

NSTU Governance and Policy Committee

Year End Report 2011-2012

Mandate

The mandate of the new Governance and Policy Committee is to develop and maintain an ongoing consciousness of, commitment to, and practice of all aspects of good governance with the Provincial Executive and within the Nova Scotia Teachers Union as a whole.

To that end, the Governance and Policy Committee shall:

1. Develop and review policy with a view to authority, responsibility and accountability;
2. Regularly review the governance relationships between and amongst the
 - (a) Individual members
 - (b) Annual Council
 - (c) Provincial Executive
 - (d) Locals
 - (e) Regional Representative Councils
 - (f) Standing Committees
 - (g) Professional Associations, and
 - (h) Staff of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.
3. Study the principles and practices of good governance;
4. Regularly review the terms of references for this Committee;
5. Set out annual priorities for the work of this Committee;
6. Make recommendations for the consideration of the Provincial Executive;
7. Consider such matters as referred by the Provincial Executive.

Terms of Reference:

- i. Review the structure of other Canadian teacher organizations for relevance to NSTU;
- ii. Recommend an effective and efficient representation model for Provincial Executive.
- iii. Recommend an effective organizational structure for NSTU leadership and governance;
- iv. Recommend clear roles and responsibilities for all elements of the NSTU structure.
- v. Recommend an implementation process and timeline.

Composition & Meeting Frequency:

The work of the Governance and Policy Committee will be strengthened by:

- Having one member of the Provincial Executive representing each region;
- Having one or two member(s) of Staff attend the meetings to assist the Committee;
- Holding regularly scheduled meetings with dates to be determined annually by the Committee; and
- Ensuring that meeting structures and processes are reviewed annually.

Budget: The budget for the year was \$5,775.00 and \$8,643.00 was actually spent.

Committee Members:

Bill Bruhm, Co- Chair

Pat Hillier, Co-Chair

Angela Gillis

Jacinta Gracie

Damian Hall

Tammy Landry

John MacKay

Alexis Allen, President

Bill Redden, Executive Director

Ron Brunton, Executive Staff Officer

Audrey Cuvilier – Administrative Support

2011-2012 Summary of Activities

The Governance and Policy Committee met 8 times on September 23, September 30, October 20, November 21, 2011, January 18, March 29, April 20 and May 4, 2012.

Recommendations and Actions

- Recommended changes to By-Laws, Policy and Operational Procedures concerning NSTU Professional Associations. These changes primarily reflect improving the accuracy of the language used and do not fundamentally alter the function or structure of Professional Associations.
- Recommended changes to NSTU Operational Procedures with regard to Special Provincial Executive meetings, voting between Executive meetings and the expenditure of funds for donations that due to timing cannot be delayed until the next Provincial Executive meeting.
- Recommended changes to Policy and Operational Procedures concerning procedures associated with a tentative agreement.
- Provided analysis of the implications of changing the timeline associated with the Provincial Executive review of any tentative agreement to the Executive.

On-going work

The following issues remain active agenda items for the Committee and information is still being sought. No recommendations are yet formulated for Provincial Executive consideration.

- Discussions continue concerning the organizational structure of NSTU Professional Associations
 - Funding
 - Annual Provincial Professional Development Day
 - Professional learning opportunities for members outside the Professional Development Conference
 - Developed discussion paper
 - Held joint meeting with PACC to get initial feedback and conversation concerning how to best support the professional learning needs of members. (May 4)

- Structural implications of the impact of fewer members and loss of revenue as per Provincial Executive directive related to 5-year budget stability. Projections were reviewed.
 - Held joint meeting with Finance and Property (April 20)
 - Alternative formats for Council
 - Provincial Executive structure
 - Regional governance

Respectfully submitted

Pat Hillier, Co-Chair

Bill Bruhm, Co-Chair