Student Union Representative Council

January 14, 2018

Council Chambers

**Call to Order: 2:11pm**

**Roll Call:**

Present: Jessica Fullerton, Melissa Grant, Emma Crilly, Pheerawich Chitnelawong, Rebecca Mesay, Patrick Panet-Raymond, William Gatchell, Sean Hopkins, Bry Crabbe, Sydney Pagan, Sasha Paul, Sarah Elliott, Kashya Young, Marcia English, Sean Ryan, Amy Bobyn, Tanaka Chikwavaire, Alex Corrigan, Zakariya Chatur and Annie Sirois.

 Absent with regrets: Tiffany MacLennan and Lucas Middleton

Absent:

Late:

**Opening Remarks of the Chair:**

Welcome back, hope everyone had a great Christmas break. Apologies for the room change.

**Mi’kmaq Acknowledgement**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Deputy chair computer crashed, minutes cannot be approved.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Annie motions to amend agenda item 16, Patrick seconds. Motion passes (13-0-0).

Melissa approves amended agenda, Annie seconds. Motion passes (13-0-0).

**Constituency Reports:**

**Sarah Elliot – First Year Representative**

Not much happening since we came back for the break. House hockey cup is coming up and constituents are excited. Wants to promote positive house rivalry. Wants to talk to HPs and VPs about promoting positive rivalry. I’ve been working on planning my dance. Hoping to put up suggestion boxes. Should they be stamped?

Jessica – No

Sarah – going to take the ideas in the box and run with it.

**Amy Bobyn – Science Student Representative**

Also been pretty quiet on the science front. After the last meeting, I couldn’t attend the science meeting due to exam conflict. In terms of science programs, we were able to get several additions and rearrangements. Particularly with earth sciences and geology in the APP meeting. Revision on the time block grant. Able to attend Dr. Karen Blair’s talk which was fantastic.

**Emma Crilly – Business Representative**

Since we met last I had a good holiday, hope everyone did as well. Meet with members of the constituency and held first advisory board meeting. Set some goals for this semester and it was very successful. On top of that there is some amazing events happening in business such as a conference coming up in March. Cost is $45. There is a surge of involvement coming from constituents.

**Lucas Middleton – Arts Representative**

Leave of absence.

**Bry Crabbe – Graduate Studies Representative**

Quiet time. Doing some work refurbishing. Trying to find a replacement for next year.

**Mel Grant – Education Student Representative**

Been pretty busy working on getting an education student representative. Senate was quite feisty. Attended the disco skate and pride flag rising as well as X-talks. Date of elections interferes with grad for education students. Will be talking with Jess a bit more to move to a later date. Job fair at the end of the month. Trying to organize another family dinner, we have a night at Dooley’s planned for the upcoming weeks.

**Sydney Pagan – Board of Governors Representative**

Since our last council meeting I have attended a board meeting on December 6th, main topic was talking about finances and discussed the finance report that was done recently. The report didn’t paint a good picture of the university financially due to debt. It shed light that the university was underfunded compared to other university. Want to ask for $9 million from the government to repay debt. On top of that there was a Buildings and Grounds meeting introducing campus framework which will attempt to make campus a better greenspace and more pedestrian friendly. Mulroney Hall is still on budget and on schedule. Nicholson Tower renovations were discussed including plumbing and painting. Will add 30 years to the buildings life span. Next meeting is January 30th.

**Alex Corrigan – Board of Governors Representative**

Hi everyone, nothing to report at the board level except there will be a meeting at the end of this month. Worried that students aren’t reading reports or minutes. Interested in making videos with councilors reading off their reports. Thinks it would be ineffective so an alternative would be a council review at the end of each council session. This would a 2 and half to 3-minute video recapping what happened in council that week. Talked to Nicholas Carpenter, head of marketing.

Melissa – the last time we chatted you said that you didn’t want The U page to be spamming but wouldn’t this considered spamming?

Sean R. – Using the Vevo camera it would be “Facebook live”. This won’t be spamming.

Annie – the concern was that it would be really long if it was 12 minutes each week and I think this is a great middle zone Alex has come up with.

**Pheerawich Chitnelawong – International Student Representative**

New year which means new students. 15 new international students have come in. Had an orientation for a few days, around 12 volunteer students who stayed during the break could go. I was able to introduce myself when I returned from the break. I hope to have an international society ratification next council meeting. Trying to plan something for international week.

**Sasha Paul – Equity Representative**

Hi everyone, this semester I’ve met with some of the advisors. January is pride month and X-pride has put out a calendar with their events. Attended a talk by Dr. Karen Blair. Game night schedule for January 22nd. Have been meeting with the Students of African Descent advisors in anticipation for next month’s history month. Have been in talks with shaping their office. The Human Rights and Equity officer attended a meeting at Ryerson to get some guidance on how we can make what is happening at Ryerson happen at X. Going to have some events on campus to define what equity means to people. Lastly, I think the aboriginal office is having a luncheon on Thursday.

Annie – The luncheon is happening in here.

**Tanaka Chikwavaire – Students of African Descent Representative**

Hi guys welcome back. It’s a really exciting semester for my constituency. Martin Luther King Jr. Day happening tomorrow. Guest speaker will be coming tomorrow to speak about his movement at 7:30pm in the PSC. On January 19th, there will be the first games night for this semester. February is African Heritage Month; launch is on January 30th at 12pm. It would be great to have people come out to that. Sadly, the break falls in the middle of this heritage month but trying to make it lit. Will have another games night in Febuary. Incident that happened in meal hall raised concern within my constituency. Spoke to the student that felt unfairly treated and is figuring out ways to deal with this incident.

Rebecca – was the student that was treated unfairly given support?

Tanaka – yes.

**Kashya Young – Aboriginal Student Representative**

No constituency report due to family matters.

**Business Arising**

**Executive Reports**

**Vice President Academic, Mr. Patrick Panet-Raymond**

Nice to be back. Since I’ve arrived I have started getting dog dens booked first one happening on January 17th. Following that, we had our first subcommittee on Communications as part of the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee. This will be composed of a third of the sexual violence prevention committee. Two students on it including myself and the Bringing in the Bystander coordinator. There will be a panel discussion happening for the community members surrounding the topic of sexual violence. Attended the pride flag raising ceremony, it was well attended. Had a senate meeting that went long and was feisty. Also, attended a CABS(?) meeting the same day, a presentation was given on where the direction of this committee will go. Since being back, I’ve been involved in the marketing video on why its ok to run late in elections.

**Vice President Finance and Operations, Mr. William Gatchell**

Welcome back everybody, happy election season. Since I’ve been back I’ve been doing society allocations. Have a few funds left in the budget up for grabs. Looking for a health claim contender. Have narrowed it down to 4 candidates. Drive U hirings are out right now. Application forms were closed on Friday and we got 18 applicants. Golden X Inn security cameras is something were considering to cover ourselves. Ice hockey ice rentals are something we’ve been considering because larger houses can subsidize their hockey rentals better than the small houses. We’ve been looking into subsidizing this from the campus affairs fund. Myself and Sean Ryan have been meeting with Mary Fisher MacDonnell and can report that we have a $10,000 pool to potentially give away to students with financial need. We had a financial review for the activities and events and the Inn line, it looks good. Good job to Sean H. and Cody for keeping our margins in mind. Attended job fair 2.0 and it was great. I’ve printed off an email sent by Julienne Mattie about our shout out to Enterprise for donating to our food resource center but there are also many other sponsors such as Spoon University, TNT haunted house and miscellaneous donations.

**Vice President Activities and Events, Mr. Sean Hopkins**

Since last council meeting a lot has been happening. We had our X-ring suber sub that went phenomenal. Continue to be having weekly ERC meetings and Inn meetings with Cody. Talked about putting a good foot forward to get a head start with promotion. Frost week is over, had to cancel a few events but overall it went very well. Two years’ eve was amazing. Disco skate had a good crowd with a good 40-50 people there. X-talks was phenomenal along with the job fair. With Rebecca, we held a house hockey cup forum with the house presidents and vice presidents. As Annie mentioned we have our X-talks and leadership conference happening with the MacKenna canter coming up. Over the break I was asked to be on the COCA committee. Smart StFX is coming up on February 5th. We have Arthur Brown coming in to talk about his writing. Other than that, I am going to start planning the grad gala and after party.

Annie – the line up at Epic Wing Night was looped all the way down to the art gallery. Good job Sean for landing the James Barker Band.

**Vice President Residence Affairs, Ms. Rebecca Mesay**

Welcome back everyone. I know I got back a little later and I returned on Tuesday. I’m sure many of you saw the official dates for the house hockey cups have been released. Looking forward to these events and I am enforcing positive rivalries. There have been some changes and Burke and Off Campus will be playing each other. This was a decision that was made after months of communication with many groups. The house hockey cup policy was put into place and all coaches were made aware of their responsibilities. Have been having meetings with Student Life and have been talking about the student climate and environment in residence. Working on solutions to make sure that students best interests are a priority in residence. Looking to rehire a leadership position in Cameron Hall. Various check ins with my sub committees. I’ll be stepping out for 15 minutes after my report.

**President of the Students’ Union, Ms. Annie Sirois**

Welcome back. There is a light at the end of tunnel. Reconvening the x-ring committee to discuss eligibility. A concern was sent to my email about Coady students not being eligible. June Webber is looking into this. Still looking at reviewing the eligibility for graduate and masters’ programs. However, this puts a lot of strain on the alumni affairs office to be vetting these forms. Strategic Plan committee has been meeting to review the upcoming strategic plan. Also, councilors should be aware that the Strategic Plan committee will be in contact. By Law and Policy committee met and a policy will be proposed today. Two students at large came in and provided feedback. Senior class presidents and speaker elections coming up soon. Sean and I have been working with Mary Coyle to plan a leadership summit called Leadership At X. There will be a public speaking course and delegates from other universities. Noticed the student lounge area is becoming social. And looking into ping pong tables and lights. Have 83 flags from around the world that will be hung up around the Students Union building. Just waiting on FM. Town and county met this week and were talking about homecoming and having shareholders talk about homecoming. This is a proactive approach. Last thing is the pre-budget has been sent out. A provincial partner meeting where we meet with all the shareholders is coming up. One more thing, the Oland Center, the university has released their referendum campaign. Mistake I want to clear is it says there is an additional $100 fee on top of the $25 fee but it is just an overall $125 fee.

Emma – on that homecoming committee, are there students sitting on this committee?

Annie – Yes.

Gallery Q – is this on the StFX website?

Annie – I’m not sure

Alex – curious about homecoming committee. Is this open to all students and is the Union advertising?

Annie – it is months away, there will definitely be student representation. Want to make this space available for students, landlords and residents alike to voice their opinions.

**Vice President External Affairs, Mr. Zakariya Chatur**

Welcome back everyone. I am doing 3 letter writing campaigns. Ideas are being brainstormed about things that are relevant to all students. One thing on the organizational level at CASA, we had a staff departure. Advocacy week was a success, we had about over 150 meetings. At Students NS the Governance Committee will be meeting on Monday. The executive director is meeting with the government all day. I just met with the co-op office and there will be something like a job fair coming up soon. More updates to follow. The Research and Policy Associate office has just reached approval for their policy for lobbying to the federal government.

**Faculty Representative Remarks**

I just want to echo what everyone else said, everyone looks well rested. I want to condemn you all for your hard work. I want to encourage you to keep your energy high and keep working hard.

**Student Union General Manager Remarks**

Just a few things, as Will said we are still looking for our new Health Plan provider. Will have a meeting and come up with a representative. January 17th, that is when executive positions and chair positions will open for two weeks. January 22nd, information session that the executive team and president and vice president will be hosting. This will discuss job requirements and roles. January 31st, when all the associate positions will open, O-Crew Chairs, advocates, etc. Good luck to Tiffany, Rebecca and Will. SU job fair will be coming up soon. CFXU changes are still ongoing. Having a meeting next week with the two folks we’ll be hiring to do changes down there. The security cameras at the Inn are something we’ve been thinking about for a while and will provide us with insurance in case any incidents occur. Also, a camera will be put up by coat check. Good job to the video team for doing a video for the Maritime Inn which went live and was very successful.

Alex – with the executive process for hiring, do they submit proposals?

Sean – No. We got rid of that 2 years ago because it was giving advantages to people that were around the Union compared to those that were not. Opportunities for free lancing is available but no proposals.

Alex – Will the video cameras in the Inn decrease our insurance burden?

Sean – No.

Bry – when will they be put in?

Sean – they’ve been ordered just waiting on them to come in. The university is also co-paying it.

**Committee Reports:**

**Strategic Plan Committee –** discussed what we want to happen as whole this year. Took a more in-depth look into the survey we want to do. We have some homework to do and our meetings our now weekly for the rest of the semester.

Alex – When you guys produce your final document is it a recommendation guideline or a mandate?

Sean – the committee will put a recommendation to council.

**Bylaw and Policy Committee –** a big reason why we asked for this (referring to the Students’ Union Eligibility Policy) to come to council for discussion was because we didn’t believe we covered enough of the demographic. There are a lot of options with it, we can discuss its existence and amount. We want to have a discussion and make sure that all students have chance to be a part of the Union.

**Equity Advisory Committee –** met on Friday, little late on getting things started. Tanaka will be the chair and Sasha will be the vice chair.

Annie – we have all the applications stored in a database and will send over the link.

**Budget and Finance Committee –** we’re more likely to have an email stream where we all provide feedback rather than weekly or biweekly meetings like other committees. With that we’ve had lots of discussion about requests for allocating reimbursements for events that have already happened. This wasn’t supposed to be something that was permitted but we got into a bad habit first semester but we want to make it clear that if a society is planning an event they must apply for funding before the event and not after. At our most recent debate we elected not to give a society the full reimbursement amount they requested. If anyone knows anyone who plans on having an event, make sure they get their applications in early. The students at large have been great on this committee. Thanks to our president for starting this.

**Special Reports to Council**:

None

**Old Business**:

None

**New Business:**

**Motion to allocate 225 dollars of the Council Operations budget to the First-Year Dance:**

 Sarah – I’ve been talking about this dance for a while. Has a budget worked out with using a student as a DJ to cut cost. Looked on the ticket website that we use for other events. Posters are $30 for maybe 15 posters not 100% sure. Thinking about going around to the different houses and giving a presentation.

Annie – is this in Canadian or US dollars?

Sean R. – Canadian

Annie – Don’t forget to make the off-campus leaders aware.

Bry – is this a dry event?

Sarah – Yes

Patrick – Where will the money go?

Sarah – Back to the student’s union?

Sean R. – food resource center is something to consider.

Alex – is this just for first year students?

Sarah – nobody will be turned down from attending.

Emma – will there be bracelets since this is a dry event?

Bry – this is at the inn and no alcohol will be out.

Kashya – is there a set date?

Sarah – not a set date but working on it.

Bry – so its not going to be next Saturday?

Sarah – no.

Emma – has this gone through ERC?

Sarah – Yes

Emma – is there X-Patrol?

Bry – no because it’s at the Inn.

Kashya – how much will tickets be?

Sarah – around $5.

Annie – what’s the council budget for this?

Jessica – essentially we are allotted $100,150 for council operations. Portions of this money have been used to purchase a dongle cord for the PCs. Approximately at least $1000 available.

Emma – I move to allocate $225 to the First-Year Dance

Sydney – Seconds

Annie – just a discussion on that motion. The only thing I want to discuss is are we going to donate $225 or take receipts and reimburse?

Will – I would be skeptical to put the monetary amount in the motion.

Jessica – I motion to allocate up to $250 of the council operations budget to the First-Year Dance.

Bry – Calls to question

Motion passes to call to question

Motion passes (13-0-0).

**Students’ Union Eligibility Policy**

Annie – we are looking for everyone to have a healthy discussion about this today. This could go back to Bylaw and Policy and there is no pressure to pass this today. In terms of what this policy would cover, this policy would not be legally able to cover Drive U positions because they are on an hourly wage but honorarium positions could be. Article 1. 1.21 was taken from the elections act. Numbers within this policy are up for discussion today. Article 2 2.1 shows what applicants would sign off on when applying. Essentially what’s been happening now is that the responsibility for whose responsible for picking up applications were not specified but this policy makes it clear.

Sean R. – is there a representative from Bylaw and Policy to be taking minutes/suggestions so that if it does go back to Bylaw and Policy they have a clear record of what was said?

Emma – I will do it.

Emma – I do sit on Bylaw and Policy and in leaving the meeting I had some questions and I took it towards my constituency. There was one issue I have with this about the sub-executives having 75% average. Some students may have a 60% average because they allocate their time and energy to other places. If someone is a great applicant and their average isn’t 75% should they not be considered?

Sarah – is the 75% average only your second semester marks or your previous year marks?

Jessica – your Christmas mark after exams.

Annie – currently it is 60% for all positions in the U.

Sarah – if you went under your average in the first semester but then brought it back up to the required average would they still be eligible?

Marcia – what’s the average required for keeping good academic standings?

Zak – 60%.

Alex – the issues that I have with a policy that governs eligibility. In my opinion increasing the average for a position reduces accessibility. I also think this is an inequitably way to go about it because there some students have different academic abilities. If we pass this, we are saying that we as council know better about how these people would do in their positions. If they believe they can do this work load I think they would know better than us at this table right now. I think asking in interviews where they would find 30hrs a week for these positions would be a good question. I would also like to say that there are many exceptions as to why someone would have a lower average in a certain situation such as family issues or victims of assault. Someone could be an excellent student and if something happens in one semester their grades could fall not giving an accurate representation of their academic ability. We also have many athletes on this campus that spend many of their hours doing their sport which could reflect on their grades. Likewise, if someone is already on the executive I don’t think it is reasonable to presume that if they could do their job and demonstrated they are capable that they should be restricted if they were to apply in the following year.

Zak – I mentioned that I reached out to members of CASA and asked what they would do in terms of eligibility and a lot of these Unions within CASA use the good academic requirements of their universities and some have an increased percentage for executive positions. If you can leave with a degree I’m sure you have the capacity to work in this environment.

Sean H. – for O-Crew Co-chairs the majority of their work is done in the summer months and their work would not affect their academic studies. I would be hesitant to include them in this list.

Sydney – I want to echo Alex’s sentiments. Raising this average would eliminate people with learning challenges. I think raising this average makes us seem like elitists. Varsity sports have things in place to make sure students succeed in their athletic role. Instead of limiting students who apply I think we should have programs in place such as study hall.

Emma – when you’re saying study hall do you mean all students or students applying for these positions?

Sydney – it could be a bylaw where if you’re holding one of these positions you are required to attend this study period

Melissa – Would this required time add more work to their 30hrs already?

Rebecca – I do have a few points to bring up and questions. My questions are first, the reason and justification behind this policy was difficult for me to understand. Secondly in the instance of vice president would this come into play for students that are already applying? In terms of the primary stipulations we are looking at the voices of the students at the fore front meaning we have a strong respect for their perspective. I think it would be problematic raising this average because we would be equating a number with an ability to do a job. An average does not represent the amount of work or ethic a student possesses. We have to take into consideration that students want to be engaged and add their perspectives. We need to be very cautious, particular with the policies we introduce in that we aren’t making it harder for students who already struggle.

Annie – the reason why this was introduced is because this has been talked about for a really long time. When you struggle academically it effects the work you are doing for the students. We are doing some students a disservice. Office hours are to be used for completing work assignments. When it comes to 60%, (using VP finance as an example) if you’re coming into this job with 62% in finance and are responsible for handling a 3 million dollar budget it doesn’t seem good.

Zak – a 60% average doesn’t always indicate a person’s aptitude. Do you think that examand test taking provide an indication on how someone would perform in this job?

Annie – its not a yes or no answer. We are all different. If you are not able to perform academically it would impact your ability to work for the Student’s Union and for the students.

Rebecca – would this effect the current students running for the President and VPA positions?

Annie – No

Emma – When you are talking about finance and the finance office take note that the course exams are weighted to your entire grade.

Tanaka – I think maybe from what you said we must be realistic about it. This is a job and with any job you can’t have a bad average. We should possibly be increasing the average for these positions by 5% for the executive positions. This is a role model position and if we can uphold that 65% or whatever it is it is a good example.

Amy – Echoing Tanaka, there can be a middle ground and encourage you to decide what number is comfortable for you. I think 70-75% is a little high but for sub-exec positions a 60% is a bit low. Based on what Annie said executive positions are a lot more time consuming than sub-executive positions that would also fall under this bylaw.

Sarah – I think instead of changing the bar we can change other things like what Sydney said. If you have a mandatory study time it allows people to finish their work. Some people have different priorities so in interviews you could ask what their priorities are and get to know them as a person and not a number.

Sasha – pertaining to the remark that you can’t have any academic probations if I had an academic probation last semester can I apply this semester?

Annie – there is already a rule in place where if you were/or on academic probations you are ineligible to apply.

Sasha – in my first year I had a probation and am now in my 3rd year can I still apply?

Sean R. – when applications are vetted we get a yes or no not a why. We are looking at your most recent academic marks.

Rebecca – your most recent grades won’t say you’re on academic probation if you were at one point.

Sasha – is there a process to challenge these decisions?

Annie – there is an appeal process where someone can challenge these decisions.

Sean R. – if its academic or judicial we don’t have a say in this you would have to go to your Dean.

Nayo (from the gallery) – I agree that academics should come first but if we attach this grade average we are saying that we only except people with this standard. Is there data that shows individuals with low academic standings perform lowly in these positions?

Annie – there is already an academic average that exists. There is no data on it but throughout the years it can be attested that some people do a great job but some people take a hit.

Alex – a bit of question, I understand where people are coming from. The executives have a big job. I can understand that it is possible these jobs could put strain on your grades. There are also instances where this isn’t true. I would put these averages but with stipulations where these decisions can be appealed. There are instances where someone’s academic performance is not indicative of their work ethic. If there is no place for appealing, we are saying that there is no way that someone with a 64% average can do just as well as someone with a 65% average. We as a council know it is infrequent that someone will come to us with a plea to represent their voices. I think it is important that we try to make our council represent our student population.

Jessica – If this goes through, to clarify we still represent all students not just those with these averages.

Emma – I don’t think the averages for HP and VP’s should be increased because it would be their first year first semester marks which we all know can be a rocky start.

Will – My biggest thing is that its telling us what we ought to be. We don’t receive a lot of applications as is so this would decrease our pool. Economics students could do a research study on this. This would disqualify applicants that would have more on their plate. I see countless cases where people are working just so they can stay in school. It goes a long way to make sure that everyone has the availability to get a job. I still feel this is a little divisive. I don’t think it is our requirement and we can’t further limit peoples access. Uses a McDonald’s reference. I don’t think you can say that marks are the end all and be all here. One last thing, I believe the solution we seek should not be required academic average. Performance reviews are a functional body we can use to challenge students in these positions if they are not completing their job and letting their academics get in the way.

Sean R. – You’re all on fire today. A lot of good dialogue. One, this isn’t about whether someone will be good at the job or not. Someone can have a 0% average and come into these jobs and kill it. Where the grade average comes in is that this is a 30hr/week job for the executives which is not far off for from full time hours. We are asking a lot of students that are here for education. At a 60%, what are our expectations and our obligation to students getting involved in these roles. You can have hard earned grade. Take away job performance, does 60% set them up for success with a 30hr work week on top of everything else? We know there is going to be challenges, we have seen countless executives be challenged and have to drop their honours. As an organization, we need to set up our students for success. 10 years ago, these positions were 15hr/week jobs. These jobs, now over time, have increased in hours. Maybe we need to look at the amount of work they are doing I don’t know. Does having these averages allow people to be set up for success right from the starting gates?

Nayo (gallery question) – Would you say you’ve seen greater executive performance form this hours increase?

Sean R. – leaps and bounds. Yeah the 30hrs has produced a lot of really good stuff. I think it’s been a bit, on us, it challenges peoples academics because this happened. 30hrs out of any week, which is just Students Union on top of social life, academics, it does play a factor.

Tiffany (gallery question) – Sean took the words out of my mouth. I appreciate Wills question. With executive positions, I know with my schedule and 30 office hours I’d have a 0% average and kicked out of here. Student comes before leader.

Alex – Do you believe it’s better to force that buffer or that the student would now better for themselves.

Tiffany – good question.

Annie – some of the Students Union executive roles are sexy and appealing such as activities and events. People don’t always take into consideration what is being asked of them. Its incomprehensible how much extra stuff gets pushed onto you.

Will F. (gallery Q) – if you have a bad class in your first term which brings down your average I think this is unfair to say that this person could not apply for this job. I think this sends a message that The U only wants a certain person to be applying for this job. I think people fail at their positions not because of their averages but because the hiring panel did not do their job. I see people with high grades using their office for school work too.

Annie – nobody should be using their office for school work.

Melissa – what if there was space in the applications for students to explain their averages if they are below. For some of you who don’t know, for my position many people don’t have below a 78% average. I think it’s important that this isn’t the same across the board.

Zak – do you think it’s appropriate for an appeals process to ask personal questions such as mental health or traumatic experience. [REDACTED].

Tanaka – This is about setting up students for success. We come here for school. If you already have 30hrs of work and if we do the study hall that’s just adding more time. Balancing 30hrs a week with a 60 average would be very difficult. I suggest a 65% average.

Patrick – we are here for education and learning opportunities. A 60% or 56% could be a huge success for some people and a downer for others. Do I see the need for this number to change? Maybe. It’s important that when we look at this that we are keeping the doors open and not building barriers. Keep in mind that the higher we raise this average, the higher the barriers are for students.

Rachel (gallery) – Echoing a lot of sentiments. As a student that has held an executive position before there is great experiences to learn in this position. A well-rounded education where you learn these kind of skills is what this university is about. Setting up these grade barriers such as a buffer would allow people whose grades may have slipped to still be eligible but to set a high percentage would limit people. I do believe having a standard is important, I believe we have to be cognitive of the average and opening up opportunities to everybody. This is a choice we are making as adults which means we have to be more transparent to people about what these jobs entail. I really support the idea of putting more checks in balance on the job and if you breach it you are subject to a performance review. I don’t think your average should be so high that you aren’t allowing students to gain this hands on experience and who might be very good at this job the opportunity.

Sarah – there has been so many studies that show that a lot of people who are involved in school see a spike in their GPA.

Zak – I would feel incredibly uncomfortable sitting on an appeal board and having somebody disclose to me personal information about why their marks have dropped. I think there should be a standard for everyone. I think this policy is very maternalistic. I think we are all adults and that these people are adults making decisions. The Student Success Center is a very underused resource that offers a free service to help students succeed academically. I had to go give a presentation and there was a presentation seminar put on by the co-op society that I used. This institution has resources to help all people. In my position, I’m supposed to look at policies and see who they include and exclude. We need to look at who this is excluding. Is it going to exclude someone who doesn’t have the cultural capital to write an exam? Maybe. I don’t support any policy that puts up barriers for our students.

Pheerawich – Its like taking a risk. This is like playing with probabilities. It may turn out good or bad. These activities are extra curriculars. You come to this school to learn. People look at the executives and say you are doing things for students so you must be a good student. To get a 75% can be difficult. Keep in mind this is a representation. When people look at the executive team they need to have trust and know that they perform well academically.

Alex – I’ve got 2 points, I would like to note that most of our discussions have been around people in executive positions but this policy includes sub-executives and councilors. I am uncomfortable with sub-executives and councilors being included in this policy. This year we have had at lease 2 councilors be the only people to run for their positions. If they did not meet the grade requirements would it be better to have someone with a lower average than nobody? If we can answer yes that there are instances where people with below the set average can do well in these jobs. I feel very strongly about this issue.

Kashya – I really do feel everyones concerns, the only thing I have to say is that this position was new and I didn’t have any guidance. I had to put my feet on the ground and it was very hard. Being an aboriginal student I faced many other barriers such as language. To put up another barrier on an indigenous student, this position will not be sustainable. For me 70-75% is a little high. I am ok with the 65%.

Emma – I would suggest that we move this discussion back to Bylaw and Policy.

Pheerawich – international students also struggle academically. We have a study hall for international students. Involvement in the sub-executive and executive positions by international students is very low. I think it is a big deal about the grades.

Emma – I make a motion that the Eligibility Policy returns to the Bylaw and Policy committee for further revision

Call to question

Motion called to question passes

Motion passes (13-0-0).

Motion to approve the Election’s Act is removed

**Adjournment**

Thanks for this discussion. I hope you all enjoy your Sunday meeting. Moved to adjourn. Motion passes (13-0-0).

**Meeting adjourned: 5:02pm**