

## Students' Union Representative Council Minutes – June 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

*Call to order 3:05pm*

### Roll Call

Present: Madeleine Gillmeister, Nicholas Favero, William Gatchell, Victoria Sandre, Bry Crabbe, Matthew MacDonald, Mikaela Henderson, Brandon Hamilton, Annie Sirois, Rachel LeBlanc, Chad Hasegawa, Taylor Chase, Dr. Joseph Houry

Absent with regrets: Mildred Syabeenzu, Cassia Tremblay, Connor O'Brien, Joelle French, Sean Ryan

Late: Ryley Erickson

Matthew MacDonald moves to approve the agenda; Taylor Chase is the seconder (8-0-0 – *PASSED*)

### Opening remarks

Brandon Hamilton - Welcome to the first meeting, this will be bit of test drive. Members in the gallery will be live tweeting (the Xav and the U twitter account). Those [student representatives] joining us online don't be scared to participate in the meeting. It has been a busy month but working on getting a formal report from Chair of Council for the future but will entertain any questions if there are any.

*Mi'Kmaq Acknowledgement*

### Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Taylor Chase moves to approve the minutes from last meeting; Matthew MacDonald is the seconder. Both nothing to add.

Victoria Sandre: Mistake Ann Sirois instead of Annie (*deemed friendly*). Pg 8 there is a last name missing (Taylor Chase notes the name should be Brady) – (*changed deemed friendly*).

William Gatchell: HCC Mark should be spelled Marek (*deemed friendly*). Horn should be Horne (*deemed friendly*).

Taylor Chase calls to question (8-0-0 – *PASSED*)

### Business Arising

None.

### Constituency reports

Board of Governors (Madeleine Gillmeister) – Building and Grounds Committee has had one meeting and will have full meeting next weekend. Information is confidential but there will hopefully be things to announce next council meeting. Building and Grounds Committee covers what the board wants to do moving forward with space availability on campus and what should be done with campus development. For example things like Brian Mulroney Center development. Do not want to say anything I can't at the moment but hopefully this helps.

Business (William Gatchell): There is a senate meeting coming up but nothing much coming from Dean of Business or constituents at this time.

Arts (Nicholas Favero): Nothing much from constituents at this time. Sat on the search committee for new Dean of Arts. The new name is still confidential but student interests

were sought out and well represented throughout the process. We did receive direct student feedback regarding this process which was great. Sat on hiring panels for numerous VPS and HPs, offers were made and waiting for offer acceptance and ratifications at next council meeting.

Science (Victoria Sandre): Since it is the summer, people have been laying low, but have had lots of questions regarding when course registration opens and what courses students should take when. Unable to attend the senate meeting coming up but am part of the Lab Use and Revision Committee (was on this committee last year) - nothing new on that front.

Graduate (Bry Crabbe): Summer research has begun. Sat on some hiring panels for HP/VPs and OCLs.

Education (Matthew MacDonald): Will be at next senate meeting there is spots on the agenda for Mulroney center and new courses so will report back after that meeting.

Senate Meeting updating exec on new professor and chair hiring's, not public yet but will bring those next meeting, Updated goals for the Education Society.

### Executive reports

President (Taylor Chase): Will be speaking to my report briefly. Culture change, one of my personal main goals; what does this look like? Still trying to develop a STRAT plan but broadly ensuring we are representing all students, and advocating for students more appropriately. Ensuring the engagement of all student groups, promoting autonomy of students union, and promoting safe student activities. Internally we have been busy. Grad weekend was a huge success. Worked with executive team and external contractor to grow and build relationships and goals for the year. Outlining auxiliary fees with the university and nailing down a TOR so students are made aware of where fees are going. Next Friday architects are coming to meet with students to discuss how the Mulroney center will impact campus (@5pm). Please let me know if you would like to come. BOG met and package is coming out next week. Librarian committee was exciting and selected a new candidate. Away at CASA with Mrs. Sirois and StudentsNS. Municipal election October 15<sup>th</sup>. We need to ensure the student voice is heard. Provincial election may be coming up soon as well.

Question from Victoria Sandre: For the architect meeting, will any new information be made public? Will anyone be live tweeting?

Response (Taylor Chase): Good question, this will occur after BOG and we will be able to circulate the BOG package, will look into live tweeting.

Question from Matthew MacDonald: In the STRAT plan you mentioned increasing engagement from students, how will you do this for municipal election? I would like to be involved in that.

Response (Taylor Chase): Will yield time to VP External.

Response (Annie Sirois): Electronic voting was approved at last town council meeting which will open up Oct 6<sup>th</sup>. Hoping to have an all candidates debate, will establish a committee for this to determine how to best target students. Will open to councillors and students at large.

Question from Nicholas Favero: What constitutes an eligible voter?

Response (Annie Sirois): Must be a resident of Nova Scotia for min 6months and need to be 18yrs of age.

VP Academic Affairs (Ryley Erickson): May has been a very busy month. Sat on Academic Planning and Priorities Committee discussing the direction for academics. Approved new leadership certificate course and came up with criteria for any other certificate courses we will want to have in the future. Leadership summit planning has started. Sat on the Joint Health and Occupational Safety Committee. Looking to update website and how FM can better manage work requests. Also discussing how to cut down on amount of emails they send. Senate date has been set. Sat on Student Orientation Committee; had 2 meetings so far – went over strengths and weaknesses for orientation week, everyone is on board for the theme which will be launched June 15<sup>th</sup>. Went to QUSIC and learned how to make StFX more accessible for queer students. Meeting with Dog den coordinator next week. Working on being a positive space trainer. The rainbow cross walk will be repainted. Learned a lot from slut shaming meeting, working with VP Activities and Events coordinating Ted talks. Hired BIBC.

Question by Matthew MacDonald: In your report you wrote there would be no more positive space training. Can you speak to that?

Response (Ryley Erickson): After I submitted report I found someone who could facilitate this so it could continue.

VP Finance (Chad Hasegawa): Sat on Campus Trust Finance Committee meeting. We went over interm financial statements and investments, going to the APO in June in Toronto. Looking into different companies for digital media for SUB for advertising internal and external services. Community garden is now behind West street apartments, all people in Antigonish can use it and extra food in September will be in SFRC. Starting to look into sponsorship renewals and hiring the sponsorship coordinator. Hopefully implementing a new system for house allocations this year (Hybrid house accounts system). Will be working with Julianne Mattie, Sean Ryan, Brandon Hamilton and VP Residence Affairs to do so.

Questions from Nicholas Favero: Is this a rearranging of allocations or increasing?

Response (Chad Hasegawa): This is going to allow houses to request money from a larger account (apply for funding). This will benefit smaller houses and help everyone be equal.

VP Activities and Events (Rachel LeBlanc): It has been a busy month. Lots of professional development activities, goal setting and brainstorming. Primary goal for this year's events is to provide students with wide range of activities and events that cater to everyone. Had leader lab and team bonding, brainstorming for o-week. Collaborating with Nick (Communications person) and Devon for o-week designs. Preliminary planning of ted talk series with Ryley Erickson and Chad Hasegawa. Met with Joelle French to start discussing o-week goals. SOC: 2 meetings so far. Reviewed strengths and weaknesses of last year's o-week. Also discussed positive rivalry in residence. Came up with orientation theme which was approved. Also trying to find a designated area for OC students during o-week. At COCA conference right now. Society coordinator is working hard and planning and reviewing society handbook. Working closely with o-crew to set goals and planning o-week.

Questions from Nicholas Favero: For clarification you mention that o-crews overenthusiasm was a weakness what do you mean?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Sometimes the enthusiasm might not be best for all students, so moving forward we would like to train them to be flexible to students so they can be more effective o-crew leaders.

Question from William Gatchel: Will it be faculty speaking at ted talks?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Would be a series and would like it to link with faculties so that professors and students can participate and encourage learning outside the classroom. Important that we plan it so that the talks are discussing what is going on in the world so it bridges the gap. 4 talks in an hour, 1 grouping each month.

Question from Victoria Sandre: Have you run into any copy right issues with the use of the name Ted Talks?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Moving forward we may have to change the name but it will be a ted talks style series.

Comment from Dr. Khoury: TED is registered with revenue Canada so you can get approval from them to use the name.

VP External Affairs (Annie Sirois): Main highlights: electronic voting for municipal election, hired a new executive director for StudentsNS, sat on Campus Planning Committee where we looked at models for campus development in the next few years. Taylor Chase and I had meeting with MLA. 4 goals for the year, 1-promoting CASA and SNS, 2- outlining this position, 3-looking to get StFX certified in fair trade 4-increase voter turnout for municipal and provincial election.

Faculty Representative (Dr. Khoury): Presidents STRAT plan presentation was good and more information will be coming out later. New librarian was hired and new Dean of Arts which will be made public soon. New initiative coming out, 'the place of arts on campus'. I will be having a meeting upcoming to discuss strategies and further the idea, basically trying to better connect the broader arts to studies and students on campus. Mental health first aid training is going to be extended, there will be more sessions in the fall. STFX for SAFE is going to continue in fall, some plans in the works, VP External Affairs will be involved. New hires for festival Antigonish and the theater (new artistic director and managing director), positive initiatives will be coming. Registration will start up soon, numbers are looking good but will not know final numbers until September. Contract negotiations with faculty are now going and looking good, just finalizing some issues with the union.

### Committee Reports

Comment from Brandon Hamilton: Just looking at committees as a whole, we will be reviewing all committees to determine which are needed and what needs to be added and will be looking for councillor interest on who wants to sit on what.

### Special Reports to Council

#### StudentsNS Presentation by President Taylor Chase:

This is the provincial advocacy group for students in NS. Met with all executive teams. Who are we? 7 member student association, together we advocate for over 20,000 students – all students!

What do we do? Represent NS students by researching the challenges they face and finding solutions and creating a space for those solutions to happen. Advocating on behalf of students to provincial government and other provincial stakeholders (i.e. mental health organizations), policy position papers and campaigns

Values: accessibility (everyone should be able to access university if they want to), affordability (that it is affordable to most students), quality (ensuing quality of education is the best) and student voice (ensuring heard)

Structure: just over 20,000 who elect Board of Directors who have board officers (who look at distinct areas) from there is an executive director and then the staff.

Leader Lab: met with minister of advanced education, had media training and leader development, talked with spring time collective, collaborated with other students unions  
If you have questions let me know or contact SNS director or go online.

Question from Victoria Sandre: Are you planning on having another meeting with SNS to evaluate how things are going? And would you be able to post this presentation for the student representatives?

Response (Taylor Chase): Yes, next meeting is in July but also have bi-weekly phone meetings. And yes I can post it right away!

Question from Chad Hasegawa: How much does SNS cost and do you see it as beneficial to organization?

Response (Taylor Chase): SNS costs about \$26,000 in fees every year. This benefits us as we are such a small student body so this allows us to have more voice and carry off weight, a lot to be done but we are ready to push this organization forward.

Question from Chad Hasegawa: How much did student loan go up? Are those the wins you are looking for or have these happened?

Response (Taylor Chase): They have happened and these wins need to be better known to students and support wins to students, 24 mil over past 6years.

#### CASA Presentation by Annie Sirois:

What is CASA? National voice for Canada's post-secondary students, 21 student associations, employs 6 full time staff,

Mission: Mission is to advocate for students through policy development and research, awareness campaigns, government relations and partnerships with other stakeholders.

Values: Focus exclusively on post-secondary and student related issues, will remain a strictly non-partisan organization, will be member-driven with opportunities for all members to contribute to and be heard by the organization, will have a membership structure that will be easy to join and leave.

How is CASA structured: General assembly (member schools), Board of directors, Elective director ad home office staff.

Conference coming up – Policy and Strategy Conference

November Advocacy Week: great opportunity to have that direct interaction with those in government - power point

AGM in March 2017

Where did membership fees go?: Each student pay \$3.96 to CASA. Goes toward salaries, campaigns, rent, conferences, public relations, policy and research member relations.

CASA pamphlet shows wins.

Questions by Nicholas Favero: Since you will be working with CASA this year, what would you like to see CASA advocate as a priority?

Response (Annie Sirois): Good question, something we will be looking at next conference, but really have the government invest more in underrepresented groups so they can overcome the social barriers to participating in PSE.

Question from Matthew MacDonald: When was CASA founded and when did StFX join?

Response (Annie Sirois): We have been members for at least a decade and it was formed in the 90s due to Students' Union's getting sued by their federal lobbying group.

Question from Matthew MacDonald: Are there any other federal lobbying groups?

Response (Annie Sirois): There is CFS, but to not be too critical they make the headlines more than CASA and not necessarily for the right reasons. Staffers on the hill recognize that CASA has more legitimacy.

Question from Matthew MacDonald: Since it is very easy to join and leave has casa seen any increases?

Response (Annie Sirois): Over past 2 or 3 years we have seen a decline in Ontario schools, so we will be putting more emphasis on getting more schools to join.

### Old Business

None.

### New Business

Ratification Bringing in the Bystander Coordinator:

Ryley Erickson moves to ratify Jenna Novosad for BIBC; Matthew MacDonald is the seconder. Ryley Erickson: We hired Jenna in April. Myself, Taylor Chase (as business councillor), Briget Housten and KP Idirs were on the panel. There was only one applicant but she blew us away and was super prepared and had good ideas and even a reference letter from Bob Hale. Very excited to start working with her.

Matthew MacDonald: Nothing to add.

Ryley calls to question (8-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Ratification Deputy Chair:

Nicholas Favero moves to ratify Mikaela Henderson as Deputy Chair; Taylor Chase is the seconder.

Brandon Hamilton: Mike Massery, Outgoing deputy chair, Isaac Turner, Sarah Dodsworth and myself were on the hiring panel. We had two interviewees, Mikaela had a formal proposal and was the committee's choice unanimously for the position.

Taylor Chase: Nothing to add.

Bry Crabbe calls to question (8-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Ratification Chief Returning Officer:

Nicholas Favero moves to ratify Erin Abbott as chief returning officer; Bry Crabbe is seconder.

Brandon Hamilton: Hiring panel consisted of myself, Mike Massery, Patrick McKinnon, Megan Macdonald, and Carl Miller. She was the only applicant but the decision was unanimous due to previous experience and discussed main goal of increasing student voter turnout.

Bry Crabbe: Nothing to add.

Ryley Erickson calls to question (8-0-0 – *PASSED*)

Ratification Returning Officers:

Matthew MacDonald moves to ratify Jessica Fullerton and Megan Walsh as returning officers; Bry Crabbe is seconder.

Brandon Hamilton: We had two applications. The hiring panel consisted of myself, Mike Massery, Patrick McKinnon, Megan Macdonald and Carl Miller. One candidate had experience with elections NB and other in High school. They are excited and want to get the ball rolling on increasing turnout and participation in the elections.

Bry Crabbe: Nothing to add.

Question from Ryley Erickson: Do you feel as though you were settling?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): No they were both interested and passionate about the elections at StFX. One candidate even brought forward a plan to increase turn out by having fixed election dates and have platforms outlined earlier.

Matthew MacDonald calls to question (8-0-0 – *PASSED*).

#### Closing remarks

Brandon Hamilton: Thanks for everyone who came from gallery and online and in person! If there are any issues or concerns about promotions of meetings in summer let me know. We are hoping that we are taking steps in the right direction. Keep your eye on your email for a tentative next meeting.

Ryley Erickson moves to adjourn the meeting; Madeleine Gillmeister is seconder. (8-0-0 – *PASSED*).

*Meeting adjourned at 4:48pm*