



SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date	Saturday, October 20, 2018
Time	5:30pm following Strategic Planning Session
Location	AT340 (CLARI Space), Saint Mary's University
Present	Mitchell Archibald (Board Chair), Salman I. Sadib (Vice-Chair), Oyindamola Oshobu, Sophia Okoroafor, Henry Peng, Azhar Rahman, Franklyn Southwell, Crystal Witter, Omar Hany (teleconference)
Resource	Mitchell Archibald (Chair)
Guests	Ossama Nasrallah (President and CEO) Dénis Amirault (Vice-President Advancement) Mahmudur Rahman Shovon (Vice-President Academic)

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm and a land acknowledgment was made.
2. Mr. Southwell motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Witter. Motion carried.
3. Ms. Okoroafor motioned to approve the previous minutes from September 30, 2018 as presented, seconded by Mr. Peng. Motion carried.
4. Mr. Archibald informed members that going forward in an effort to undertake more sustainable meeting practices, paper copies of all documents will not be provided to members unless requested. All documents will be provided electronically and projected during meetings for all members and guests.
5. Mr. Nasrallah presented his President's Report to the Board, the written copy of which can be found as Appendix A.

Mr. Hany joined the meeting by teleconference at 5:45pm, and Mr. Amirault joined the meeting at 5:47pm.

Signature:  Mitchell Archibald, Board Chair



SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

- a) Externally to what was in the report, Mr. Nasrallah spoke briefly on labour relations on campus.
- b) Mr. Nasrallah confirmed that the information board in the Loyola building would be changed next week to reflect current student representatives.
- c) Mr. Peng inquired about the health plan, specifically regarding coverage for international students. Mr. Nasrallah responded, citing increases in vision, dental, and massage coverage.
- d) Mr. Shovon briefly spoke about the upcoming Annual General Meeting next week, and invited all members of participate in the information table for the Board.
- e) Mr. Newell, the new Board Secretary, will be joining the Board at the next meeting. He will also be providing the Board with a newsletter on current events.
- f) Mr. Sadib motioned to accept the President's report as presented, seconded by Mr. Rahman.

Mr. Shovon left the meeting at 6:05pm.

6. Mr. Oshobu gave a verbal report of the activities of the Elections Committee:
 - a) The Committee has selected a Chief Returning Officer to be recommended to the Board, and are still in the process of selecting a Deputy Returning Officer. The application period for the DRO has been extended to next week.
 - b) Mr. Oshobu recommended that the Board approve the hiring of Paige Chaisson as the CRO. Mr. Southwell motioned to accept this recommendation, seconded by Ms. Witter. Motion carried.
7. Mr. Archibald confirmed that the Society Committee will be meeting soon to elect a Chair and create a terms of reference. This will be done before the next meeting.
8. Mr. Archibald spoke about continuing policy work being done, with more to be discussed at a later date. He also spoke of the Not-For-Profit Governance course he will be attending next month, and will be providing the Board with information and resources after he returns.

Signature: _____ Mitchell Archibald, Board Chair

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SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

9. Business Arising from Strategic Planning

- a) Following discussion during the previous planning session, the possibility of a consultation with students regarding the current election practices was discussed. Mr. Oshobu motioned that the Board, through the leadership of the Elections Committee, plan and execute a public consultation campaign with students regarding elections policies, procedures, and voter turnout. Ms. Okoroafor seconded the motion, motion carried.

10. Other Business and Discussion

- a) Mr. Archibald opened the floor for nominations of Board Members to the HR & Governance Committee, and called for any nominations.

Mr. Southwell nominated Mr. Sadib and Ms. Okoroafor.

Mr. Oshobu nominated Ms. Witter.

Ms. Okoroafor nominated Mr. Southwell.

All four members accepted the nominations.

Mr. Archibald called a second and third time for nominations, none were heard. He then closed the floor for nominations.

Mr. Rahman motioned to accept the nominations to the HR & Governance Committee, seconded by Mr. Oshobu. Motion carried.

- b) Mr. Archibald opened the floor for nominations of Board Members to the Finance Committee, and called for any nominations.

Mr. Southwell nominated Mr. Rahman.

Mr. Sadib nominated Mr. Oshobu.

Ms. Okoroafor nominated Mr. Peng.

All three members accepted the nominations.

Mr. Archibald called a second and third time for nominations, none were heard. He then closed the floor for nominations.

Ms. Witter motioned to accept the nominations to the Finance Committee, seconded by Ms. Okoroafor. Motion carried.

Signature: _____

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Mitchell Archibald, Board Chair



SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

11. In-Camera Session

- a) Ms. Witter motioned the Board move In-Camera at 6:23pm, seconded by Mr. Southwell. The Board moved in-camera.

Mr. Amirault left the meeting.

- b) Ms. Okoroafor motioned the Board move out of camera at 6:49pm, seconded by Mr. Southwell.

12. Ms. Witter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49pm, seconded by Mr. Peng. The meeting was adjourned.

Signature: _____ Mitchell Archibald, Board Chair

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Saint Mary's University Students' Association

Appendix A

Date: September 30, 2018

To: SMUSA Board of Directors

From: Ossama Nasrallah – President & CEO

Re: President Report

Internal Affairs

The SMUSA Leadership Team 2018-2019 took office on 1st May, 2018. The team includes:

- **Ossama Nasrallah**, President & CEO
 - **Denis Amirault**, Vice-President Advancement
 - **Mahmudur Rahman Shovon**, Vice-President Academic & Advocacy
 - **Mary Navas**, Vice-President Student Affairs
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- **Welcome Weeks 2018**- SMUSA has been working closely with Student Services, in cooperation with various other departments on the Weeks of Welcome Planning Committee, to plan, organize and ultimately execute Welcome Weeks 2018.
 - **Restructuring a Leadership Position** – This year we created a new Leadership positions, Equity Officer and Wellness Officer in order to better serve the students.
 - **Health Plan**- We are very pleased to announce a new and improved health plan for our domestic and international Saint Mary's University students. This plan will increase the amount of support our students will get through their studies at Saint Mary's University.
 - **Cannabis Policy**- We have been working closely with the University on the responsible use of Cannabis Policy. The overall aim of this policy is to promote the health, wellness, and safety of all Saint Mary's University students.
 - **Fall break** – The creation of a week-long fall break demonstrates that Saint Mary's University is committed to tackling issues such as student mental health, student retention, and student engagement.



Saint Mary's University Students' Association

Appendix A

- **Mental Health Initiatives** – In response to our students' needs, SMUSA has been working on the SMUSA Mental Health committee. The purpose of this committee is to ensure that all programs, initiatives, and groups on campus which deal with and work in the area of mental health have the chance to get together and share their work. We are also pleased to introduce our new SMUSA Student Mental Health and Wellness App which is called "IM.Well" for all of our students and not only International students.
- **Academics-** We are working closely with the Academic regulations committee and the Senate to reach common goals for student success in the academic sector.
- **SMUSA Goals & Priorities-** This year SMUSA will be focusing specifically on areas that our students raised as their main concerns which are Healthy Student Life, Student Involvement, Community Leadership and Academic support and success.
- **Fifth-Floor Renovations project-** Our Fifth-floor space is on the final stage of renovations and should be ready to start serving students on the second week of September.

External Affairs

- We travelled to Ottawa between May 21st and 27th to attend the Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) Foundations Conference 2017. For more information about CASA check www.casafoundations.ca.
- The SMUSA team was very involved in the Halifax pride week. We attended events such as the pride flag raising ceremony and will be joining the SMU Alumni Association and SMUQ Society at the pride parade this year.
- SMUSA is very proud to continue to work very closely as a member of Students Nova Scotia. SMUSA is the largest organization in the Students NS Association working with other universities and colleges in the province to advocate on behalf of all 20,000+ students.