

NSTU Governance and Policy Committee

Year End Report 2013-2014

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.

Committee Members:

Kim Frank (Chair)
Louis Robitaille
Mike Stewart
Stacy Thorburn
Paul Boudreau
Cindy MacKinnon
Sally Capstick
Tammy Landry
Shelley Morse, President
Joan Ling , Executive Director
Debbie McIsaac, Executive Staff Officer
Audrey Cuvilier – Administrative Support

Meeting dates:

October 17, December 6, March 3, May 12, June 6

Budget: The budget for the year was 5,775.00 and the actual spent to year end was \$8034.48 due to the number of meetings required to complete the work of the committee.

Work of the Committee

The committee revisited the recommendations forwarded to Council 2013 after feedback from a number of sources indicated that there was not a clear understanding of the larger picture regarding these proposed changes to Council. They were submitted again to Council 2014 and Locals were advised that a member of the committee could attend pre-council sessions to present background information regarding the resubmitted resolutions.

The committee's main focus this year was on the Provincial Executive. After a workshop with the Provincial Executive a number of items in the guidebook were reviewed with recommendations forwarded to Provincial Executive for consideration. These recommendations were intended to clarify language and display good governance within our organization. Specific areas of review were Role of the Past President, removal of a member of the Provincial Executive, accountability, Elections and appointments, nominating committee, selection of table officers and electoral regions.

As a result of resolutions from Council 2013, the committee reviewed our relationship with CTF and its benefits. A report was submitted to council 2014.

Finally, the committee set priorities for the new 2014-15 committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Frank Chair