

Council Minutes
January 24th, 2016

Present: Meghan MacDonald, Cassia Tremblay, Katie Dodsworth, Isaac Turner, Danny Pink, David Rankin, Nick Carpenter, Hillary Elliott, Hannah Stordy, Troy Mrazek, Bridget Burgess, Emily Gale, Kundle Idris, Ryan Finn, Shelby MacLennan, Mikaela Henderson, Janet Tait, Delaney Walting, Carl Miller, Mike Masserey, Sean Ryan, Dr. Khouray

Absent with Regrets: Taylor Chase, Alex Phillipoff, Alex Carney, Anne Sirois

Review Minutes from Last Meeting:

Amend Dr. Khourary's name and Riley Hall
Unanimously approved.

Amendment to Agenda → strike and table open discussion of Xaverian Weekly Financial Statement

Motion seconded

Motion discussed

Unanimously approved.

Another amendment → Amendment seconded to combine to special reports to council

Call to question

Unanimously approved

Business Arising

Nothing to add.

Constituency Reports:

Business: Women in Business society held an event which was widely successful, CEO of Porsche Canada also came and spoke. Both councilors working on getting back into swing of things after Christmas break

Science: Bio letter writing to dean of science → course reductions due to retirement and sabbatical, petition started

Tentative event being planned for all science students

Arts: met with Breaking the Silence campaign, the St.FX model UN society preparing to leave for this week, various social events being planned, dinners and clothing orders, planning to meet with more society presidents in the upcoming weeks

Graduate: issues with grants lately which has been solved, a couple of weeks ago two students had a paper published in Marine Biology, met with CASA grad council about policies in regards to sexual violence, child care and grant applications

Education: some events recently, paint night this past week very successful, event planning for upcoming banquet, curling event was successful this past week, clothing orders being made, upcoming elections

International: new international students this semester, able to utilize DriveU to show them around town and assist with groceries, planning another international wing night for this semester, also planning for an upcoming dinner

Upper Campus: Two years eve attendance was a success for upper campus, Jungle party and Lane Hall gala not as successful because of snow storm, BathTub cup happened this past Friday → successful, Visor party new tradition, 10 days till BurMAC

Lower Campus: TNT/Chillis this Friday, hoping to get more feedback this term than last term, been working with security on main door issue brought to councilors attention from constituents

Off-Campus: lots happening lately, working with Govs to plan an OC/Govs gala and end of year banquet, off-campus is going to pair up with environmental sustainability office for events this semester, unable to find communal office hour this semester but was able to find communal constituent hour, hike to Sugar Moon Farm is upcoming

Frosh: put up a survey upon arriving back this semester, students feel overwhelmed in their first semester but are now looking to join in some

Executive Reports

President Troy Mrazek: able to establish full-time positions with SU, Convenience store open right now the pharmacy part of the store is still being renovated, hoping to have the pharmacy done by September of next academic year, Dry-cleaning and bill payment should be ready soon, update on noise bylaw amendment there is an upcoming meeting, there will be an update meeting on 3:30 Thurs Feb 4, weekend in Halifax regarding provincial politics and students role in it, in Feb will be gone for most of the month for lobby conference with VP External in Halifax and Ottawa the week following this

Update on SUB renovation movement → narrowed down to 3 potential architects, two of whom are from Halifax

Update on residence changes with VP internal will expand on

Lots of meetings lately, specifically with University Strategic Planning Committee

Vice President Hannah Stordy: sat on Quality of Life committee which deals with issues such as student breaks, mental health etc. which is looking for 3 more students to sit on the committee for anyone interested email Hannah

University Senate met in January

University Sexual Violence policy is just about done which is really exciting

Student Union Equity Advocate is working hard on washroom inclusivity project

Student Union Job Fair on Feb. 9th (tentative date) to explain to students about our positions within the Student Union

Equity Issues: accessibility issues related to adequate snow removal

More often hears about issues through the grapevine rather than directly, encouragement that students should feel welcome to come see Hannah directly, office 412

Question: With the job fair will sodexo or student security be involved?

Response: at the present, no. We are open to this but the general idea for the job fair is to advertise our positions within the Students Union employment

VP Activities and Events Nick Carpenter: two years eve was first event back and was most successful supersub this year

We are in house cup season now, meeting last Sunday with security, res life, VP internal, Pres, VPs and hockey coaches about rules and expectations during the game

BathTub cup happened this past Friday

TNT/Chillis this upcoming Friday

BurMAC the following Wednesday and all other cups after the break

Been to some of the residence changes meetings which VP Internal will discuss in more detail later

VP Communications Hillary Elliot: currently a survey out from Maritime Bus for feedback from students about adding additional times for the Feb Break

Will be starting a website soon about Website renovations

Had an AUT meeting, the video hoping to launch will be released after the break

Made the decision to get rid of Vine account and transfer to Parascopes

Video on positive rivalry month upcoming

Working on promoting more about upcoming elections

Reminder about debate tomorrow for Pres and VP election

VP Internal Bridgett Burgess: MacIsaac is finally off of quiet hours and trying a new kind policy where quests must be signed in if after 8pm

Elephant in the Room campaign going well

House cups have begun, taking over for Nick with some house cups such as TriMac and TNT/Chillis

Been working with Goves lately helping first years with their concerns and questions, planning a mixer in the upcoming months to help them out

Mental Health Awareness week starting Monday, everyone is encouraged to check it out

We have been doing mental health seminars in all of the residences, planning large seminar for faculty, students, staff and community → date not yet finalized

Residence Changes → a lot of meetings over the last couple months from the Student Union side, Nick, Troy, and Bridgett met consistently on these, happy to announce there will be an email going out to students allowing 6 students to return to the TriMacs although MacIsaac will remain a first year residence aside from president and vps → alumni will only be permitted into TriMacs on December 3

Moving forward there will be more committees to encourage more dialogue on residence issues → came as a result from document submitted

Question: in your report you mentioned that student advocates will be visiting residences about available services, will they be visiting off-campus?

Response: primarily targeting in residence because most of the issues we do have occur here but are looking into a meeting for off-campus students as well

VP External Emily Gale: went to meetings in Halifax as Troy mentioned earlier

Currently executive director is working on 2016 Nova Scotia budget

The pre-budget submission looks pretty good so far

Students Nova Scotia had a large role in the increase in Grad student grants

After returning from Lobby Week and CASA meetings in Ottawa will hold meeting

Question: can you circulate the pre-budget submission?

Response: I believe that I will be able to do that

Faculty Representative Remarks:

Admissions are on target so far on campus

Mental health first aid → University has been taking mental health seriously and people on campus have begun to be trained in recognizing the signs of mental health issues

St.FX for SAFE → receiving more donations, students are participating, took the family tobogganing which was a lot of fun

Upcoming event with one of the refugees who will come to speak about his experiences

SLUT → very successful last semester

There will also be an all-student production upcoming this semester

The Humanities Colloquium is being altered, a lot of concern that it will not be successful

Student Union General Manager Report:

Thanks to executive teams and previous teams who have worked to transfer workers for the University appointed to the Students Union to full-time positions with Students Union.

We have picked a date for the Student Union award banquet last Wednesday of March

Also working on making the awards gender inclusive → (no more male or female of the year)

Convenience store → if anyone and their constituents find there is something that there is missing at the store, do not hesitate to let the staff know they are willing to work with students

Committee Reports:

Organizational Review Committee → great meetings and discussions, will be giving a report to council on some recommendations in the near future

Budget and Finance Committee → agreed to allocate money to two different societies on campus

Special Reports to Council:

Andrew Beckett:

In relation to current year operating results, we are in a deficit which is not ideal

Move toward a balanced budget within the next 3 years which appears to be on track
Low Price of Oil as well as low Canadian dollar not helping

Currently around a 2 million deficit for 2016/2017 budget, hoping to improve this moving forward

Under early retirement incentive program we wanted to promote retirement and refresh programs at St.FX

In terms of fees, the board has approved that to be 3% increase a year for the next three years → there will be a 6% increase in tuition fees for next year which puts us on the same level on many other schools in Nova Scotia but still below some other schools
On the residence side of things, we recognize residence fees are amongst the highest in the province so the aim is to not increase them more than 1% next year

Capital projects → Mount Saint Bernard development project has been approved by board, will be complete by the middle of August, some components of project will be completed by May → goal is to have the Mount back in use for this upcoming fall total cost approximately 15 million mostly coming from private donations

The Coady students will be moving out of Coady MacNeil and moving into Powers hall Energy Management → first phase of work will be done within the next 18 months on campus, mostly changing lighting and improving air quality, the second phase is about 38 million dollar project and involves removing the central heating plant, this will be much more efficient than what we are doing right now → if this is all accomplished we will be able to pride ourselves on being the most environmentally sustainable campuses in the province

Nicholson Hall renovations → 40-50 million dollar range which comes mostly from private donates and will involve partial of full demolition of Nicholson hall

Over the three years we have about 120 million dollars worth of capital projects.

Contract Negotiations: several different notable unions to discuss

3 of the 4 have expired/will expire soon but have drawn new contracts that will take them all the way to 2018

Question: in regards to early retirement incentive, if nine people retire?

Response: we will replace half

Question: are there any specific departments that will be more affected by early retirement incentive?

Response: there is about 60 professors eligible for it, the issue here is that many professors have a specific expertise that would be difficult to replace but this could also be seen as an asset because upon new hiring we can hire professors with new views and specialties

Question: were you planning on bringing phase two of the environmental sustainability to the senate?

Response: hoping to bring this to the board of governors by the end of February

Question: In regards to MSB development, will this building be accessible to various students? Also is it co-ed and will the bathroom be gender free and gender neutral?

Response: it will be accessible for various students → elevators have been ordered, will be a co-ed residence as many of the others on campus are, in regards to washrooms many will be private washrooms which are gender-neutral

Question: is the university project any impact on class schedules and time-tables down the road with the Mulrone project?

Response: difficult to speak to now, currently aware that it could take two construction seasons to complete the project however it may be more cost-effective to completely demolish the building which means it is likely for one whole academic year Nicholson hall will be unavailable which could lead to a significant issue with academic program availability

Question: how will the Annex play into all this?

Response: the plan is to also demolish the Annex with the demolition of Nicholson since it poses many problems due to its old age

Question: In terms of consultation surrounding fee increases what is that going to look like?

Response: not sure the best way to get students out to participate in consultation, looking at meeting with nurses and town hall meetings catered toward students

**Speaking toward a question from last special presentation regarding late fees for international students → fully willing to wave fees for these situations

Question: in regards to parking with the upcoming renovations, would lane or any other additional parking be added on campus?

Response: with the paving of Lane Hall this summer it will increase parking spots on campus, also looking at new areas for parking moving forward

St.FX for SAFE/Pause for a Cause:

This is a university wide humanitarian campaign that is being funded mainly by the faculty, recently been working on getting donations from alumni

Believes as students there is so much more we can be doing to get involved with this initiative

Pause for a Cause campaign is a call to students to consciously think about spending money on various things in their lives that could go to a greater cause

Current problems being faced for this campaign with issues such as how to donate money is not student friendly

Important to participate and demonstrate to the world that students do care, they do participate, and they can enact change

Contact x2012brr@stfx.ca with any questions or concerns on how to get involved

Question: when does Pause for the Cause start?

Response: Right now.

Question: Can we start an internet nomination train to raise awareness for pause for the cause?

Response: Great idea

Response 2: VP Hannah Stordy nominates everyone in the room to this.

Question: is there donation boxes or anything similar on campus for this?

Response: working on this moving forward, trying to find good locations for this.

Time Yielded to Emily Gale: in concerns to the donation boxes we are trying to find places that are accessible to students, currently trying to find a ways to do this, if anyone has any ideas moving forward please contact

Time Yielded to Bridget Burgess: have boxes already been made?

Response: not yet

Time yielded to Riley Erickson: would you accept “goods” rather than money that could be helpful?

Response: as of now we don’t really need such items but if we raise enough money to bring another family then certainly acceptable

Washroom Inclusivity Presentation:

Washrooms are very political spaces and there are ways to make these places more inclusive and accessible

This project is an on-going campaign that will map washroom and assess their inclusivity to various members of our community

Wants to spark critical thinking among students about these spaces and ways to improve them.

Open discussion being held Monday January 25th on this project at 11:30 in Council Chambers

Hopeful that five councilors would be willing to help out with the campaign moving forward

This initiative has been gaining support across the country on various campuses and believe it is time for

Question: many students in education are very interested in this or possibly directly involved in it, have you reached out to them?

Response: they have been invited to Mondays event and moving forward there will be meetings on how to work together with them

Question: have you looked into the capabilities of using the app St.FX uses and using that map?

Response: that’s defiantly something I will look into and work with Hillary on

Question: compared to other schools how is St.FX doing in terms of inclusive washrooms?

Response: in terms of our new buildings they have been pretty good for gender inclusivity, the older buildings pose more of an issue

Discussion: another issue we have on campus is a multi-purpose facility for students of various faiths which is something we should greatly consider moving forward.

Breaking the Silence:

It is a voluntary Guatemalan-Maritime Solidarity network

Goal is to serve JustUs! Coffee at on location on St.FX campus and promote the location. JustUs! Has meaningful partnerships with BTS and the Coady International Institute and is roasted locally and certified organic and fair trade

It is better tasting, quality, for the environment, for the local economy, for small producers, for our global reputation and student satisfaction

Looking to engage students, faculty, groups and other committees while building and sustaining connections with both Sodexo and JustUs!

This is a very small movement brought on by 6 students at St.FX but it has so far been successful with approximately 500 signatures on petition just from Facebook promotion alone.

Moving forward want to involve business students with cost analysis, meet with sodexo and being discussions as well as promotion

Question: is there anywhere in Antigonish that you can get JustUs! Coffee

Response: Yes tall and small carries it

Question: If we make the switch will the cost of coffee increase or decrease?

Response: we have to do a cost-analysis but we are aiming to keep coffee at least at the same price if not cheaper

Question: Have you been in touch with JustUs! About their ability to provide such a large quantity of coffee?

Response: As long as there is demand, there can be supply. In previous years JustUs! Coffee was served in meal hall

Question: do you know why it was discontinued?

Response: it had not been promoted the way it needed to be.

Question: despite support what could we do to help you?

Response: we really need help handling sodexo, we don't want to step on toes but we also need to be firm in our stance and overall goals

Old Business

Nothing to add.

New Business

Motion to fix marketing hours.

Motion seconded.

Motion discussed by VP Communications.

Call to question.
Motion seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to ratify terms of reference for Organizational Review
Motion seconded.
Motion discussed.
Call to question.
Motion seconded.
Motion passed unanimously

Motion to ratify societies omnibus
President Troy would like to make an amendment to the list of societies to be ratified to include St.FX for SAFE.
Motion to amend seconded.
Call to question.
Motion to amend passed unanimously.
Question: would like to know what some of the acronyms stand for on hand out?
Response: Acronyms explained
Question: what is the medical response society?
Response: society explained.
President Troy would like to yield time to Bridgett → question about medical response society has there been more information in regards to who will be providing training etc?
Response: they have assured that they will not be taking a huge role or trying to overtake societies role in these issues,
Time yielded to Sean Ryan → met with various people involved in this society, a similar society exists at Dalhousie University, currently right now the society is just interested in seeing if students are interested
Time yielded to Hillary Elliot: as it appears on the handout will these acronyms be the official
Quick comment on DivestX from back when we did the society review → explained society further.
Call to question.
Seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to move to open discussion of Students Union Sexual Policy
Motion seconded.
Motion discussed → the university has just finished its draft and while there are some really great things there wasn't much consultation with students so it is believed that the Students Union should have its own policy. Moving forward would like to form a committee and hold a forum of what students would like to see.
Question: this policy would be the students taking a stance on the issue?
Response: yes, it is a lot more than that but we must also take a stance on the issue depending on what students want to see.
Question: is the new policy that the university come up with official?

Response: yes it is. There is a final draft, there are still a few changes being made, the next steps are that the policy will be brought to the senate for approval, which has yet to happen. Although it is still confidential as of now, input is still valued

Question: how many students are involved in this working group?

Response: there was one overarching committee with only one student but a larger committee as well with more students

Question: do you feel like our committee will have more student input on the policy than the universities?

Response: our policy will be written entirely by students.

Question: does the students union currently have an policies on this issue?

Response: as of now there is no specific policy for sexual violence.

Question: on an on-going basis do you see the policy being upheld?

Response: it would be up

Question: will the university's policy be made public before it is passed through senate?

Response: cannot guarantee this answer but believe that it would be passed before it becomes public

Discussion closed.

Motion to move to open discussion of Food/Sustainability Week

Motion seconded.

Now in open debate:

Working to plan this event moving forward from March 7th-11th with events planned everyday.

Just want to bring the event to everyone's attention and inform anyone that wants to help to feel free.

Time yielded to VP Communications: when you hold the local brew night do you think the brewers will come in for a question and answer period?

Response: that is the goal moving forward.

Time yielded to VP internal: do you know who will be at the panel?

Response: yes some names have up but Emily Gale may be able to speak to this better.

Time yielded to VP external: lists of names who have expressed interest in this panel.

Time yielded to VP internal: is there a topic for this panel?

Response: more just sustainable food and specifically a more meat free diet.

Time yielded to VP internal: interested in all of this and would love to help yet in any way possible. Good idea to reach out to head of Food Resource Center.

Time yielded to VP communications: reminder to utilize marketing office if they need it moving forward.

Motion to move out of open discussion.

Motion seconded.

Call to question.

Unanimously approved.

Motion to support BTS Better Coffee Campaign

Motion seconded

Motion discussed

Call to question

Seconded

Motion unanimously approved.

Closing Remarks by Chair of Council

Motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded.

Call to question.

Motion unanimously approved.

Council adjourned