

Students' Union Representative Council Minutes – August 14th 2016

Call to order 3:42pm

Roll Call

Present: Madeleine Gillmeister, Nicholas Favero, Bry Crabbe, Matthew MacDonald, Mikaela Henderson, Brandon Hamilton, Rachel LeBlanc, Dr. Joseph Khoury, Cassia Tremblay, Sean Ryan, Joelle French, Connor O'Brien.

Late: William Gatchell

Absent with Regrets: Victoria Sandre, Mildred Syabeenzu, Chad Hasegawa

Late with Regrets: Taylor Chase, Annie Sirois

Bry Crabbe moves to approve the agenda; Ryley Erickson is the seconder (7-0-0 – *PASSED*)

Opening remarks

Brandon Hamilton (Chair): Thanks for bearing with me. This is our second summer council, still lots to figure out.

Mi'Kmaq Acknowledgement

Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Madeleine Gillmeister moves to approve the minutes from last meeting; Matthew MacDonald is the seconder. Both nothing to add. (7-0-0- *PASSED*)

Business Arising

None.

Constituency reports

Board of Governors (Madeleine Gillmeister) – Last time we met as a Board was in June at the general meeting. Update from Buildings and Grounds committee: Had a meeting with students to get input on where changes could be made, the strategic way in which campus flows. Have not received any funding for these projects yet. We had the opportunity to tour the new MSB building. It is state of the art, beautiful and one of a kind. We are very excited for this!

Board of Governors (Connor O'Brien): No meeting yet from the procedural committee. The current chair of the committee will be stepping down and a new board member will be taking his place. The university has moved forward with looking for a fund manager for the endowment fund. There will be a press release in September probably pertaining to this.

Arts (Nicholas Favero): At senate we are looking for improvements in the public policy degree. Attended the campus planning meetings. Good way to get feedback, it's been going well.

Graduate (Bry Crabbe): Meets coming up with Taylor and Annie to figure out some issues and needs for graduate students and how to proceed in this role.

Education (Matthew MacDonald): Student body is laying low. Had an Education society meeting in June but nothing to report. We have a meeting with faculty and students soon. Will be on the MSB hiring panel tomorrow.

Business (William Gatchell): Put in the ground work to start looking towards a few events. Possibly student faculty golf tournament. Try to get a BBQ social or something going to get students familiar with the business building.

Equity (Cassia Trembley): Haven't heard anything from constituents but have been talking to several advisors across campus. Will be attending welcome events for different groups. Will be keeping up to date with all the different projects.

Executive reports

President (Taylor Chase): At StudentNS AGM. Just passed and new restructuring for the SNS board and struck three committees, where VP Annie Sirois will be the Vice Chair and I will be Chair of the Governance Committee.

Question (Nicholas Favero): Wondering if the executive have a stance on BURMAC?

Response (Taylor Chase): Had some preliminary discussions on where we stand for all house hockey cups. In the process of contacting those who have a high stake in the BURMAC game to get there opinion. Yield time to Joelle French.

Response (Joelle French): Getting more opinions from students on what BURMAC could look like this year. Would like to organize a house hockey forum in the fall for all cups.

Question (Matthew MacDonald): Is anyone from the town involved?

Response (Joelle French): Lorie Boucher and Mayor Chisholm.

VP Academic Affairs (Ryley Erickson): Busy couple months. Please see my report for details but here are some highlights. We will be having a paid LGBTQ advisor coming either this year or next. Working a lot with student orientation committee which is very exciting.

Question (Matthew MacDonald): I am on the Quality of Life Committee, when will we be emailed?

Response (Ryley Erickson): They don't start until September, so you should hear then.

Question (Matthew MacDonald): Have you spoken to people about X Tutoring?

Response (Ryley Erickson): The tutoring will be done through student success and we are starting to get tutor names.

VP Activities and Events (Rachel LeBlanc): Frosh kit stuff is coming in! Entertainment for frosh week is all finalized and complete. All rentals and production have been booked for the week. Have been working with SOC and everything is finalized just working on a few logistical things. Working with Nick Carpenter and Devon Chisholm as there is a lot for promotion to roll out. Working with O-Crew Moms for logistics (weekly meetings). Working with conference services to book all the rooms. Coordinating society night and Sean Ryan has been incredibly helpful. The U Calendar is complete and going to print. Working with Ryley for X Talks. Planning Culture fest for October. Trying to revisit the Entertainment Coordinator role.

VP Residence Affairs (Joelle French): The main thing I have been working on this summer is the HP/VPs. There is a new HP initiative that was announced this week, working with student and residence life. This team is to create a one team approach and to foster responsibility (CLT team). This will be part of the training week for HP/VPs. Working closely with executive on orientation committee. On board for East Coast Student Leader committee coming to X this year. There are 2 new RLCs and the REC to set some goals and planning. Worked with Chad and rewrote some policy for campus affairs committee, presentation coming to council in the fall. MSB is pretty great, everything looks nice. Training week schedule is set including bringing in the bystander training and positive space training.

VP External Affairs (Annie Sirois): In terms of the AGM coming up, there will be an all candidate's debate at the Inn for the municipal election that evening. Tuesday the executive team will be going to see Justin Trudeau in New Glasgow with Sean Fraser and community members.

Faculty Representative (Dr. Khoury): The biggest thing is preparing for the coming year. Three things I can report on. First, this is going to be the first year of the arts shift for nurses, which will change some things for those students. We are excited for that. Second, videos that were proposed for departments are still in process. Sociology might be the only one who has completed them so far. This is all directed towards recruiting and maintaining students. Third, the two new leaders for the theater started August 1st 2016. They are extremely excited to work with student leadership and U. They are planning to meet with council once the summer season comes to an end. Their names are Andrea Boyd (Director) and Rema Fuller (Managing Director). First year classes seem to be on track for numbers. August 30th there is a teaching workshop.

Question (Matthew MacDonald): What is the workshop?

Response (Dr. Khoury): This is to help professors make improvements and find new ways of teaching.

The U General Manager (Sean Ryan): We are probably 95% through our audit. We will be on track to present these findings at the AGM in September. Health plan opt out is open please tweet about this for your constituents. People need to opt out by September 13th.

Question (Ryley Erickson): Did the opt-out date get changed on the calendar?

Response (Sean Ryan): We will look in to this and make a note.

Committee Reports

None.

Special Reports to Council

X Talks (VP Activities & Events and VP Academic Affairs):

Concept: X Talks are TED style talks. An event to spread ideas and knowledge to students that they may not be exposed to otherwise. Plan to have links to each faculty, having 5 talks throughout the year. Anyone who is part of the StFX community can put in an application to talk. Hoping this can help link course material for some and help people practice public speaking. Broaden education, share ideas and entertain.

Logistics: 5 X Talks throughout the year. Each talk will be on a Tuesday evening and will be an hour with 4 talks in it (15mins). Each night will have a theme and anyone can come. Looking at having them at the Bauer Theater. Other option includes Swartz.

Process: There is an application. Need to be submitted 3wks prior to the talk for review. (Application handed around). Once applications are gathered we will have a review panel including myself and Ryley and a student representative from council. People will be motivated 1.5wks prior and then they submit talking points 1wk prior to event.

Will revisit this but just looking to see if you guys like it.

Question (Connor O'Brien): Will there be an opportunity for community members to come speak?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Nothing we considered but we will look into this.

Question (Nicholas Favero): Do you think the format will allow for a question/debate period?

Response (Ryley Erickson): Yes thinking a 3mins built in time frame.

Comment (Sean Ryan): Consider having a panel discussion with all 4 speakers after all the talks for the night.

Comment (Cassia Trembley): X Talks has been used in the past by Mental Health Society as an annual event, not an issue but just so you know.

Comment (Nicholas Favero): Arts can be broad or more specific. You could easily do 4 different perspectives on a certain social issue.

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): You're right. We plan on 5 talks but we can add more if we get good feedback.

House Council Restructure (VP Residence Affairs):

Past VP internal left a proposal for structure changes for house council. Current structure consist as HP as Chair, environmental rep, wellness rep, spiritual rep, international rep, administrative rep, activities rep. Main change is that the house council will now be the house board. The new house board would be: HP/VP, finance rep (responsible to budget events with team members, uphold house spending guidelines), 2 activities reps (House events and intramural reps: will receive ERC training in fall, primary liaisons between entertainment coordinators, promote house engagement and varsity sports, responsible to promote intramurals and fair play, health and wellness rep: receive positive space training, work with Mental Health society on campus, encourage spirituality within residence and execute one campaign per semester to promote mindfulness and wellbeing, execute on de-stressing event per semester, sit on food service advisory committee), communication rep (has not changed much since previous years), campus equity and sustainability (promote safe and inclusive house activities, coordinate house participation in existing events, liaison with equity student representative, positive space training, work with international student representative, work in collaboration with Environmental Society, champion Energy Challenge), house spirit rep (coordinate house clothing orders, promote house events, promote positive rivalry, plan on positive rivalry event per term, support engagement in various conferences throughout year), house charity rep (work to demonstrate to campus there are many great things going, plan 2 charity events per semester with HP/VPs)

The idea behind the house board is to make people more accountable and give those in residence more responsibility. This is a working draft and I would love feedback. Would like to vote on this in September.

Question (Ryley Erickson): Like the stream lining. Why are activities reps split into two?

Response (Joelle French): Will help foster more engagement and team work and collaboration.

Question (Rachel LeBlanc): How do the other reps (except communication rep) promote things?

Response (Joelle French): Interpreting as promoting in residence but can collaborate with communications rep.

Comment (Nicholas Favero): In terms of wording maybe consider changing promoting religion to beliefs and religion or something more broad.

Response (Joelle French): Perfect!

Old Business

None.

New Business

Ratification House Presidents and Vice Presidents:

Brandon Hamilton: We will be doing this omnibus, if there are any issues with a ratification in particular I am opening the floor to amend the motion. Seeing none.

Ryley Erickson moves to ratify HP/VP list omnibus. Nicholas Favero is the seconder. Ryley adds: I sat on most of these panels and I believe that most were unanimous. They will do a good job. Nicholas adds: These people were picked with team compatibility in mind and I am comfortable in saying that they will all do excellent.

Joelle French speaks: These were all picked with team chemistry in mind and will do a good job. MSB is missing someone but this person will be hired tomorrow night.

Ryley Erickson calls to question. (9-0-0-PASSED).

Ratification Senior Off-Campus Leader and Off-Campus Leader:

Ryley Erickson moves to ratify Senior Off-Campus Leader and Off-Campus Leader. Bry Crabbe is the seconder. Ryley adds: These were the only two candidates but very confident in these two, looking forward to see what they can do. Bry Crabbe has nothing to add.

Connor O'Brien calls to question. (9-0-0-PASSED).

Closing remarks of the Chair of Council

Looking forward to getting everyone back on campus. Training day will be Sunday September 25th 2016, student reps please book this off. Looking like we are going to go to Crystal Cliffs for lots of team building and food. Keep an eye on your emails! Will be sending out a list of frosh week events which everyone is required to attend on in your student representative t-shirts. Our next meeting will be our AGM in September with our first year representative! Looking forward to this.

William Gatchell moves to adjourn the meeting; Bry Crabbe is seconder. (9-0-0 – PASSED).

Meeting adjourned at 4:53pm