

Council Minutes
February 6th, 2016

Roll Call

Present: Taylor Chase, Meghan MacDonald, Cassia Tremblay, Katie Dodsworth, Isaac Turner, David Rankin, Nick Carpenter, Hillary Elliott, Hannah Stordy, Troy Mrazek, Bridget Burgess, Alex Carney, Emily Gale, Kundle Idris, Shelby MacLennan, Anne Sirois, Mikaela Henderson, Janet Tait, Delaney Walting, Carl Miller, Mike Masserey, Sean Ryan

Absent with Regrets: Alex Phillipoff, Danny Pink, Ryan Finn, Dr. Khouray

Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve minutes

Motion seconded

Call to question

Seconded

Unanimously approved

Business Arising

Nothing to add

Constituency Reports

Business: planning business banquet as well as Mikes Bike banquet for first year students, upcoming events from women in business society

Science: lots of events with the societies lately, chemistry invited to Dal's career night in March, upcoming survey about the schools accessibility from engineering students

Arts: Political science society planning dinner and clothing order, working with other societies such as the economic society who are travelling to Ottawa in the near future, general concern over retiring professors upcoming

Education: working on an upcoming banquet, work is being done on gender specific bathrooms in Xavier hall, the movie night this past week went well, working on upcoming event pending ERC approval that is a family square dance for SAFE

International: Not much has taken place since last meeting, the Chinese students are having a Chinese festival tonight, international student representatives have been meeting

Upper Campus: nothing to add

Governors/Apartment Style: games night in governors a couple days ago which was great, great RA relationship there, hockey tryouts took place with the new combined team for Apartment/Govs and Off Campus, looking into if there is interest in a house clothing order, Off-Campus/Govs hall gala

Off-Campus: glow-yoga tomorrow night in the dance studio, upcoming house cups and clothing orders in the near future

Frosh: still working on getting some students involved in societies, working on getting the university newspaper to be left in residence lounges to increase

Executive Reports

VP Activities and Events Nick Carpenter: House cups are still going on
Rumors that burMAC will not take place next year is not true
Sex Toy Bingo took place as well as the Prissilla show which were highly successful
Bieber night was rescheduled and seems to have been a success
The Inn will be closed next weekend due to reading week
Involved in residence meetings lately and upcoming as well

VP Communications Hillary Elliot: Met with representatives with Sean Ryan about OuLaLa and a new app which would play the role of banner on a mobile device
Question: the survey for the website last week, when will this survey be occurring? And is it possible to do a student union survey?
Response: one survey will be on the website and one on OuLaLa, we could do an overarching survey but issues often arise with such large surveys
Question: do you know how many people are currently signed up with OuLaLa?
Response: not at the moment, but roughly 1000

Vice President Hannah Stordy: New event upcoming job fair 5-7 in the Mackay room
Senate met this week, which will be discussed in more detail in future dates → students advocated to have study day moved to thanksgiving instead of November → approved
It is confirmed that there will be consultation with students for the new sexual violence policy in upcoming months
Still working toward a Students Union Sexual Violence policy which would advocate for the importance of this, keep university on its toes
First meeting for washroom inclusivity was a success
It is currently Pride Week which is great to get involved
This week a speaker from Amnesty International will come to talk to students about Human Rights and Canada
Question: will there be a written executive report to follow?
Response: Yes.

President Troy Mrazek: a lot of interviews lately in regards to residence changes and the overall statement is that its good to see St.FX maintain some culture and tradition but still working on improving things moving forward
Update session with town regarding noise by-law amendment, disappointed with the meeting, actual vote will be occurring on Feb. 15, have a follow-up meeting with some town councilors to voice concerns some more about issue before this date
A lot of meetings lately surrounding university budget surrounding a plan for student consultation, looking at holding sessions and meetings upon return from reading week

Also a lot of work lately on organizational review committee
In regards to retirement plan, they received more applicants than they expected but can't release definite numbers yet because the board needs to review their eligibility

VP Internal Bridget Burgess: Residence Priorities Project have already been touched on by other executives

Adopt a Res has been going well, it has been starting up different services in different residences

Attended the President Colloquium in Lane Hall

House cups have kept pretty busy

Last night had some pretty extensive damage in MacIsaac

End of the prediction for student resource center by the end of the year increase of 200 unique visitors

Training sessions tomorrow with house presidents and VPs

VP Finance Alex Carney: Meeting about health and dental plans for students who may be here in the summer etc.

More upcoming meetings this week

Budget wise has been very busy and reviewing what changes need to be made for next year

VP External Emily Gale: Attended the town by-law meeting, and as mentioned before not what was expected

Students NS has submitted their pre-budget submission, really impressed with it and looking forward to lobbying on it

Attended Presidents Colloquium, huge success

In terms of Residence Priorities Project attended first meeting and thinks it's a really great project

More Than Yes Campaign will be launched soon on campus

Student Union General Manager Report: Pat O'Connell will not be back next year as the Inn Manager and resumes have already been received

In line with Pause for the Cause, at the convenience store you can now donate money there with any purchase

Committee Reports:

Society Review Committee → met yesterday, will be discussed more later

Budget and Finance Committee → Donated \$540 to adoptive sports society

Special Reports to Council:

Nothing to add

Old Business:

Nothing to add

New Business:

Motion to Ratify Societies Omnibus

Second

Motion discussed

Call to question

Second

Unanimously approved

Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Executive Structure by the ORC

Second

Motion discussed → goal is to increase efficiency, transparency and accountability

Proposed that we change the structure of executive structure to a President, VP Academic Affairs, VP Finance & Operations, VP Residence Affairs, VP External Affairs, VP Activities and Events

Question: with the change to residence affairs there are a good portion of students who do not live in residence and how will this affect them?

Response: all the house presidents and off-campus leaders would continue to be supported by VP Residence Affairs in ways that the Student Union can

Question: could you clarify changes to the VP Academic Affairs?

Response: this is more of a literal reflection of what the Vice President already is involved in

Question: Curious as to why Bringing in the Bystander would go under the VP Academic Affairs?

Response: This is not set in stone, moving forward we may find that this office may fit better under another title. But as it stands now it makes the most sense

Question: by moving forward with this does that mean we are getting rid of the VP Communications position?

Response: Yes

Questions: Can you speak to the reasoning of this?

Response: we could be doing a better job in terms of communication, which has been a common theme. This job has been a lot of work on one student

Question: with the removal of this position will there be any sort of singular student position for communications?

Response: there will actually be more individuals on the marketing team if these changes were to go through

Question: how does this affect the budget?

Response: this are just proposed recommendations moving forward, if they are to be approved VP Finance will go through the budget to find the money for it (the money is already there we just need to move things around a bit for it)

Question: can we table this discussion on communications until we begin discussing the communications motion?

Motion to table to the next agenda item.

Second

Call to question

Second

Unanimously approved

Tabled.

After Being Tabled →

Question: do you think there are situations that could arise where the students union would lend more support to students who pay more money to live in residence?

Response: Don't think this would happen. This name change would be a proper reflection of what the office is already being done

Question: How do these changes play into the VP's voting ability in council?

Response: The VP Academic Affairs would still be elected and therefore able to vote

Question: In regards to VP Academic Affairs, will this be enacted for next year or the following?

Response: It will be enacted for this upcoming year but it is not a structural change just a name change

Question: Can you speak to the new relationship between half the council working directly with VP Academic Affairs

Response: In the eyes of council the VP Academic Affairs council is worth the same as all other votes. Ultimately they will be responsible to council above all else

Question: How does the equity officer fall into the VP Academic Affairs office?

Response: There would no longer be an equity officer because there will be an equity representative that sits on council and works with the Academic Affairs office

Question: Are these changes consistent with other student unions?

Response: Yes these are extremely common.

Call to Question

Second

Unanimously approved

Motion to recess.

Motion to return to council.

Motion to approve the proposed addition of a Full-Time Communications and Marketing Manager by the ORD

Second

Motion discussed → this would change the whole structure of the marketing team, CFXU and the Xaverian would be supported by this team as well as research officers, Print Media Coordinator, Digital Media Coordinator and a 7 person marketing team

Question: how has the Xaverian felt about these proposed changes?

Response: we haven't been able to engage in full-on consultation but if these proposes were to go through it is something that we would do

Question: Can we get some clarification from the Print Media Coordinator and Digital Media Coordinator from what we have now?

Response: The digital media coordinator would put emphasis and time into OuLaLa and print media would cover more of the poster making etc. This would be more well-rounded and can help increase collaboration

Question: Regarding the marketing team, is there any structure for this marketing team?

Response: it's going to the discretion of the full-time staff but we are aiming to have a well-rounded team who have various strengths

Question: Will there be any change to the Research Office position?

Response: It would be better if these people were trained in new and different ways that would be more beneficial

Question: Does the VP Communications currently sit on the committee that made this decision?

Response: does not sit on it but was there for an hour of consultation

Question: As the VP Communications do you support this decision?

Response: It's hard because it's never ideal to see a position taken away from a student for a full-time staff but to make this switch would be more beneficial and effective

Question: will there be someone from the marketing team who will sit on council?

Response: in the current structure no there is not but there should be no issue with the executives bringing communication news to council

Question: Is this reflective of any other student union organizations across the country?

Response: After attending a national conference this summer, we learned that the communications role across the country is almost 75% a full-time staff position. Only Acadia and Mount A still have these positions

Question: Moving forward into next year, how would this transition into next year for those students?

Response: this is more of a logistics question which we can look at should these recommendations be approved

Call to Question

Second

Unanimously approved.

Move to return back to previous agenda item.

Motion to approve the proposed changes to the Sub-Executive Structure by the ORC

Seconded

Motion discussed → Phase out Senior Class President and Vice President, 1 house council coordinator, entertainment coordinator (move to a large list serve of names to be contracted prior to events and paid per event), campus food strategy group coordinator and sustainability officer

Also recommending that equity advocate to become equity student representative (elected and sit on council), move to support under VP Finance and Operations: student food resource center coordinator and DriveU operations, addition of Research and Policy Associate to the office of the VP External Affairs, addition of International Health and Dental Plan Associate (recommended by the board of representatives)

Question: Will we be voting on these individually?

Response: We were planning on doing this omnibus

Clarification of the role of Senior Class President and Vice President and the discussion of why it is important for the senior class and should remain

Question: if this change were adopted who would take over the Senior Class President and VP's duties?

Response: Almost everything this year has been under the VP Activities and Events and the Bar Manager but it would be spread out moving forward

Question: Can we get more of a clarification of the duties of these roles after graduation?

Response: There are no enforced duties post graduation outlined in the by-laws but they may work with the alumni office

Representative from alumni office speaks about the role Senior Class President and VP play post graduation and its importance

Question: Could your office hire your own representative as a grad representative?

Response: I like the idea more that these representatives come from the students themselves but it's certainly an idea worth considering

Question: do we have numbers on how many students voted on last years election for senior class pres and vp?

Response: We could likely find the numbers but do not have numbers right now

*Move to vote on these issues individually and not omnibus

Move out of current motion

Second

Call to question

15 for

2 against

1 abstention

Motion discussed

Second

Motion passes

Motion to phase out Senior Class President and Vice President

Seconded

Motion discussed extensively

Question: would like to hear the honorarium discussed briefly

Response: Currently they receive 1500 for honorariums that could be used elsewhere for positions with higher workloads

Question: In terms of honorarium, it was mentioned that a review of the honorarium would be done to make sure the workload matched the honorarium, is this still a plan moving forward?

Response: if these structures are put into place, then the honorariums will be reviewed.

Call to question

Seconded

16 for

2 against

Motion to accept proposed recommendation of 1 house council coordinator instead of 2

Seconded

Motion discussed → Make position similar to society coordinator, that position works well.

Question: will this new position still be concerned with house points?

Response: yes this will still be their responsibility

Call to question

Second

Unanimously approved

Motion to phase out entertainment coordinator position

Seconded

Motion discussed

Question: expressing reservations on list serve plan, can we get clarification on who will be on this list/mass email?

Response: what we have discussed today is not set in stone of how it is going to be but a possible idea if this change is passed

Call to question

Second

Unanimously approved

Motion to accept proposed changes to phase out the Campus Food Strategy Group

Coordinator

Seconded

Motion discussed

Question: By taking away this position did the committee discuss plans to foster more engagement moving forward?

Response: that again is logistics but with a full-time communications staff it can be promoted that these opportunities are available

Question: Are there any societies on campus working toward food strategy?

Response: I don't know if there is an exact number but if there isn't any then there is no reason that there shouldn't be

Question: What will happen to Trick or Eat and Food Sustainability week, events which were previously under the responsibilities of this position?

Response: they technically already fall under VP External

Call to question

16 for

1 against

1 abstention

Motion to phase out Sustainability Officer

Seconded

Motion Discussed

Question: with the upcoming energy project should the union be considered about losing an officer who represents these interests?

Response: Currently to my knowledge, the sustainability officer and office are not involved in these issues its more on part of the environmental society

Call to question

Seconded

15 for

1 against

2 abstentions

Motion to move out of the motion to vote individually

Seconded

Call to question
Seconded
Unanimously approved

Motion to make proposed changes omnibus
Seconded
Call to question
Seconded
Unanimously approved
Return to omnibus voting for proposed changes to Sub-Executive

Question: Would the equity student representative have the same responsibilities that the officer has now?
Response: there will be more of an emphasis on equity
Call to question
Second
Unanimously approved

Motion to approve the proposed change to the Chair of Council position by the ORC

Seconded
Motion Discussed → Chair of Council only currently works in the academic year but this proposal recommends that Chair of Council position to work in the summer with compensation for this work
Question: will this be budgeted?
Response: Yes
Question: How do you ensure that these two parties do not work too close all summer?
Response: We've discussed the relationship and it wasn't a huge concern to anyone on the committee. It is a con but overall there will be far more pros to this change
Question: Will all these changes fall under the responsibility of the Chair to re-write the by-laws?
Response: Yes it will as well as By-Law and Policy committee
Call to question
Seconded
Unanimously approved

Motion to approve the proposed changes to council structure by the ORC

Seconded
Motion Discussed → phase out campus representatives (upper campus, lower campus, govts/apartment style, off-campus) in replacement of two Board of Governors representatives and an Equity representative while maintaining international and first year representatives
Question: Will there only be one student representative per academic category? (Science, Business, Arts etc.)
Response: Yes

Question: How is this inclusive when we are cutting out a ton of jobs?

Response: We've added a lot of positions as well but overall these decisions will be more efficient and beneficial

Call to question

Seconded

16 for

2 abstentions

Closing Remarks

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Seconded

Call to question

Seconded

Unanimously passed

Meeting adjourned.