

Board of Governors – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the NSCC Board of Governors, held on June 25, 2020 remotely via Microsoft Teams.

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Judith Ferguson (Chair)
Howie Doiron (Vice Chair)
Dima Aburub
Lore Bowers
Trevor Capern
Karen Churchill
Kevin Cowper
Jim King
John Lindsay
Stephen Maltby
Sara Napier
Jeff Ransome
Yvan Silva
Rustum Southwell
Paul Tingley
Marlene Usher
John Volcko

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
Christabell Pinchin, Secretary, Board of Governors
Erin Elliott, Executive Assistant to the President

Daniel Kelly, Director, Facilities & Engineering
Mike Barrie, Barrie & Langille Architects Ltd.
Michael Chapman, Manager, Infrastructure, Sustainability & Space Planning
Chris Daly, Director, Policy, Planning and Research
Michelle Bussey, Executive Director, NSCC Foundation

Board Members Regrets:

Arthur Kidston
Amanda Peters

1. Call to Order

Quorum being present, Judith Ferguson, the Chair, called the meeting to order. The Chair indicated this is the second meeting in the virtual setting because of the COVID pandemic. She reminded Governors of meeting etiquette in the virtual setting.

She asked that the minutes reflect a note of congratulations to Art (Arthur) Kidston on graduating from the Library and Information Technology Program at Ivany Campus with Honours. Art is not able to participate in today's meeting due to a conflicting schedule but he will be participating in his final meeting in October.

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.

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The Chair indicated it was important to recognize and honor the tragedy in relation to George Floyd and the movement that has taken place across the world with regards to Black Lives Matter. She thanked Rosalind Penfound for the work her team is doing on recognizing this important work. The Chair asked Rustum Southwell provide remarks. Rustum noted that Author Rudyard Kipling wrote in 1899 *The White Man's Burden*. Rustum's father wrote a rebuttal in the 40s. The struggle has been going on for a long time. Rustum read the poem and indicated he would share the poem with the Board members via email.

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.

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 Volcko / Steve Maltby

That the Board of Governors approve the consent agenda for the June 25, 2020 meeting as presented. (Agenda; Minutes, April 23, 2020, and Fundraising Policy)

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

4. Move to Governors' Dialogue

It was moved by Steve Maltby / Jim King

That the NSCC Board of Governors Meeting of June 25, 2020 move to Governors' Dialogue.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

5. Move to In-Camera

It was moved by Paul Tingley / John Lindsay

That the Governors' Dialogue adjourn and the NSCC Board of Governors Meeting of June 25, 2020 move to In-Camera.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

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6. President's Update

Don indicated the past three months of work has been very different. Typically, 50-75% of his time is spent out of the office at meetings, functions, and events but that has all changed as a result of the current pandemic.

Don continues to participate with CIGan on national work and across the country as a whole things look different. Research projects are happening now to assess what post-secondary education will look like in the new academic year and at this point in time the results are not providing much clarity as the pandemic is a new dilemma for the post-secondary sector.

Don asked Anna Burke to provide a high-level update on enrolment. She indicated there are 11 weeks to the start of classes. Because of the program changes the new target is 9,900 instead of 10,650. Overall, applications are down about 2,000. There are 14,000 applications but last year we had 16,000 at this time. Confirmed students are down, but half of the decrease is anticipated because program starts have been deferred. The other half is largely due to deferral and withdrawals. It is still early in the pandemic and not 100% sure how this will evolve but we do expect these numbers to change one way or another. Many students have moved their application to the next year. Several big deadlines are nearing - conditional enrolment and tuition payment deadlines.

Don also noted that the Forestry Transition Team continues to meet. The \$15M Trust is being focused on two areas allocation. Research and Innovation, and Training and Development of the Workforce of tomorrow. NSCC has been working closely on this to ensure NSCC is available to be part of the research and training agenda going forward. The College's Deans and Principals are working closely on this.

Don continues to do work with Research Nova Scotia (RNS). RNS was developed because of the Ivany Report. NSCC has a permanent seat on the Board at RNS along with Dalhousie.

Don continues to sit on the COVE Board (Centre Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship).

Don indicated that at the October Board meeting he will be able to provide much more clarity on how the pandemic has impacted enrolment.

7. Committee Updates

Foundation Update:

John Lindsay provided an update on the activities at the Foundation. He noted that the Foundation recently celebrated Frank Lockington's retirement at their Annual General Meeting. It was very positive and encouraging to see the growth in the Foundation over the past five years. There are increased demands expected in terms of bursaries and urgent aide considering the current environment.

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Michelle Bussey, Executive Director of the Foundation provided an overview of the Foundation Memorandum of Understanding that was included with the meeting materials. The MOU outlines more clearly the relationship between the Foundation and the College. The MOU has not been updated since its inception. It clarifies ownership of files.

It was moved by John Lindsay / Lore Bowers

That the NSCC Board of Governors approve the Foundation Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

Finance, Audit & Risk Committee:

Marlene Usher, Chair Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provided a meeting update. She indicated that the consolidated statements were presented by the External Auditors for the year ending March 31, 2020. This meeting also provided an opportunity to meet with the External Auditors privately and no issues were identified. The Financial Statements showed a surplus of \$2.5M that exceeded what was budgeted.

It was moved by Marlene Usher / Rustum Southwell

That the NSCC Board of Governors approve the Audited Financial Statements and accept the Year End Financial Summary as presented at the Regular Board Meeting of June 25, 2020.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

Chris Daly, Director Policy, Planning and Research presented the 4th Quarter Business Plan Report Card that was provided with the meeting materials. He noted that most of the initiatives are at 100% as outlined in the report. He highlighted a few of the items: under Community Impact the item titled Key Sectors Focus which is at 30% was delayed by COVID-19, as well as Professional Development under Organizational Excellence which is at 30% also slowed as a result of COVID-19. Accessibility Plan under Community Impact is at 50% which is good progress for the amount of work and time allotted to complete this initiative. Several initiatives are multi-year initiatives.

Programs Committee:

Paul Tingley provided an overview of the Programs Committee May 28th meeting. During this busy time several items were already shared with the Board and they have already reviewed and responded to the items from Programs Committee. Those approved items were then sent to LAE for approval. Admissions Policy was reviewed, Christine Arsenault provided an enrolment update, program changes of delivery were approved and sent to LAE and subsequently approved. Paul indicated it was a very full meeting, he thanked Anna and her team for their exceptional work under these extraordinary times.

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8. Student Governors' Comments

Yvan Silva provided a brief update. He congratulated Art on graduating. Yvan's program is now 100% online. He indicated the new way of learning is not perfect, but he is happy to know that he can continue his learning. The new environment of learning, through Teams, will provide students with a new skill that will be needed in this new work environment for the future. Having had the rest of the academic year in this new model has prepared students better for the fall.

9. Other Business

The Chair thanked the team for the work they have done preparing the Board for this new meeting format. There was no other business discussed at this time.

10. Adjourn

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

It was moved by Yvan Silva / Paul Tingley

That the NSCC Board of Governors regular meeting of June 25, 2020 adjourn and move to Governors' Forum.

This motion was put to a vote and

CARRIED.

Approved by Board Motion: October 22, 2020