

**Mohawk Students' Association**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**5:30 p.m. – MSA Boardroom, Fennell Campus**

**MINUTES**

<b>Present:</b>	Samantha Hoover, President Andrew Pidsadny Shawn Alam Katie Agnew Jennifer Huegel Trevor Nagy Jonah Schaufler-Biback Ireland Stevens Kyle Datzkiw	<b>Executive Director:</b>	Alan Griffiths
		<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Wendy Rolfe
		<b>Speaker:</b>	Alex Presta
		<b>Guests:</b>	Sandy Tepsic Ron McKerlie Rachel Hamilton Wayne Poirier Tim Fricker Pearl Mendonca Del Pereira Melissa Gallo

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**PART I – PRESENTATION**

The Speaker welcomed the guests to the meeting.

1. Joyce Centre for Partnership and Innovation

The Speaker introduced Ron McKerlie and Tony Cupido. Tony Cupido thanked the Board for the invitation to the meeting and stated that he wanted to provide a brief update on construction at the Joyce Centre for Partnership and Innovation.

He noted that most of the structural steel for the main building is up. They've just started framing the panels that will hold the solar panels at the front of the building. They are working on some internal finishes, specifically mechanical and electrical systems as well as some of the drywall and break-out rooms. They are using a drywall that is moisture resistant so it can be installed before the building is closed in.

Tony Cupido passed around a sample of the glass that is going into the building. The triple layer glass is extremely efficient.

The roof is rated in the mid-R20's which means that it will take very little energy to heat and cool the building. He showed a map of roofs of the different wings that will have solar panels installed. Most buildings aren't large enough but they have space in A, J and H wings to install solar panels and this work should be completed by Christmas. Panels are installed at a 10 degree slant so, in the case of snow, the sunlight will melt the snow and it will slide off quickly.

Ron McKerlie stated that this will be a net-zero building, which is above LEED platinum standards. The College is promoting this as it gives Mohawk an advantage in attracting students, partners and research dollars.

They set up a netzeromohawk.ca website to share information about the building and what makes it net zero. They recently won an award with the Canada Green Building Council. He provided the Board with a couple pairs of VR glasses, which will allow student leaders to take a guided 3D tour of the building.

He noted that one of the key pillars in the College's strategic plan is to provide local and provincial leadership in the area of climate change. It was announced at the Bay Area Economic Summit that Mohawk College would host the Centre for Climate Change Management, which is a regional partnership.

They have hired Sandi Strike from Sustainable Hamilton Burlington as the Executive Director of the Centre for Climate Change Management. She starts on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Speaker thanked Ron McKerlie and Tony Cupido for their presentation and they left the meeting at this time.

## 2. Ancillary Fees

Wayne Poirier was present at the meeting to talk about ancillary fees. He noted that the Ontario government has changed the process so the College wants to ensure the MSA has more time than usual to think about the changes. This year the MSA will be asked for a decision on two years of fees as the government has mandated that they be set far in advance. He noted that he was not looking for approval today, with the exception of one piece.

He noted that everything the College does around tuition fees is regulated by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. They also have compulsory ancillary fees - which all students pay, program specific fees - which has a take-away or something consumed as part of a specific program, and MSA fees (Student Activity Fee, Health Plan, Bus Pass, etc.).

Mohawk College and the MSA have an Ancillary Fee Protocol signed by both groups. This ensures that the MSA receives information, reviews and provides recommendations for all mandatory ancillary fees. The Board of Governors has final approval after the MSA recommends fees for approval.

The Tuition Fee Framework mandates that regular program tuition can be increased up to 3%, with high-demand programs up to 5%, as long as the overall increase is not more than 3%.

Wayne Poirier shared the list of 2017-18 compulsory ancillary fees for both full-time and continuing education students. He noted that continuing education students are charged fees per contact hour and part-time fees are pro-rated in some cases.

The Government wants to be able to communicate fees to students earlier in the cycle to allow them to see what the fees will be when they are considering which college to attend. Colleges are required to have 2018-2019 fees approved by November instead of February.

The College will be bringing information on the compulsory fees to the MSA Board's January retreat.

They are proposing that all of the fees be put into four buckets in order for student to understand them better. The buckets are: Academic Supports, Student Life Activities, Technology and MSA Association Fees. Some of the fees may be renamed to make more sense. Continuing education fees will be split into three buckets.

He is asking the MSA to approve the new buckets as soon as possible and then proposed adjustments will come at the January retreat to take effect next year. They will be asking the MSA to look at the following year's fees as well. They will be proposing an increase structure similar to the DBARC fee, where there is an automatic adjustment applied each year that is based on the consumer index. They would still present to the MSA annually with impact reports on each fee.

Jennifer Huegel asked if they would be reviewing program specific fees in January as some of the media students don't feel that what they get in return justifies the program specific fee. Wayne Poirier stated that they will be reviewed and they would like feedback, although there is no official approval process in place. Alan Griffiths suggested that she speak to the students to gather their feedback prior to the retreat.

Wayne Poirier stated that his primary objective is that the Board understands the fee structure and can spend time at the retreat focussing on the merits of the fee proposals.

The Speaker thanked Wayne Poirier for his presentation, and he left the meeting at this time.

### 3. Student Health Plan Presentation

Alan Griffiths welcomed Del Pereira from Studentcare. He explained that Del has been asked to provide information to the Board on how the student health plan works and the partnership between the MSA and Studentcare.

Del Pereira explained that Studentcare was founded by Lev Bukhman who was the V.P. Finance at the McGill University student association. Nationally they save students approximately \$10 million with their networks. They have been selected as one of Canada's most inclusive employers.

MSA and Studentcare are partners. Studentcare plays two roles - consultants and administrators. As the consultant they operate the member services centre, provide comprehensive communication to those in the plan, manage the opt-out process, data management and operate the on-campus office. They are not an insurance company and their role as consultants is to negotiate with insurers, plan design and benefit research, detailed reporting and analysis and plan risk.

The microsite is heavily used by Mohawk students. Last year there were 21,317 sessions, 63% return visitors and 90,000 page views. Students are getting four pages deep and spending an average of 3.5 minutes on the website. Ninety-two percent of users access their services through the website.

Students benefit from group plans because it provides them with affordable health services. Individual plans are discriminatory and consider age, sex, where you live and pre-existing conditions into their premiums. Group insurance spreads out those risks so that they don't become a factor in the cost.

The MSA has had this plan since 2010. There have been a few benefit changes over the past couple years that the MSA has approved, such as increased paramedical, vision and prescription drug coverage.

In 2016-2017, premiums collected were \$835,000, with claims at \$708,656. The loss ratio on health benefits was at 85% which is exactly where you want to be. The dental loss ratio was 83%.

Claims history in health benefits has stayed fairly steady, except in years where there have been changes in coverage. Claims under the dental plan have increased every year. Per capita health claims in 2016-2017 was \$52.22 and per capita dental claims was \$61.52.

The MSA Health Plan Fee has been pretty stable since 2010-11. The fee has been \$180 for the past four years. The cost of the plan is \$181.15 and the MSA has chosen to subsidize it from the health plan reserve which currently sits at close to \$381,000.00.

The current provincial government has announced a new Pharmacare program call OHIP+ which is for Ontario residents who are 24 years old and younger. There are no co-pays or deductibles and it covers a portion of a number of prescriptions. When looking at the formulary of drugs not covered under this new plan they feel there may be a premium savings of approximately 10%. It is important to note that it is only for Ontario residents, and those who are 25 and older, international or out-of-province residents won't be covered.

Jennifer Huegel asked what percentage of the plan is used for contraceptives. Del Pereira stated that approximately 20%-30% of prescriptions are for birth control and approximately 38% are central nervous system agents.

Tim Fricker asked if there are things the MSA and the College should be thinking about in order to broadly address usage patterns. Del Pereira suggested that they could look at more preventative services in the paramedical realm. In addition, if the plan could be integrated into health services on campus so that they can direct bill the plan, it would be of great benefit to students.

Tim Fricker asked what trends are concerning at Mohawk, compared to other plans. Del Pereira stated that the types of drugs that are coming out are concerning to everyone. There are a growing number of biologic drugs coming out that have extremely high price tags – sometimes as much as \$250,000 per year. Pharmacare and many health plans are not prepared. However, Mohawk's plan has a drug maximum of \$5,000 per year so they should not be heavily impacted.

Alan Griffiths thanked Del Pereira for his presentation. Del left the meeting at this time.

## **PART II – OPEN**

The Open portion of the meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m.

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Speaker's Remarks

Alex Presta welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 1.2 Approval of the Agenda

**Moved by Katie Agnew, seconded by Samantha Hoover to approve the agenda.**

**CARRIED.**

2. President's Report

Samantha Hoover's written report was attached to the meeting package. She thanked everyone who participated in MSA day and thanked the directors for their hard work with their first Student Rep. meeting. She highlighted a few areas.

Next Tuesday the MSA is hosting the Informal Advocacy Colleges Committee group. Representatives from five schools will be present.

The College's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event on November 10<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

3. Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the Board Meeting, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Moved by Ireland Stevens, seconded by Trevor Nagy to approve the minutes of the MSA Board of Directors' meeting, dated September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**CARRIED.**

4. College Update

Tim Fricker applauded the messaging and the communications from the MSA with regards to the strike. He thanked the MSA for providing the academic supports to students who may need them. He noted that he and Wayne Poirier are meeting daily with Alan Griffiths and Samantha Hoover to provide updates.

The College has a morning meeting and a daily debrief meeting focussed on communication plans, service hours, etc. They are being very proactive and transparent in sharing the truth.

They are getting a lot of questions about refunds, and the answer is that there will be no refunds as the College is doing everything it can to ensure that the semester is completed in a reasonable amount of time.

The College's executive group has been delivering coffee on the line throughout the week. There have been a few incidents reported on the picket line and the College is communicating to everyone the importance of being respectful of the picketers.

Jonah Schaufler-Biback asked about the apprenticeship orientation that is supposed to be starting next week. Tim Fricker stated that they are having that conversation with the Ministry although no decisions have been made yet.

5. MCACES Advisory Council Update

Pearl Mendonca's written report was attached to the meeting package. The conversation at the last meeting focussed on the fact that there was a potential for a strike involving day time instructors and that CE classes would continue. That changed the night before the strike when the College made the decision to postpone CE classes.

They are currently gathering information from Continuing Education students to determine if they need clarity on any issues surrounding the strike, or their return to classes.

6. Old Business

6.1 Financial Update

The financial update was attached to the meeting package. Andrew Pidsadny noted that, overall, there was a decrease of approximately \$20,000 in the business operations, but noted that there has been a lot of changes and they are working on the issues.

Student Services saw an increase in bus pass revenue due to charging a replacement fee, and there was a decrease in frosh ticket sales in the Events department.

Kyle Datzkiw stated that the Board needs to have metrics set for the operations area. Alan Griffiths stated that the way the MSA reports numbers to the Board don't tell a holistic picture of what's happening in the operations area. He and Sandy Tepsic have discussed providing a different report to the Board, which includes what the driving factors are.

Sandy Tepsic stated that she can provide the financial report, in any way the Board wishes. She added that there has been a significant amount of change the past couple years. She felt that once the team is solid and the processes are in place, it's easier to hold areas accountable and look for opportunities to save.

Kyle Datzkiw asked about the increased bus pass revenue. Wendy Rolfe explained that, this summer, the bus pass had to be distributed out of the MSA office. There were two separate cards and students were charged a replacement fee of \$25.00 if they lost their bus pass. Typically the bus pass is a sticker and students haven't been charged to replace them.

6.2 Mental Health Day Update

Samantha Hoover distributed a mental health day update. She outlined the actual costs of the event, which ended up costing \$394.36. She noted that they had

approximately 150 students participate and each of those interacted with a member of the MSA Mental Health committee or street team member.

She noted that they decided to scale back on the event due to the faculty strike.

The remaining funds allotted to the mental health committee will be used during a mental health week that they are planning.

### 6.3 Strike Update

Alan Griffiths stated that the MSA management team started working on a strike continuity plan approximately a month ago, and had plans in place for when the strike began. He asked Rachel Hamilton to update the Board on communications surrounding the strike.

Rachel Hamilton stated that, over the last week, the MSA has had 3,988 page views. There are 8,000 followers, and messages have reached over 19,000 people. The live-stream of the strike information sessions had over 3300 views. Samantha Hoover's formal announcement that the strike was happened had 952 photo clicks and reached over 12,000 people. The update on Continuing Education classes had 370 photo clicks, with 2594 people reached. The tips for crossing the picket line had 611 photo clicks and reached 4300 people.

The MSA website is getting a lot of traction with 50% of the site visitors looking at the strike update information.

She provided the Board members with some tips when communicating to students about the strike. Board members should only give out information that they are sure about, keep the messaging positive and reiterate any MSA messaging. She recommended they avoid sharing only one side of the story, adding fuel to the fire and answering questions they don't know the answer to.

Samantha Hoover reminded the Board that they agreed to do office hours during reading week. She noted that if anyone had previous travel plans, they can schedule those hours before or after the break. During their hours Board members should be assisting in answering questions and going out into the halls and talking to the student who are on campus. In addition, the Board should begin working on plans for when the strike is over and how they will get the Student Rep. program back on track.

The IACC has drafted a letter to go to the MPP's and Deb Matthews that Samantha Hoover reviewed with the Board.

Kyle Datzkiw congratulated the MSA on the great job they've done with communicating information about the strike.

7. New Business

7.1 Replacement of Vacant Positions

Samantha Hoover noted that since the V.P. Fennell position was vacant, two Board members, Ireland Stevens and Jennifer Huegel, put their names forward to fill the vacancy. Each of them had an opportunity to address the Board, then left the meeting with the remaining members voted on whom to select.

When they returned to the meeting, Samantha Hoover thanked them both for applying for the position and congratulated Ireland Stevens on being selected as the new V.P. Fennell for the remainder of the 2017-2018 term of office.

The position of Community and Urban Studies Directors is also vacant. Applications are currently being accepted and interviews will be scheduled shortly. Now that the Business Director position is also vacant, they will post for that position as soon as possible.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Executive Committee

Andrew Pidsadny noted that the Executive Committee approved several donation requests to support student initiatives. These include: a Special Olympic event in the DBARC and Carpe Noctem in the Arnie. They also reviewed and increased several of the budget lines for the IAHS campus.

Alan Griffiths brought forward the ATM service agreement. It is a three-year agreement for the ATM machines in the Student Centre and DBARC. Currently the fee is \$1.00 per transaction, and the MSA gets .85 cents. The Executive Committee approved an additional three year term and to keep the fee at \$1, making it the lowest fee on campus for ATM machines. It was noted that ATM services are steadily decreasing, but it is still a valuable service to have on campus.

8.1.1 Minutes of the Meeting, September 27, 2017

**Moved by Andrew Pidsadny, seconded by Samantha Hoover to approve the minutes of the MSA Executive Committee meeting, dated September 27, 2017.**

**CARRIED.**

## 8.2 Mental Health Committee

8.2.1 Minutes of the Meeting, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8.2.2 Minutes of the Meeting, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8.2.3 Minutes of the Meeting, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Moved by Trevor Nagy, seconded by Ireland Stevens to approve the minutes of the MSA Mental Health Committee meetings, dated August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

**CARRIED.**

## 9. Reports

9.1 Executive Director's Report – as attached to the meeting package.

9.2 V.P. Finance Report – as attached to the meeting package.

9.3 V.P. Fennell Report – position vacant – no report

9.4 V.P. Marketing & Communications Report – as attached to the meeting package.

9.5 V.P. Health Sciences Report

Katie Agnew's written report was attached to the meeting package.

She highlighted that she has 51 Student Reps and had great attendance at their first meeting. They will be hosting their own Backpack to Briefcase event on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Today they were supposed to announce the launch of the new gym partnership with the YMCA, which allows IAHS students to access any YMCA gym in the surrounding area. Samantha Hoover congratulated Katie Agnew on advocating for her students with regards to the gym issue.

9.6 V.P. Stoney Creek Report

Jonah Schaufler-Biback's written report was attached to the meeting package.

He highlighted that they've had some ups and downs with events – and had to cancel their first Student Rep meeting and postpone several events because of the strike.

They organized some breast cancer awareness initiatives and had great turnout and good feedback on those activities.

- 9.7 Business Director Report – as attached to the meeting package.
- 9.8 Technology Director Report – as attached to the meeting package.
- 9.9 Media & Interdisciplinary Studies Director Report – as attached to the meeting package.
- 9.10 Community & Urban Studies Director Report – position vacant – no report.

**Moved by Jennifer Huegel, seconded by Kyle Datzkiw to collectively approve the area reports.**

**CARRIED.**

10. Questions and Announcements - none

11. Next Meeting Date

Board Meeting – Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 5:30 pm dinner, 6:00 pm presentation, 6:30 pm call to order. All Board reports and agenda items are due Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, 12:00 noon, The Arnie.

Mid-Year Retreat – January 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – YMCA Geneva Park.

12. Adjournment

**Moved by Ireland Stevens, seconded by Andrew Pidsadny to adjourn the Open portion of the meeting and move into the Closed portion.**

**CARRIED.**

The Open portion of the meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

### **PART III – CLOSED**

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Samantha Hoover, President

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Alan Griffiths, Executive Director

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Date