalind Penfound as the liaison for this committee. Rustum referenced the materials that were already covered in the consent agenda earlier today. Christabell Pinchin, Board Secretary provided a legal affairs update. Bill Strubank and Michael Chapman presented the OHS&E Annual Report and Sustainability Annual Report. He encouraged Governors to read the reports if they haven't already.

8. Student Governors' Comments

Daniel Abbott began by introducing himself. He is a student governor on the Board he is also the outgoing student association president at Kingstec Campus. He is graduating from the Business Administration program with a concentration in Financial Services and Accounting. On Monday, he will be starting as a Financial Advisor for Scotiabank. He wanted to recognize the staff and students who hosted the Power of Choice Summit event created by a provincial student association. He thanked Don Bureaux for providing opening remarks at the event. He thanked the Chair for acknowledging his award at the onset of the meeting. He took a moment to acknowledge all the recipients and nominees. Student Association executive teams are transitioning to the new teams. Out of the 15 campuses only 7 have incoming teams. They are hopeful that in September/October elections will be held to fill all those student leadership positions. He also recognized student and staff for the challenges faced and overcome this past year.

Yvan Silva began by introducing himself. He indicated that he is an international student studying International Business Advanced Diploma at Truro Campus. He is also a member of the NSCC International Student Ambassador program. He congratulated Daniel for his awards. He provided an update on international student events where past international students are invited to share their experiences with new students. There was a COVID-19 presentation arranged for international students where they could ask questions and discuss the impacts of COVID-19. Students from two different countries come together to discuss the differences between their countries and Canada. The countries covered this month were Mongolia and India and there is one planned for Brazil and Bahamas. Yvan provided best wishes to Paul Tingley.

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9. Other Business

It was the final meeting for Paul Tingley. The Chair and President thanked both Paul for the great insight he brought to the Board. The Chair expressed her appreciation for his role in chairing the very busy Programs Committee. She wished him the best at the Olympics. Don echoed the Chair's comments and added his great appreciation for Paul's role. Paul thanked the Board and the Chair and Don for their comments.

The Chair concluded by thanking staff for the presentations and work that went into today's virtual meeting with breakout sessions. No other business was discussed.

10. Adjourn

The Chair called to adjourn the meeting and move to Governors' Forum.

It was moved by Dima Aburub / Paul Tingley

That the NSCC Board of Governors regular meeting of April 22, 2021 adjourn and move to Governors' Forum.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

Approved by Board Motion: June 24, 2021