

Board of Governors – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the NSCC Board of Governors, held on February 18, 2021 remotely via Microsoft Teams.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Judith Ferguson (Chair)
Howie Doiron (Vice Chair)
Daniel Abbott
Dima Aburub
Lore Bowers
Trevor Capern
Karen Churchill
Jim King
John Lindsay
Sara Napier
Amanda Peters
Jeff Ransome
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

Board Members Regrets:

Mike Buist
Yvan Silva

1. Call to Order

Quorum being present, Judith Ferguson, the Chair, called the meeting to order. She welcomed Yvan Silva back to the Board and noted that he was unfortunately unable to attend today's meeting. She congratulated Amanda Peters on a new position with the provincial government and indicated that with this new position it creates a conflict of interest and as such today will be Amanda's final 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.

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 Daniel Abbott / John Lindsay

That the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda for the February 18, 2021 meeting as presented. (Agenda; Minutes, December 10, 2020; Committee Placements; and Educational Equity Policy)

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

4. Move to In-Camera

It was moved by Lore Bowers / Jeff Ransome

That the NSCC Board of Governors Meeting of February 18, 2021 move to In-Camera.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

5. President's Update

Don Bureaux provided an update. He referenced the report within the meeting materials and provided additional remarks. He indicated there are lots of conversation at the federal level with our national body, CIGan, about the next federal budget. There is significant conversation about a strategic innovation fund for post-secondary institutions. He indicated there could be a \$2B initiative for a three-year period with a lens of green to contribute to the green economy, projects leading to more access for Canadians to pursue post-secondary education and the third, around digitization, how do we help train people for the digitized world of tomorrow.

Don noted that enrolment is tracking strong for the fall. Confirmations are up in all schools and campuses including international. We are hearing that parents are encouraging parents to apply to multiple institutions and to make a choice once decisions are made for delivery in the fall.

6. Committee Update

Foundation Update:

John Lindsay provided a brief update on the Foundation. He referenced the report that was included with the meeting materials. He noted the amount of increased capacity that is being built within the whole college around the culture of philanthropy is expanding our ability to reach all business and communities across the province. It is that pan-provincial capacity being built that differentiates NSCC from other post-secondary institutions in the province. He indicated that they are seeing good results early in the Lead the Way Campaign.

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Finance, Audit & Risk Committee:

Marlene Usher, Chair Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided a meeting update. She noted in this historic time we were originally forecasting a large \$11M deficit but that is no longer anticipated. There will be no depreciation on the new builds due to the timing of completion. Tuition revenue has held its own for the most part and international student enrolment was higher than anticipated in this current pandemic. College wages were reduced by not hiring students for the summer, postponing hiring, and not engaging as many casuals that would normally occur in the span of a year.

It was moved by Marlene Usher / John Lindsay

That the NSCC Board of Governors approve Third Quarter Financial Report for the period ending December 31, 2020.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

Capital Projects' Update

Monica Foster provided a brief update. She referred to the report that was included in the meeting materials. She noted that the three projects are almost complete. All three are on budget. Final touches are happening now. Furniture will be added in early spring. Strait and COGS will be ready to open in June and move-in should COVID-19 restrictions allow. IT Campus will be complete in July.

Downtown Sydney Campus Update

Monica Foster provided a brief update. She referred to the report that was included in the meeting materials. Very early in the process and currently about 2 weeks ahead. Weather has been cooperative for winter construction. 850 piles are in the ground. 40 days until steel arrives. Property acquisition is nearing completion. Closing date for the fire station is February 24. There are a number of months of contingency in the planning.

Programs Committee Update:

Paul Tingley, Chair of Programs provided a brief meeting update. He indicated that during the meeting new members were welcomed. It was the final meeting for John Lindsay who was moving to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. The Committee Workplan was reviewed, and Christine Arsenault provided a 2020/21 and 2021/22 enrolment update, noting that enrolment is tracking well. The decision on the delivery model for programming in September will be decided and communicated in May.

Program Delivery Model and Definitions were presented; comparing 2019 to 2020 there was no surprise to see the shift from face-to-face learning to online and blended. Four categories for program delivery were outlined including in-person, online, blended and hy-flex. Hy-flex was described as an evolution of programming designed to enable students to attend synchronous class sessions either in person onsite or remotely via video conference technology.

The Educational Equity Policy was reviewed, and proposed changes were approved to be put forward for full Board approval. The meeting also included two brief updates, first on career supports for students as well as the post-care, free tuition bursary where NSCC is the first college in Atlantic Canada to waive tuition for former youth in care.

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7. Student Governors' Comments

Yvan Silva was not able to attend today's meeting. Daniel Abbot provided his student update. Daniel shared details on the College's decision to waive the requirement for portfolios which provided a bit of relief for students during this challenging year. Libraries and Learning Commons continue to provide great support to students. Implementation of the Peer Assisted Learning Supports Program (PALS) is a Student Association sponsored initiative and has provided students with another great learning support. Daniel also highlighted a few other Student Association initiatives including American Heritage Month activities and initiatives along with the Power of Choice Summit that was spearheaded by the Pictou Student Association.

8. Other Business

It was the final meeting for Amanda Peters. The Chair and President thanked both Amanda for her valuable insight and perspective she shared during her five years with NSCC. The Chair also noted that Amanda will continue to stay engaged with NSCC but from a different perspective as her niece will be attending NSCC this fall.

9. Adjourn

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

It was moved by Amanda Peters / Dima Aburub

That the NSCC Board of Governors regular meeting of February 18, 2021 adjourn and move to Governors' Forum.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

Approved by Board Motion: April 22, 2021