

NSTU Governance and Policy Committee

Year End Report 2012-13

Mandate

The mandate of the 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 \$9,867.00 was actually spent.

Committee Members:

Pat Hillier, Chair (February 8, 2013- July 31,2013)

Bill Bruhm, Chair (August1, 2012- February 8, 2013)

Angela Gillis

Jacinta Gracie

Louis Robitaille

Kim Frank

Tammy Landry

John MacKay

Shelley Morse, President

Bill Redden, Executive Director

Debbie Mclsacc, Executive Staff Officer

Audrey Cuvilier – Administrative Support

Meeting dates:

August 14, October 12, October 19, December 7, February 8, February 22, March 1, April 4.

Work of the Committee

The main focus of the committee this year was on Annual Council in regards to fiscal responsibility and addressing ways to make the time of Council more efficient. The size of Council (number of participants), the business conducted and the length of Council were the main areas addressed.

Recommendations forwarded to Council were intended to reduce numbers so as to allow the NSTU to have more flexibility on location, when to hold Annual Council, to use the time spent on Annual Council more efficiently, and to effect cost savings as membership numbers continue to decline. A change in the number of observers per Local was made effective Annual Council 2013. Recommendations involving changes to Operational Procedures were forwarded to the Provincial Executive for action.

Following the directive of the Provincial Executive, the Committee also examined the makeup and mandates of the provincial Public Affairs and Public Relations Committees, as well those in other provinces and in the Locals. A recommendation to combine the 2 committees was made

to the Provincial Executive for their consideration. A mandate for the combined committee as well as makeup of members accompanied the recommendation. The committee also reviewed the mandates and structures of NSTU Standing 'Program' Committees for relevancy and effectiveness.

A joint meeting with Finance and Property was held October 12 to discuss the financial issues dealing with resolution 2012-NB2 . On February 22-23, a joint meeting of the Governance and Policy Committee and of the Professional Association Presidents took place to explore the successes and challenges of the Professional Associations. Topics included attendance at conferences, leadership and member involvement and finances.

To fulfill the mandate of looking at the administration of professional development to members of the Union, the committee met with representatives of the Professional Associations to carry on dialogue regarding ways of continuing to provide professional development successfully to the members of the NSTU.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Hillier, Co-Chair