Board of Governors – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the NSCC Board of Governors, held on December 12, 2019 at the Ivany Campus in Dartmouth.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:
Bob MacEachern (Chair)
Judith Ferguson (Vice Chair)
Dima Aburub
Lore Bowers
Trevor Capern
Karen Churchill
Kevin Cowper
Howie Doiron
Arthur Kidston
Jim King
John Lindsay
Amanda Peters
Jeff Ransome
Rustum Southwell
Yvan Silva
Paul Tingley
Marlene Usher

Also Present:
Don Bureaux, President
Monica Foster, CFO & VP College Services
Rosalind Penfound, VP Organizational Development
Anna Burke, VP Academic
Lynn Hartwell, VP Campuses and Communities
Christabel Pinchin, Secretary, Board of Governors
Erin Elliott, Executive Assistant to the President
Chris Daly, Director, Policy, Planning & Research
Minister Labi Kousoulis
Troy Yeo, Executive Assistant to the Minister

Board Members Regrets:
Stephen Maltby
John Volcko

1. Call to Order

Quorum being present, Bob MacEachern, the Chair, called the meeting to order.

The Chair welcomed Yvan Silva, Art Kidston, and Trevor Capern to their first meeting.

The Chair welcomed Minister Kousoulis and his Executive Assistant, Troy Yeo to the meeting.

Before the meeting began, 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. He 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. Lastly, he 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.
3. Consent Agenda

The Chair reminded Governors that the Consent Agenda allows Board Members more time for items that require further explanation and discussion.

It was moved by John Lindsay / Jeff Ransome

*That the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda for the October 24, 2019 meeting as presented. (Agenda; Minutes, October 24, 2019; Executive Committee Terms of Reference; Guidelines for Governors’ Forum and Dialogue; Programs Committee Terms of Reference; Finance, Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference; and Banking Resolution and Addendum Update.)*

This motion was put to a vote and CARRIED.

4. Labour and Advanced Education

Minister Kousoulis joined the meeting. He began by expressing appreciation for the Board acknowledging the Mi’kmaq unceded territory and ancestral homeland of the Mi’kmaq Nation at the beginning of the meeting.

Governors’ took time to introduce themselves to the Minister. The Minister thanked Board Members for their dedication to the Board and the College. He indicated that the post-secondary sector in Nova Scotia is a major driving force to the economy of the province and a key driver in youth retention in the province. The last three years the province has retained more youth than they lost – he credited the post-secondary sector as a key factor in this retention. One of the other statistics that he referenced was that, for the first time, since 1963 Nova Scotia, as a province, has gotten younger.

The Minister recognized Don Bureaux’s role leading the College. He indicated that Labour and Advanced Education lean on the President and College to assist in solving various needs. He specifically referenced the shortage of ECE (Early Childhood Education) and noted that the College was able to respond quickly getting students in the classroom right away to assist the Province in addressing the gaps in this field.

The Minister referenced several topics including:

- the President’s role on the Research Nova Scotia (RNS) Board which is tied to oceans and COVE in the province.
- Marconi is underway with a revival of the downtown Sydney core in Cape Breton.
- Capital project work for the residence for COGS and Strait Area and expansion of the IT campus.
- Signing a formal MOU with the College.

The Board Chair thanked the Minister for recognizing Don Bureaux’s leadership not just at the College, but beyond, both regionally and nationally.
Board Members engaged in discussions with the Minister and discussed a variety of topics. Governors had the opportunity to ask questions.

Questions included topics of international students and the positive impact on the province. Specifically, the Minister referenced the international impact with new business such as Peace by Chocolate. Economic trends, priorities and the nature of workforce demands in the province over the next number of years were discussed. Specifically, labour in the trades industry may be an issue in Cape Breton with a hospital build happening at the same time as the construction of the new Marconi Campus. The Minister also engaged in conversations about the importance of experiential learning and work-integrated learning in the province. Females working in trades was also discussed along with the need to have space for apprenticeable training in the province.

Don Bureaux thanked the Minister for attending the meeting and engaging in conversations with Board Members.


Anna Burke, Vice President Academic presented the NSAA Stewardship Report. She reminded Governors that NSAA was established in 2014. At that time the College’s Act was modified to create a joint stewardship model with NSAA and the College. Anna provided an overview of the report that was included with the meeting materials. She highlighted several details within the report and noted that the NSAA/NSCC joint stewardship team meet every 2 months.

It was moved by Jim King / Judith Ferguson

That the NSCC Board of Governors approve the NSAA 2018-2019 Stewardship Annual Report as presented.

This motion was put to a vote and CARRIED.

6. President’s Report / Update

Don Bureaux provided a brief update to the Board. Don began by noting that another Academic term is coming to an end. He provided an overview of the Challenge Nova Scotia event, where the Premier poses a challenge to students who have 12 hours to come up with solutions. Don shared that past student Governor, Sam McBeth finished in third place. Don discussed briefly the priority shift at CiCan and the minority government in Canada. He shared that he has been appointed to the Business/Higher Education Roundtable (BHER) Board. BHER’s mandate is to deepen collaboration between Canadian employers, post-secondary institutions and to convene stakeholders to expand quality placements for students in Canada. He shared details of an upcoming CiCan event titled President’s on the Hill that he will be attending in February. Don will report back to the Board afterwards. He completed his update by noting that he attended the funeral for past NSCC Governor Senator Dan Christmas’ wife in Cape Breton with Christabell Pinchin.
7. **Move to In-Camera** <see In-Camera Minutes>

It was moved by Dima Aburub / Lore Bowers

*That the NSCC Board of Governors Meeting of December 12, 2019 move to In-Camera.*

This motion was put to a vote and **CARRIED.**

8. **Committee Updates**

**Foundation Update:**
John Lindsay provided an update on the activities at the Foundation. He referred to the Foundation Report that was included within the meeting materials. John noted that the Foundation has been doing a lot of work on developing new Committees for their Board of Directors and establishing goals and tools for measuring success. Alumni Relations has been working on establishing ways to maintain relationships with alumni. An RBC sponsored tool called Career Link is being utilized so alumni, students, and staff have a tool to connect with other alumni, students, staff and experts for mentoring and advice. KCI presented to the Foundation Board of Directors this week on the Capital Campaign. The recommendation is that Nautical Institute at the Strait Area Campus has the best case for support. At the next Board meeting for the Foundation a clearly defined list of items to support for the Nautical Institute will be presented.

**Finance, Audit & Risk Committee:**
Marlene Usher, Chair Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided a meeting update and noted that the Second Quarter Financial Report was presented and reviewed in detail. A surplus in tuition was attributed to a higher intake of international students. That surplus will be used for supplemental capital projects and/or strategic initiatives.

It was moved by Marlene Usher / Trevor Capern

*That the NSCC Board of Governors approve the Second Quarter Financial Report for the period ending September 30, 2019.*

This motion was put to a vote and **CARRIED.**

**Second Quarter Business Plan Report Card:**
Chris Daly presented the Business Plan Report Card that was included with the meeting materials. Several initiatives are multi-year projects or are dependent on technology where decisions are still to be made. Chris provided highlights for the four pillars (Student Success, Community Impact, Organizational Excellence and Academic Quality). Student Success - Educational Equity principles have been incorporated into student orientation. Students have access to a 24-hour confidential telephone counselling service. Community Impact – hired a Senior Advisor, Mi’kmaq and Indigenous Initiatives (Jude Gerrard) to bring education to this area. Ignite Labs opened a second rural innovation hub at Pictou Campus. Organizational Excellence – the College has received the Atlantic Chapter of Canadian Green Building Council, Excellence in Green Building – New Construction Award for the Pictou Campus Trade Wing. All campuses were recertified as BOMAbest. Cyber Security training has been rolled out.
Capital Projects Update:
Monica Foster provided an update on the Capital Projects. She referenced the report that was included with the meeting materials. She indicated that there have not been significant changes since her last update. Strait Area Campus had a delay receiving the steel and there is a slight concern about timing with weather as a factor. Costs are on track for all projects. COGS foundation and footings have begun. IT project will not begin until April 1, 2020 to reduce the parking impact during the winter months.

Programs Committee:
Howie Doiron provided an overview of the Programs Committee. He indicated that the meeting included an update from Christine Arsenault for enrolment. Anna presented the NSAA Stewardship Report. He referenced the policies that were included with the consent agenda. Section additions and program changes are in the works. Emerging programming changes were presented as well.

9. Student Governors’ Comments
Arthur Kidston, Student Governor from Ivany Campus provided an update. He indicated that a metro campuses participated in a holiday giving tree program where students in need could participate and receive donated gifts for their children. Over 300 children were presented with gifts. Student Associations also donated $50 grocery gift cards to the families who received gifts for their children.

Yvan Silva, Student Governor from Truro Campus provided an update. He noted there was an international holiday party at Akerley Campus. Truro Campus invited international students from Dalhousie University to an international holiday dinner which was very well received where so many international students have no family here in Nova Scotia.

10. Other Business
Don Bureaux and Judith Ferguson thanked Bob MacEachern for his dedication to the NSCC Board and to the College. A gift was presented to thank Bob for his service.

11. Adjourn
The Chair called to adjourn the meeting and move to Governors’ Forum.

It was moved by John Lindsay / Dima Aburub

*That the NSCC Board of Governors regular meeting of December 12, 2019 adjourn and move to Governors’ Forum.*

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

Approved by Board Motion: February 20, 2020