# Executive Reports

## President

**Name: Taylor Chase**

**To:** StFX Student’s Council

**Re:** Report to Council (October 2016)

**Committees:**

By-Law and Policy Committee: By-Law and policy committee is well underway we have established a good working group and will continue to move forward on our main goals. We have addressed that we would like to take a more “internal policy” focus for this year with key policy areas including, use of work emails, marketing and communications, sick day/mental health/ care leave, office use as well as respectful workplace.

Organizational Review: Organizational Review is also well underway and has addressed two key areas of focus for the first semester of work. “Equity and Diversity” as well as “hiring, transition and HR”. We recently had the S.A.C.R.A.M. group come further discuss this topic, and we have reached out to our networks around the country to hear their opinions and experiences when looking to address the topic of equity and diversity.

X-Ring Committee Meeting: Has been a very busy and productive committee in the past few weeks. We had taken nominations from the students who are eligible for an X-Ring for speakers at X-Ring as well as for candle bearers. This is the first year this has been done and I feel that it has been very effective. We have selected nominee for honorary X-Ring and we have selected a X-Ring Speaker.

Board of Governors: We had brief meeting following homecoming weekend to discuss the agreement reached with the AUT (Atlantic University Teachers). The board and the AUT have passed this agreement.

**External Affairs**:

Governance Committee: We have passed our Governance Committee Terms of reference for SNS. We will now move forward with our terms of reference within this committee.

Students NS: Attended meeting with board. Passed many policies and By-Laws as we have started to ramp up for advocacy season. Our VP external Annie Sirois has done some incredible work with this organization in regards to policy and we will have a very strong policy package to take to government this coming month. We are also looking to film a video to greater increase brand recognition of Students’ Nova Scotia on campus.

Syrian Walk: Attended Syrian walk representing the Students’ Union. Was a very well done event and was excellent to see the community engagement with students, university employees and members of the town.

Drinking Culture: Had preliminary meeting with the drinking culture working group where we addressed key areas to address as well as key stake holders within the university and student body to collaborate with.

Gallivan: Had a meeting with Gallivan to discuss health and dental plan alternatives. Evaluating various options and structures for our Health Plan moving forward.

**Internal Affairs:**

Equity Student Talk back Secession: Attending the Equity talk back secession hosted by our Equity Representative Cassia Trembley. Was great to hear the various perspectives from around campus and was great to see the different perspectives coming from students in first, second, third, fourth year, faculty and staff.

Residence Affairs: Some great work was done by our VP Residence Affairs Joelle French. We have successfully negotiated and worked with the University Residence Life team to reach a compromise regarding residence. This work can be largely attributed to our VP Residence Affairs Joelle French. Because of this we will see returners in MacNeil, MacDonald, MacPherson and MacIssac. We are very excited about this and feel that it puts the university and Students’ Union on right path for success moving forward.

Mulroney Centre Announcement: Attended the Mulroney Centre announcement and had the opportunity to address Mr. Mulroney.

Meeting with Bob Hale: Had productive meeting with Bob Hale regarding the funding structure of club sports at St.FX. While he plans to begin to budget for these events in the upcoming years he has agreed to provide all clubs with $200 startup funding which they will then be able to fundraise with.

Homecoming: Homecoming was a great success this past year. We have addressed with the President Kent MacDonald that we would like to do a complete review of the homecoming event and critically analyze areas which we are very successful in and areas where we have risks/weaknesses. We are hoping to commence before December and into the new year.

If you have any questions comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at su\_pres@stfx.ca or call (403)-880-5309.

Thank you,

Taylor Chase

## Vice-President Finance and Operations

**Name:** Chad Hasegawa

**To:** StFX Student’s Council

**Re:** Report to Council (October 2016)

**Committees**

*Budget and Finance Committee:*

We are now waiting on the Education Councilor position to be filled but until then we are moving along two voting members, all motions must be unanimous. I have taken on the responsibilities of Co-Chair until the committee is at full attendance and then electing a councilor Co-Chair.

* Society allocations have been the majority of the workload for the committee broken out to:
	+ X-Debate…………………..…$500
	+ Hike Antigonish…………...…$170
	+ Environmental Society ……..$50
	+ Figure Skate Society………..$145
	+ Woman in Business………...$500

*Campus Trust Finance Committee:*

Sat on the ladder half of the Campus Trust Finance Committee as it fell in line with one of our Exec meetings. Going over administration billings, operating fund contributions and Budget Sub Committee.

*Grant Thornton Meeting:*

Going over an in depth look of the audit and filing voluntary disclosure for a t1044. This is an NPO (Non-Profit Organization) if assets are valued above $200,000 at the end of a fiscal period.

*Campus Store Buying Committee:*

Student consultation is part of the contract with the Campus Store, meeting with their stakeholders twice a semester to get and update on their position and how we can work together moving forward. We talked about a number of possible products and collaborations with the different residences with house clothing.

**External Affairs**

*Trick or Eat:*

Put on by the SFRC with help form the External Affairs office. Trick or Eat is a nationwide event, organized by Meal Exchange. StFX hosts a campaign each year- where we gather teams of students (from residences, teams, societies etc.) and go door to door in the community collecting food (non-perishable) or monetary donations for the SFRC and the local community food bank. I am helping out and volunteering and so far we have raised $1100+ before the event has already begun!

*BSAD Consulting Group:*

Had our first official meeting with the consulting group about information for their proposal and a rough draft timeline. The proposal will be put together and market research will start in November.

**Internal Affairs**

*Drinking Culture Working Group:*

With one of our team goals being a culture shift in a positive direction, this is one of the areas we have created a working group for. We recognize there are several groups doing extremely impactful and positive work on campus. We have set up a meeting with the numerous stakeholders (Student Life, Health and Wellness, and Sloppy not Social). Looking over drinking culture on campus and what specific areas we want to focus on moving forward.

*House Hockey Cup Policy:*

A rough draft idea has been created and will be presented at the House Hockey Cup Forum. The student consultation, Nov. 2nd, will hopefully provide insight and feedback to make the House Hockey Cups inclusive and sustainable for future years.

**Sub – Executives**

*Drive U:*

* Drive U is running well with minor issues
* Antigonish transit is a resource for extra busy nights that we utilized Homecoming
* Oil change and detail have been completed

*Student Food Resource Centre:*

* Looking into adjusting the hours because of Volunteers not showing up
* Trick or Eat
* Started volunteer shifts for in constituency office hours

*House Accounts Coordinator:*

* Most Visa’s are in and picked up
* Budget have been completed with residence numbers from the university
* Reimbursements for HP/VPs are constant

*International Health and Dental Plan Advisor:*

* Ongoing resource for International Students for questions, concerns and help
* Printing off benefit cards when needed
* Helping Julieanne with Administration of the plan

The U - StFX Students' Union

Chad Hasegawa

Vice President Finance and Operations

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## Vice-President Residence Affairs

**Name: Joelle French**

**To:** StFX Student’s Council

**Re:** Report to Council (October 2016)

**Committees** *(Here is where you can discuss the different committees that you are a member of. I would recommend providing a brief summary of items that have been discussed and the different initiatives before the committee. Please specify the way in which your office specifically has been a part these projects or the role that you have played in their progress or completion)*

**Mental Health Sub-Committee:**

* Initial meeting in October
* Discussed committee membership and moving the committee from an sub-committee of the President’s Office to a full standing committee of the University
* The committee is comprised of members from the Health and Counselling Centre, Student Life, Human Resources, the BEd department, the Psychology department, myself and Equity Representative Cassia Tremblay
* The purpose of the standing committee is looking to move to be a resource for the several ad hoc mental health societies and initiatives on campus.
* The first initiative is the #mydefinition campaign, which I will be proposing at our next meeting on November 2nd

**Campus Affairs:**

* Met once during the month of October
* The House Presidents provided some really great updates on their houses, which include picking their charities for the upcoming year, putting on traditional programming (e.g. Burke touque ceremony and Fraser trucker hat ceremony)
* Asked the House Presidents to provide one goal for their house which will help to direct the committee for the rest of the year
* No particular issues in terms of residence have come up through the committee as of yet

**East Coast Student Leadership Conference Steering Committee:**

* I continue to sit on the Steering Committee for the conference
* The concurrent sessions for the conference have been picked and we are finalizing the last minute details for the conference, which is occurring November 6th-8th on campus
* Ryley Erickson (VP Academic) and myself will be presenting on student, leadership at the conference on the Saturday afternoon

**External Affairs** *(Here is where to indicate what has been happening through your office/department in terms of events outside of the Union, and our executive. Other groups within the university that you have been working with)*

**Positive Space Training:**

* I received intensive Positive Space training alongside Jan Boomhouwer (the Residence Education Coordinator), from Joanne Tompkins
* I have now received Positive Space Levels 1 and 2
* On October 29th, I attended a “Train the Trainer” session facilitated by Joanne Tompkins and have now become a certified Positive Space Trainer
* I will utilize this to provide ongoing training to the House Presidents/Vice-Presidents/Off-Campus Leaders and the Student Advocates
* This was a great session to help give a better sense of where improvements can be made in residence to make them a safer and more inclusive space

**Heather Blackburn Presentations:**

* Several House Presidents have expressed concerns about slut-shaming and possible date-rape drugs on campus
* Reached out to the Antigonish Women’s Centre and have asked for Heather Blackburn and her colleagues (SANE nurses) to come onto campus and educate and empower students through a session on the SANE program, the resources abailable to students in terms of dealing with sexual assault, as well as education about date-rape drugs and techniques to mitigate risk
* Worked alongside Jan Boomhouwer, the Residence Education Coordinator to schedule the sessions and promote at a residence level

**Residence Changes:**

* During the last week of October, Taylor Chase (President) and myself expressed concerned to Student Life about the residence changes that were proposed, as we believed they were done without consideration of student consultation and would not be reflective of students’ needs
* Originally the proposal that concerned the Students’ Union was that no returners would be allowed into MacIsaac and MacNeil for the fall of 2017
* Bob Hale, Director of Student Life, was extremely receptive to our concerns and provided the opportunity for Taylor, myself, Carla Gillis (Director of Ancillary Services), and Jacqueline De Leebeeck to sit down and discuss the challenges facing these two residences
* Through this discussion, we came to the compromise that returners will be allowed to MacIsaac through a more extensive application process meaning they cannot have a record of major infractions with the Community Code, as well they will be asked to write a short essay
* For MacNeil, the following proposal was submitted by myself and was received well be the University. It will be implemented for September 2017
* The main issue arises out of hazing being a concern on campus this year
* The Students’ Union and Student Life will be working closely together to come up with a robust educational plan on hazing and ensure that positive change continues in these communities

**Proposal:**

**For 2017-18, MacNeil House will be allowed six returners on the following conditions:**

1.     Two of the six will be the House President and Vice President;

2.     Returners must hold a 60% or higher academic average, as a demonstration of academic focus;

3.     Returners may not have had any major Community Code violations;

4.     Returners shall submit a 500 word essay describing the positive impact he will have on the incoming cohort, to Studentlife@stfx.ca ;

5.     Returner applicants will be interviewed by the Director of Student Life and an Executive member of the Students’ Union;

**6.**     Returners will engage in a collaborative campaign with the Students’ Union and Student Life about hazing, and shall actively work to eliminate all forms of hazing in house.

* I am very happy to report that MacDonald and MacPherson will be allowed returners for September 2017, it is looking very promising that both buildings will be open and full to capacity for the incoming class of 2021

**Internal Affairs** *(Here is where to indicate what has been happening through your office/department in terms of events within the Union, and our executive. I would recommend discussing projects that require collaboration between your office and the office of another member of the Executive Board)*

**House Hockey Cup Policy:**

* Continuing to work on the House Hockey Cup Policy with Evan Davison-Kotler (Research and Policy Associate) and Chad Hasegawa (VP Finance and Operations)
* Will be presenting at the House Hockey Forum on November 2nd from 6pm-8pm
* The outline will be presented and at the forum there will be an opportunity to ask the attendess for feedback in order to create the most comprehensive policy
* This is part of a project, where I am developing a House Hockey Cup guidebook, as one issue that seems to continue to arise from the House Presidents is confusion over role clarity in House Hockey and how the process works
* The guidebook is to ensure the process becomes more clear and efficient

**Sub – Executives** *(Here is where to discuss your interactions and plans for your sub-executives. Please include any hiring of sub-executive positions, as well as communication that you have had with your different sub-execs. This would also be a place to discuss any planning that you may be doing for training sessions for each of the various positions that fall beneath your office)*

**Student Advocates:**

* Had one on ones with the Student Advocates during the month of October
* Overall, the office has been running smoothly and the advocates are doing a fantastic job
* They have asked for more on-going training, which I will be looking into providing during the month of November
* The training they are looking for is in regards to protocol around sexual assaults and more one on one training in terms of their role
* They will be receiving Mental Health First Aid Training during the month of November

**MacNeil House President and Vice President:**

* The House President and Vice President of MacNeil were formally asked to step down from their roles
* The applications were re-opened and closed October 31st
* If there are no applicants, we will continue to re-open the applications, until there are candidates. I am very confident we can fill these positions with two excellent lads.

**House Presidents and Vice Presidents:**

* In general, have been having meetings with House Presidents and Vice Presidents as needed, especially in regards to team dynamic and coordinating programming and events in residence
* The House Council Coordinator, Sydney Pagan, has been holding one on ones with the House Presidents and will be moving into one-on ones with the Vice Presidents in the upcoming month
* Attempting to coordinate a day to provide them with Positive Space Training Level 2
* Also provided the optional opportunity for House Presidents and Vice Presidents to receive Mental Health First Aid through the University

## Vice-President Activities and Events

Rachel LeBlanc - VP Activities and Events

Executive Report
September, 2016

St. F. X. Students’ Union

**Committees**

ERC:

* ERC continued to meet throughout the month every Wednesday at 10 am to review event requests. In our initial meetings, we discovered that many students were not able to submit ERC forms in time because of lack of preparation and training. As a result, the committee discussed how to better prepare student Society Presidents for event planning before the summer begins, as oppose to in September. In September, we did the following:
* Approved several house and society events including the Bathtub BBQ, House-related ceremonies and activities, society meetings and events.
* Did not approve events that were not submitted on time (i.e. 2 weeks plus a Friday prior to event date) in order to stick to our timeline.
* Hosted three separate ERC training sessions for society presidents in the month.
* Currently looking to prepare an Emergency Plan document for students to have

Student Orientation Committee:

* Held daily meetings throughout Orientation week to debrief and gear up for events as they passed.
* Held a debrief committee meeting to discuss the week as a whole. Looking to find a way to offer students more opportunities to meet friend outside of their residence buildings.
* Hosting a Banquet to celebrate in November.

Society Review Committee:

* Held an initial meeting to review societies eligible for ratification before our special council meeting (i.e. special council meeting included the ratification of societies who met the required criteria)
* After discovering that 14 societies had filled out their constitution form improperly, the committee met to review corrected constitution forms by societies before the second special council meeting.

**External Affairs**

**Side Stage Presents:**

* Working with company to put together a concert for students in the coming months. Details are not yet finalized and will be released once they are.

**One Stop Entertainment:**

* Worked with Fred Alexander on This is 2020 and Country Night Super Sub for decoartions

**IMPACT sound:**

* Worked with Shannon on This is 2020 and Country Night Super Sub for lighting and Production

**Glow Parties:**

* Company that brought in the Orientation Weeks’ laser tag and mini golf, and brought in Country Nights’ Mechanical Bull

**Various Artists and Agencies:**

* In order to put on entertainment at events throughout the month.

**Internal Affairs**

**This is 2020:**

* Overall, the week was extremely successful! Events were executed with only a few small bumps and student attendance was incredibly high. O-crew, Student Union executive team, full time staff, conference services, facilities management, IMPACT sound and One Stop entertainment all helped create an incredible week for students.
* Goals for next year include: Improving Glow games concept with Run n’ Gun executive members (O-crew), ensuring sprinklers for the Jell-O slide have better safety mechanisms so students don’t step on them, and ensuring we have spare tarps on hand for the Jell-O slide.

**Country Night Super Sub:**

* Successfully hosted the event on September 23rd with close to no problems. Students were engaged in both floors’ events, the mechanical bull, wet bar and the inn. Performance by Trade winds was a success! Sold almost 800 tickets through both physical tickets and the U app.

**World Market:**

* + Collaborating with the International Society, Coady Participants, Students of African Descent office, Aboriginal Students office and International Students’ Office to host our first world market on Sunday, October 16th from 2-4 pm in the Coady Gardens. Market will have participants from the StFX community and the Antigonish community celebrating their heritage by hosting a booth to showcase their food, clothing, accessories, and cultural materials of information.
	+ Preparation includes: Gathering “world market participation” forms. Booking space and booths, contacting local food producers and trucks, creating promotional material and spreading the word.

**X Talks:**

* Working with Ryley Erickson, Ian Pygott, Andrea Boyd and Mary Coyle of the McKenna Centre to launch X Talks on October 25th at the Bauer Theatre. Talk will be entirely open to anything and everything, giving students the freedom to share ideas and express thoughts.

**Sub – Executives**

**Society Coordinator:**

* Met with Tiffany regarding events not approved and steps that need to be taken by societies so that they may be approved.
* Had a busy month helping societies get ratified with their constitution and ratification forms.
* Looking to set goals to make societies more accessible to students and helping ease the transition process in place.

**O-Crew Co Chairs:**

* Met to discuss the week’s success and challenges
* Discussed moving forward with the E-Bae committee and how to intergrade it into the committee

## Vice-President External Affairs

**Name: Annie Sirois**

**To:** StFX Student Council

**Re:** Report to Council (October 2016)

**Committees**

* StFX University’s *Nicholson Hall/Brian Mulroney Institute Planning Committee:* the design/plan for the building received Board of Governor’s approval and has since been presented to the public with Mr. Mulroney’s visit to campus.
* CASA’s *Member Relations Committee:* Board Officer stepped down, in the process of electing a new one.
* SNS’s *Policy Committee:* This is where the bulk of my work has been this month. The committee met over five times this month. With the assistance of the members of the Policy Committee, we have developed 8 advocacy policies that fall under the four priorities of student assistance, supporting international students, student-civic engagement, and social access to PSE. All these policies will be used to advocate to government during our Provincial Government Lobby week between Nov.6th and the 10th.
	+ These are the following advocacy policies that StudentsNS will be championing: (student assistance) 1) re-purposing domestic student grant for low-income students, 2) improve grant to loan ration from 40:60 to 50:50, 3) increase weekly loan limit from $180/week to $210/week, 4) improve delays in student assistance distribution; (supporting international students) 5) providing MSI coverage to international students immediately upon their arrival in NS; (student-civic participation) 6) amending the Municipal Elections Act to address the ambiguity of the definition of ‘ordinarily resident’; (social access to PSE) 7) improve data collection in NS, and 8) establish a Minister’s Advisory Panel co-chaired with members of the Indigenous community to address reconciliation in the province

**External Affairs**

 As mentioned above, the bulk of my work has been drafting the policies. On October 4th Taylor and I had an **in-person Board Meeting for StudentsNS in Halifax** where we drafted the above lobby points and met with critics of Labour and Advanced Education from the NDP and Conservatives. The results for the Municipal Election came in and Laurie Boucher has been ratified as mayor. Without having concrete data yet, I would attribute much of the increased voter turnout this election to the new adoption of electronic voting, which allowed students to vote online and over the phone, increasing accessibility. On October 18th StudentsNS had another **Student Government Roundtable with the Minister** where we continued to lobby for changes to the Nova Scotia Student Financial Aid system.

**Internal Affairs**

 The **External Affairs Advisory Committee** that I put forth the By-Law and Policy, and Student Council has finally been approved. Upon approval of that I quickly drafted the application form which was sent out to students. The focus of the committee is to provide the VP-External with grassroots direction/feedback from students-at-large when developing policy for SNS and CASA. The two students will be appointed by myself, the International SRC Rep, and the Equity SRC Rep the first week of November before Taylor and I leave for two weeks of advocacy. The Student Food Resource Centre Coordinator has been incredible at organizing **Trick Or Eat**, which is taking place the due date of this report so I will give an update on it in my next report. I helped facilitate the visit of Brad Firth, also known more widely as **Caribou Legs**, the man running across Canada to raise awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women, to come on November 3rd before the President’s Colloquium on Truth and Reconciliation, from 5:30PM until 7:00PM in the Schwartz Auditorium.

**Sub-Executive: Research and Policy Associate**

Evan has been working on four main policies: institutional accessibility/centralization of services, municipal ordinarily resident, house hockey cup, and progressive federal student grant structure. He has been working above and beyond visit Residence House Meetings to raise awareness about the policy proposal package. For greater outreach, he’s planning a coffee/hot chocolate social in the month on November. He has also been sitting on the StFXSU’s By-Law and Policy Committee, as well as sitting on the SNS Policy Committee that I chair.

Annie Sirois, Vice President External Affairs

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**Glossary**

**StudentsNS/SNS:** Students Nova Scotia is the STFXSU’s Provincial Lobbying Group. It is an alliance of Nova Scotia post-secondary student associations, including StFX, Acadia, Cape Breton, Saint Mary’s, Kingstec, and Annapolis Valley. The organization gives students in Nova Scotia a united voice, helping set the direction of post-secondary education by researching challenges, identifying solutions, and creating the political space needed for these solutions to happen. For more information: <http://studentsns.ca/> or contact the Executive Director Sophie Helpard at director@studentsns.ca

**CASA:** Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is the STFXSU’s Federal Lobbying Group and a national voice for Canada’s post-secondary students. Established in 1995, CASA is a non-partisan, not-for-profit student organization composed of student associations from across Canada. For more information: <http://casa-acae.com/> or contact the Executive Director Michael McDonald at ed@casa.ca

**MLA:** A Member of Legislative Assembly is a representative elected by the voters of a constituency to the provincial legislative assembly. The MLA for the Antigonish constituency is Mr. Randy Delorey of the Liberal Party. Contact: office@delorey4antigonish.ca or 902-870-5899

**MOU:** refers to the Memorandum of Understanding, an agreement between the provincial government and all the universities in Nova Scotia. It serves to provide operational direction for universities.

**MP:** A Member of Parliament is a representative elected by the voters of a constituency to the House of Commons (also known as the Lower House). The MP for Central Nova constituency is Sean Fraser of the Liberal Party. Contact: sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca or 902-867-2919

**PSE:** refers to post-secondary education, also known as higher education, which encompasses universities, academies, colleges, seminaries, and institutes of technology.

composed of student associations from across Canada. For more information: <http://casa-acae.com/> or contact the Executive Director Michael McDonald at ed@casa.ca

**MLA:** A Member of Legislative Assembly is a representative elected by the voters of a constituency to the provincial legislative assembly. The MLA for the Antigonish constituency is Mr. Randy Delorey of the Liberal Party. Contact: office@delorey4antigonish.ca or 902-870-5899

**MOU:** refers to the Memorandum of Understanding, an agreement between the provincial government and all the universities in Nova Scotia. It serves to provide operational direction for universities.

**MP:** A Member of Parliament is a representative elected by the voters of a constituency to the House of Commons (also known as the Lower House). The MP for Central Nova constituency is Sean Fraser of the Liberal Party. Contact: sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca or 902-867-2919

**PSE:** refers to post-secondary education, also known as higher education, which encompasses universities, academies, colleges, seminaries, and institutes of technology.

**Name: Ryley Erickson**

**To:** StFX Student’s Council

**Re:** Report to Council (September 2016)

**Committees**

Senate Steering Committee

* 1 meeting (October 24)
* Set up the agenda for the next Senate meeting
* Figured out the dates for the special Senate meetings (regular one will be November 7th, then two special ones for November 14th and November 22nd
* Clarified some mistakes in the minutes from the previous Senate meeting

Senate

* 1 meeting (October 4)
* Received reports from the deans of each faculty on the previous year. Much discussion was held around the fact that everyone who appealed their academic suspension was allowed to come back. Data will be collected and presented at the January Senate meeting on how many students who appealed their status stayed at St FX for the rest of the year
* The registrar gave a report on enrollment. Slightly below the previous year
* The concentration in actuarial science was approved
* The high school requirements to get accepted into engineering were changed
* Many notices of motions were given
* The rest of the Senate administration was elected

Joint Committee on Studies

* 1 meeting (October 3)
* The degree structure of a joint Bachelor of Arts and Science (BASc) was brought to JCOS. Much discussion was had around it, but not a lot was accomplished. Nothing could be decided until the committee on studies – arts and committee on studies – science had met
* From the previous meeting, the discussion around university medalists was moved further along, with the possibility to double medal removed.

Committee on Studies - Arts

* 3 meetings, only able to attend 1 (October 25)
* The invitations to these meetings were sent to the wrong email, so I was only able to attend the final one this month. Any questions about the others can be directed to our Arts Representative, Nicholas Favero.
* In the final COS – Arts meeting, we passed the structure and degree for the BASc in Health. We reviewed the requirements thoroughly and had much discussion, although did not change anything from the proposed draft. A few questions that did come up were directed to the Joint Committee on Studies

BITB Committee

* 1 meeting (October 26)
* Came up with a solid plan on how to attack BITB training this year. Many facets of the university were present and all gave valuable input on how we should move on with the program
* It was agreed that we wanted to keep the program running and restore it to how it was when it first began. We will start by training master trainers and then move on to finding the students to be part of the program
* Action items for my office that came up included: Co-chairing future committee meetings, meeting with Jenna to discuss future dates for workshops and working with Sean to look at providing food for any of the future workshops

Timetable Review Committee

* 3 meetings (October 3, 17, 27), 2 town halls & 1 presentation
* All meetings were concerned with the new timetable proposition, which would centralize the timetable creating within the university. Currently, each department creates their own schedule then sends it to the registrar, who proceeds to try and fit all 30 different schedules together. This is quite inefficient, and while it benefits the faculty a little by giving them some flexibility on their timetables, it’s created a situation where there are 42 classes in the 2:15 block on Tuesdays and only 17 in the 12:30 block
* The new system would reduce these inefficiencies and also get rid of the 5:15-6:30 block entirely, giving students a chance to eat dinner between afternoon and evening classes. It would reduce course conflicts significantly according to the registrar, allowing students more choices in the classes that they will take
* Naturally, some of the faculty have not been too keen on this and have been quite vocal about their concerns in the two town halls that we had. Student turnout at the town halls was limited due to poor advertising.
* The meetings have been spent addressing concerns and letters from various departments, while also coming up with a system to deal with accommodation requests from the various faculty members.
* We still have some work to do, so we are hoping that it will be in place for the 2017-2018 school year, but are unsure.

**External Affairs**

Nothing to report

**Internal Affairs**

**Tutoring**

Tutoring has reached a dead end in terms of my position. I am unsure how to get more tutors than we currently have, as I am getting way more requests for tutors than people requesting to be tutors. I send everyone who asks over to the Student Success Center but have yet to check with them to see if they are successful or if the burden is too much

**Dog Den**

The second dog den was as successful as the first one. We had one more dog at the first session and the same amount at the second, but the bottleneck effect that happened during the first dog den did not happen again. The only problem was that it was raining so council chambers smelled like wet dog for a little while. I will look into reserving parking spaces for the volunteers

**Health**

Margie MacKinnon and I are looking into whether we want to restart the Health and Wellness Subcommittee. We have a few more meetings lined up, but she will be presenting to the executives at some point.

**Sub – Executives**

**Bringing in the Bystander Coordinator**

Jenna did not have the best transition (a fault of many including my own) so she has been a little unsure of what exactly her position does. Luckily, the BITB committee shed some light on the direction that her position will take this year, and we have started to have weekly meetings to check in with each other. So far, she has been doing some small projects including summarizing the Sexualized Violence Policy into one document to make it easy to skim through and see the main points. We have also been asked to help with anti-slut shaming week in November so we are looking forward to that. Right now Jenna’s main concern is booking future BITB presentations and also getting more trainers.

# Student Representative Reports

## Maddie Gillmeister – Board of Governors Representative

## Nicholas Favero – Arts Student Representative

Constituency Report- Arts Councillor Nicholas Favero

Since my last report many things have happened that have affected the student body generally and Arts students more specifically. The following is a summary of the most relevant events. Firstly, the Proposed BASC degree structure and the proposed Health Studies degree have been passed through the *Committee on Studies Arts* and the *Joint Committee on Studies* as well. The program will now be presented to the Senate at the next regular meeting this coming week. With regards to the Society Review committee of the Student Union we have assessed the Water Polo Society which we will be presenting for ratification. We are also in the process of looking at a lottery system to assign coat check for societies and have discussed long terms goals that we will be tackling which include fostering more cooperation between society presidents and societies in general. Moving forward, one of the main events on Campus was the announcement of the Mulroney institute which I attended and can report that the reception was overwhelmingly positive. Moreover, politics continue to bring Arts student to the forefront of the campus community as the upcoming annual lecture series which is put on by the political science department is welcoming the Right Honourable Paul Martin as this year’s keynote speaker. This is a great event put on by the department that helps champion the Arts to the entire University community. Moreover, it is worth mentioning and addressing the unfortunate defeat of the Xaverian’s petition regarding the Mi’kmaq Flag whose request was turned down by the president’s office. Finally, Stfx’s Sexual Assault Policy is in the Process of being released and this is certainly an issue which will cause discussion and I would encourage all Councillors to seek feedback from their constituents and educate themselves on the policy.

## Iain MacLellan – First Year Representative

**Council Report**

**Iain MacLellan – First Year Representative**

**Meeting: November 6th at 5:00pm**

**What have you been up to since the last council meeting?**

Since the last council meeting, I have been reaching out to constituents trying to be more transparent and allow for them to know what my position is as a resource, and what it does/can do for them. I ideally want to get students coming to me during my office hours with issues and things we can improve on as a campus. I have also been trying to promote the Amazing Race event to the frosh, which has seemed to go quite successfully so far. Due to still not being able to reach out to all my constituents yet, I have been asking around my residence about their views of the Theatre Antigonish proposal, and have been getting great reviews, with many students saying they would be much more libel to attend and become more involved with this new system.

**What concerns/issues have been repeatedly been addressed in your constituency?**

I have no issues to report at the moment.

**What committees or meetings have you participated in?**

I have been attending weekly By-Law and Policy meetings which have given me much more experience into how the entire systems of the U operates, they have been very beneficial.

**What events/activities are coming up in your constituency (BOG: could be StFX town halls, info sessions, etc)?**

I am currently setting goals, and looking to plan events to get the Frosh more involved in campus activities. I have been promoting already planned events across campus with many frosh such as the Amazing Race, Speakers, Dog Dens, and Athletic Events to see frosh become engaged around campus. Coming up this month, I am interested in planning some sort of coffee house style concert/variety show showcasing acts by men to promote the Movember Foundation and awareness around men’s health, this could also be used as a fundraiser for the foundation, and a great way to meet frosh and see people become involved across campus.

## Cassia Tremblay – Equity Student Representative

**Equity: Constituency Report for November 6th**

**Cassia**

Council Meet and Greet Hot Chocolate Giveaway – Oct 20th

* Successful event
* Mostly positive feedback regarding the implementation of Theatre Antigonish fees
* “What student issues are U passionate about?” board filled out by students in council office. Concerns regarding BurMac, equity, food prices on campus etc.

Let’s Talk Equity – Oct 24th

* Notes available on request!
* Issues raised regarding international students – transparency of TOTAL cost of university, social inclusion (many Chinese students don’t use FaceBook because it’s banned in China so we aren’t targeting them effectively), academic inclusion (suggestion of looking into extra testing time for English 2nd language students)
* Concerns regarding the lack of equitable messaging around campus – e.g. anti-racism posters

X Project – Oct 25th

* Attended with the X Project Society, travelled to Pictou Landing to spend time with aboriginal youth

Meeting with Dr. Sandness – Oct 27th

* Discussed religious inclusion on campus
* Plans to look into religious inclusion campaigns launched in Halifax
* Notes available on request

Meeting with Internationalization team (Marla Gaudet and Abena Amoako-Tuffour) – Nov 3rd

Speaking with International Student Society – Nov 3rd

Attended Presidents Colloquium: Social Justice for Reconciliation: Indigenous Perspectives

Upcoming:

* Planning meeting #1 for Dec 6th, National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women

Sex Positivity Week

* Planning with Joelle, will be finalized soon
* Nov 14-18th
* Bringing in the Bystander Sessions, ‘protest’ style art making events (SlutWalk inspiration), UnSlut Documentary Showing, Panel discussion and Art Showing

House Council Representatives: Equity and Sustainability

* Some reps are helping to plan Joelle and I’s Sex Positive Week
* Were asked to sign and distribute the Mi’kmaq flag petition

Committees:

Health Insurance Plan Committee – have not met

The Xavarian Weekly Publication Board - Met on Oct 18th.

* Discussed the lack of journalism courses offered by academic departments at St.FX. Brainstormed that the opening of the Mulroney Centre might be a good opportunity for this.
* Discussed the possibility of having a special issue of the paper for student elections –**perhaps council could support this initiative to work towards our goal of increasing election participation.**
* Also discussed budget changes from last year that need to be reviewed.

Not officially council - Presidential Sub-Committee on Mental Health – meeting Nov 2nd

* Discussed the launch of #MyDefinition as a campaign run by the The U and socities on campus. Committee responded positively but with some hesitation regarding focusing on evidenced-based approaches.
* Moving forward wants to be a working group following up on the mental health goals outlined in the Strategic Plan
* Notes available on request

## Bry Crabbe - Graduate Studies Student Representative

Council Report: Graduate Student Representative- Bry Crabbe

November 3rd, 2016

 Since the last council a list serv mass email server has been developed for the graduate students near and far from StFX, by the time of council there will have been a introductory email sent to my constituents introducing myself and what my role as a student representative is, along side on this email Students’ Union President Taylor Chase also wrote an introduction of himself towards the graduate students. I believe this is a substantial first stride in creating a more inclusive graduate experience here at StFX whether you are on campus or abroad.

 Similar to last report the main issues that I have heard around graduate students is the out-dated X-Ring policy, as well as the poor promotion of graduate programs at StFX. The hard part of this is to promote graduate programs you need to have potential funding available and with funding being pretty low across the faculties at this time it’s hard to tell or promote to students for opportunities that may not exist.

 Since the last council there has been not been another Campus Affairs meeting, but as the Co-chair of the committee I am organizing our third meeting of the year to be this Tuesday November 8th. More will be available to report at the next council. For Senate meetings have taken place for; joint committee on studies, committee on studies, as well as a first for me a graduate council meeting.

 This past week there was a info session hosted by Dr. Richard Isnor on how to apply to graduate programs and potential funding opportunities that are available for students interested in graduate programs either at StFX or other post-secondary institutions. Contact has been made with the Graduate society president as well to begin collaborations on potential constituency events; work on this will also be in collaboration with deputy chair Mikaela Henderson.

## Connor O’Brien – Board of Governors Student Representative

Consitutuency Report

Connor O'Brien

BOG

November 3rd 2016

Nothing has changed for me in the past two weeks.

* The AUT agreement was signed
* I will be having a Governance and Nominating Committee meeting on Monday
* I will be having an Investment committee meeting on the 17th of November
* I plan on reaching out to the Divest-X society soon about their mission/goals and how can possibly help

## William Gatchell – Business Student Representative

Business Representative Constituency Report – Nov. 3rd

This past week I sat down with Brandon to discuss the creation of the Schwartz Business Council and what its ideal structure might look like. We went through various questions that had arisen at my first meeting with Dr. long, such as number of positions, and whether an election or appointment process would be best. Then this past Tuesday, I might with Dr. Long to compare what we’ve both been up too, agree upon some of our prior concerns and then from there create an action plan for the implementation of this council. This will operate as an advisory council, a soundboard of sorts, for all things academics within Schwartz. The information will be important for both Dr. Long and myself, as we’re able to take it to both of our respective streams and best represent what business student’s want. The next order of business from the meeting is for me to create a terms of reference for the council (its purpose, its positions, appointment process, etc.) and send it off to Dr. Long and hopefully Brandon for revision. Once finalized, we look to have it sent out to business students via email as quickly as possible and conduct the appointment process before Christmas break. The hope is to have it running second semester.

## Victoria Sandre – Science Student Representative

Constituency Report

Science Representative Victoria Sandre

Council Meeting- Sunday November 6th

Over the past few weeks, I have continued to reach out to my constituents through social media, email, and office hours. I have interacted with all Science society presidents and received feedback from some. More students are inquiring about my office hours and about my position in general, so I have been actively informing students about this particular positon in The U. As councillors, we are working towards making the office a better workspace and a more inviting environment for students to visit.

In Campus Affairs committee, we are working on collecting goals for the year from house presidents. It is a very positive group to work with.

There is a Senate meeting tomorrow night, November 7th. Agenda to be circulated November 3rd. In Senate sub-committees, JCOS met last week. There was lots of discussion on the BASc program. It is a very interesting and unique layout and I think it will benefit a lot of prospective students. Some members of the committee feel that it lacks depth, but has much breadth, as there are no specified majors (thus far). The program gives students an option to pursue a BASc in Health with a concentration in Science (ex: Biomedical Sciences) or Arts (ex: Health Policy), but places heavy focus on the humanities. Similar programs are found at other institutions, however ours is unique in the designation of core courses. In COS for the Faculty of Science, I have been unable to make all meetings because of time conflicts with class, however I have been keeping up with the minutes and trying to follow discussion. Hoping to make more meetings in the future. In the Lab usage committee, which reports to Academic Planning and Priorities (APP), we have a meeting next week to continue conversations on the optimization of lab space and campus computers. Last year data showed that most of the computer usage was for one-time printing. Looking into alternate strategies.

## Mildred Syabeenzu - International Representative

**Mildred Syabeenzu**

**International Constituency Report (October 2016)**

October 26: participated in a meeting for the international executive committee. The purpose of the meeting was to plan and discuss the following issues:

1. The international basketball tournament
2. Pumpkin carving activity
3. 1st and 2nd year representative in the International Executive Committee
4. Service learning students interested in participating in the International welcome week program for the January 2017 intake
5. Christmas residence for International Students
* October 27, 2016: The International Constituency had a pumpkin carving event at the People’s Place Library. It was a great opportunity for international students to experience the Halloween tradition in Canada.
* October 24, 2016: I attended an equity session organized by the equity representative in the Student Union Council
* Budget and Finance Committee activities
1. Approved allocation of $145.00 to the Figure Skating Society
2. Approved $50 to the Environmental Society for the Amazing Race event
3. Approved the allocation of $500 for the Women in Business Society. The money went towards ensuring that society members attend the Queen’s Women in Leadership conference in Ontario.

# Minutes from Last Meeting – For Review

**Students’ Union Representative Council Minutes – October 23rd 2016**

*Call to order 5:01pm*

Roll Call

Present: Nicholas Favero, Mikaela Henderson, Brandon Hamilton, Cassia Tremblay, Connor O’Brien, William Gatchell, Taylor Chase, Iain MacLellan, Chad Hasegawa, Joelle French, Annie Sirois, Bry Crabbe, Dr. Khoury, Sean Ryan, Mildred Syabeenzu, Victoria Sandre

Absent with Regrets: Ryley Erickson (vote proxy to Taylor Chase), Madeleine Gillmeister (vote proxy to Connor O’Brien)

Late: Rachel LeBlanc

Bry Crabbe moves to approve the agenda; Cassia Tremblay is the seconder (11-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Opening remarks

Brendon Hamilton (Chair): Welcome to our regular council meeting. Hello to everyone in the gallery! Just to let you know if you would like to speak please raise your hand.

*Mi’Kmaq Acknowledgement*

Approval of Minutes

Will Gatchell moves to approve the last council meeting minutes; Cassia Tremblay was the seconder (11-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Constituency Reports

Equity (Cassia Tremblay): Looking forward to meeting with LGBTQ+ advisor, International student advisor and Inter-faith panel to get some updates. Will be hosting an equity panel tomorrow (MONDAY) in Council Chambers from 6:30-8:30pm. Had great conversations at the event in front of the library, including positive feedback on Theatre Antigonish fee. Joelle and I met to address sexual positivity. X-projects is going to communities this week

International (Mildred Syabeenzu): Pumpkin carving and basketball tournament coming up. Having meetings regarding the new office of the International student advisor as students are not comfortable going to that location. Working on trying to get the office moved.

BOG (Connor O’Brien): Board met on Thursday to ratify the AUT agreement which was successful. Succession planning starting this week.

First Year (Iain MacLellan): Attended event outside the library and got to chat with lots of frosh and talk about the Theatre Antigonish proposal.

Science (Victoria Sandre): Great to interact with constituents at event outside the library. Some senate sub-committee meetings happening soon as next senate meeting is November 7th.

Arts (Nicholas Favero): Gathered feedback on the Antigonish theatre proposal at event and across campus and feedback on today’s Equity talk.

Graduate (Bry Crabbe): No graduate students were present at the meet and greet but got to chat with other students about what graduate students do and what I do. Have a graduate student list serve so will be sending out an email soon.

Business (Will Gatchell): Had a councillor meet and greet and had a great chance to meet some onf my constituents. In discussions with Brad Long to start a business council and the faculty are on board. Will be meeting with the Chair to move forward further. Also working on getting a Facebook page up and running.

Executive Reports

President (Taylor Chase): Along with the Co-presidents of Senior class have worked on opening the nominations for candle bearers for X-ring ceremony and had great success ~60 nominations.

VP Finance & Operations (Chad Hasegawa): Have been working on actuals and putting the budget into the new accounting software. Working on society allocations which will be out tomorrow as well as consulting meeting regarding website.

VP Activities & Events (Rachel LeBlanc): World Market will be happening in November (working with the international student society), X Talks will be coming up. Working on Lounge/Hub in the SUB for students to use if not wanting to participate in drinking activities.

VP Residence Affairs (Joelle French): Had an opportunity to speak with the founder of the #mydefinition campaign and happy to report that feedback from other campuses has been overwhelmingly positive. Working with student advocates on sexual assault training.

VP External (Annie Sirois): Trick-or-Eat is under way. Student government round table in Halifax and met with Minister of Education and CFS (another lobbying organization in the province). Great meetings. Spoke with the Antigonish returning officer who reported an 8% increase in voter turnout (about 50%) and I would like to attribute that to student participation which will be confirmed with further statistics later. Taylor and I will be gone advocating for 2wks in November. I am developing the policy handbook for the policy committee (I am chair of). There are four key areas of interest for you guys. Brad Furth will hopefully be coming to campus in the next few weeks.

Faculty Representative’s Remarks

Dr. Khoury: External reviewers for new program of public policy and governance and I expect that this will go smoothly and come September the new program will be up and running. They will be meeting with students today. The Art/Science degree option was just officially passed (the first level) but probably won’t be ready for September. There is more concern expressed about programing by members of the faculty of arts and the chair of the faculty of arts will be presenting to counsel November 6th. UNHRC is here filming at the theatre to film about how Antigonish and the University and the community has come together to support our new neighbours!

Comment (Nicholas Favero): The courses for the Arts/Science have been passed, but still needs to be brought to senate.

Students Union General Manager Report

Sean Ryan: Apologies for not being here last week. This week we have a Movember information session at 6:30pm Tuesday at the Inn. I am taking on running 100km in 30days for Movember if anyone wants to jump in let me know. Xavarian publication board met this week and discussed the last of a journalism course here at X and we think there might be a presentation on this in the future.

Committee Reports

Budget and Finance: Society allocations in process which will be finalized tomorrow and will be doing voting online.

Campus Affairs: Had meeting on Monday. Were able to determine the charity of choice for each house. Each HP will be submitting their goal for the year tomorrow.

Organizational Review: 6 person committee (Sean Ryan, Taylor Chase, Ryley Erickson, Will Gatchell, Maddie Gillmeister, Mikaela Henderson) and met on Wednesday. Discussed goals for the year and made some sub action groups to deal with these. Looking into equity and accessibility and hiring and transitioning currently.

Bylaw and Policy: Brought Annie in to discuss External advisory committee which will be voted on today.

Special Reports to Council

*Equity Presentation by Students at Large – Racial Minority Representatives*

*Presenters: Nayo Upshaw, Shanna Francis, Rebecca Clancy, Rebecca Mesay & Kathleen Grosicki*

Privilege tells you that you were born into, we need to think about this when talking about issues. It is our responsibility to acknowledge our privilege.

Proposition: We have met with many councillors and are proposing two new representatives on Council. Indigenous Student Representative and Students of African Descent Representative. Proposed TOR are brought together through discussions with those who have these positions at MUN and some discussions with some student representatives. Please note that these are not to be tokenized positions and also there groups continue to experience the legacy of historical disadvantage by colonization, slavery and segregation. Why? The U promised this. The U bears the responsibility of advocating on behalf of students. It is also the law. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. The provincial government has also acknowledge this. We feel that a union who is for the students by the students should embody this and follow government structure. It is also what the students want, yes we do already have an equity representative but she represents the whole population how can she possibly do this. People feel if they can identify with someone they would be more likely to go to them with their problems. We even have student testimonies. We are asking for a seat at the table and for respect. This is happening elsewhere. We need to hold each other accountable for what we say were going to do. These are the things that have already been promised to us, this is our next step.

Question (Nicholas Favero): It seems to me that within the proposition that the traditional channels within the U are broken can you speak to this? I feel I can represent minorities.

Response (Presenters): This would infuse us into it and our face would be there. Minority groups cannot identify with you. It might not be as urgent to you.

Comment (Gallery): Nova Scotia’s justice system had racism within it. They acknowledged that there needs to be better representation and they changed the structure of the school boards to save a seat for these minority groups. Think of Trudeau’s cabinet.

Question (Mildred): Do you have any case which you could demonstrate where the counsel would represent these two groups?

Response (Presenters): I come from Calgary from a very culturally diverse area. I understood what I was coming too but when you walk into the classroom and you are the only visible minority it is hard. It also comes down to we cannot identify with these issues if we have not experienced. We need someone at the table to bring awareness to the students. Myself and Rachel and Katie met about issues for Orientation this year and that was good but it is sad that none of these issues were thought of before. No one asks for our perspective. I was tokenized. Are we doing things that are reflective of us? Like Harambe night?! We are not happy.

Question (Annie Sirois): I would argue that us putting these positions is us just throwing it in there. Mildred do you think that your position adequately represents international students?

Response (Mildred Syabeenzu): International students have a totally different experience and the fact that someone sits on the counsel gives us something that specifically concerns international students. I don’t think I would relate to Cassia if I had an international issue. It makes things easier because you speak to issues you can relate with. There is a difference in how you advocate for things.

Response (Annie Sirois): I ask that people be cognisant to the fact that it is only 1month into the school year.

Response (Presenters): We only have a short amount of time and we can make strives. We can do so much in a year. We appreciate that you have been receptive to the stuff for orientation week. But the time is now. We are graduating this isn’t for us, this is to leave behind. We want to be able to go to our towns and say that StFX is a place where people can see safe. How am I supposed to aspire to this role if I do not see myself represented? If you have nothing to propose and I am proposing this why can’t we do this?

Question (Iain MacLellan): Would these people be elected and who would be able to vote?

Response (Presenters): Yes, it would be like that and they need a nomination from the advisors.

Question (Connor O’Brien): I think it would be important to get a list of the other unions who have these positions and see what the feedback is.

Response (Presenters): We have contacts. The universities who have these positions seem to have more diversity within their executive. These position gives people an in which can lead to their positions on the Executive.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): This would be in addition to the Equity Rep?

Response (Presenters): Yes, if we took these minority groups out of that that position could focus on the other groups.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): This is because they can’t relate to Cassia?

Response (Presenters): This is about representation, there is only so much she can do when she has to represent 100% of people and gives them a person to be related to.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): What about the minority groups, we can’t have every single ethnic minority.

Response (Presenters): I think we can agree that this is the largest minorities.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): Can we confirm this?

Response (Presenters): No, the university doesn’t keep track of this. But think of our heritage.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): You don’t think that these people would get drowned out by adding more people like what we were trying to get away from.

Response (Presenters): If you think that way then yes, but in talking with these students we feel it is necessary.

Question (Gallery): How can we better communicate hiring and stuff, how can we reach you guys better?

Response (Presenters): You guys don’t know we exist. You guys don’t know us. We don’t see you guys. A lot of feel we are feared and hand out with ourselves. If you don’t know them how can you approach them?

Question (Gallery): How can we use our channels better?

Response (Presenters): Having these voices will be able to speak to culturally unresponsive practices that you might not see. One small tip: put people of colour on your posters.

Comment (Cassia Tremblay): Clearly this is important to my constituencies. I have been sitting in Michael’s office and I am talking to people. I am trying but maybe if people don’t see themselves in me then it isn’t working. Maybe all of us sitting around as white people need to realize that just saying we are trying isn’t enough.

Question (Rachel LeBlanc): For the positions, how can we ensure that their constituents are the ones voting?

Response (Presenters): That would have to be hashed out.

Question (Gallery): I think this is just a small part of it. I feel like I come to this university and a lot of people from my home do not want to come here because they do not feel representative. It was hard coming here because I didn’t feel represented by you guys. I feel like everything we put up always gets argued against. My family mattered. My grandmother was born on this land and were thrown out. How am I supposed to be proud when they won’t even raise the flag? How am I supposed to be so vulnerable when you guys don’t understand? I want to encourage people to come here because I want to feel like I have a voice, I am tired of being silent.

Comment (Annie Sirois): Just to point out there are visible minorities in the Mount A and Acadia executives.

Question (Connor O’Brien): There is a need for more racial representation in all positions in the U. Do you see this small step of having a spillover effect? Do you feel as if this happened when you were coming up through here you would have gotten more involved?

Response (Presenters): Yes, I had a hard first few days. Even in my frosh kit there was nothing that represented me. I just wish that one person in my undergrad came to me so I could have gotten involved. When I came here I was shocked and didn’t know what to do. Going up to a white person and asking for help is hard. Us even presenting to you shows we have to work 10 times harder. I have had positions through the U because I looked up to the other females in the U.

Question (Nicholas Favero): Do you think these positions would be sustainable?

Response (Presenters): Yes, we have interest and if you don’t try how do you know?

Comment (Nicholas Favero): It seems that selecting who is allowed to vote or run would be problematic and is something we need to consider.

Question (Bry Crabbe): To cassia, do you feel that this would be beneficial? Do you feel overwhelmed?

Response (Cassia Tremblay): I feel this would be an opportunity as my job is difficult. There are infinite equity issues across campus.

Comment (Gallery): Unions are about solidarity, unions have been beneficial to helping women and people with disability. I hope you guys don’t delay this and remember that this is what unions are for.

Question (Gallery): I am a RO, it might be an admissions problem with the not identifying the demographic. If we know that these demographics are coming into university we can have these resources ready.

Response (Presenters): Look at the new scholarships, we will be having more of these students coming.

Comment (Dr. Khory): Just to point a fact, the university now has a 15million scholarship fund to target these minority groups so there will be more student incoming.

Question (Gallery): You guys are looking at things at too much of a structural way. You guys need this. I have never voted because I don’t feel like my voice is never heard. Why should I vote? I am the president of the Aboriginal student society and there are a minimum of 70 students that identify this way. I feel that these two positions would allow for beautiful things to happen. We put on events that I do not see any of you guys ever come to. As marginalized people we have come to meet you at the line and we really shouldn’t have to. Yea it might be a little messy but StFX that is on unseeded Mi’kmaq territory and you guys need to be progressive. These women have brought is amazing. If I had the power I would say let’s do it right now. You guys have already done amazing things. This is the first time we were offered to open up to frosh. We don’t know what it feels like to have an opportunity to sit at this table. I hope you guys take this seriously and connect with it. I hope we can have a mutual respect. What an amazing opportunity for a legacy and something that is so progressive and wonderful.

Comment (Cassia Tremblay): In talking with constituents some feel that they don’t feel that this would solve their problems. Michael Fisher and I were thinking that there should be a cultural competency committee that might oversee some of the decisions and help keep us in track.

Comment (Mildred Syabeenzu): It is easy the way international students vote, we vote for ourselves. Through the discussion I noticed that we are looking at individuals when we need to look at positions. My position might not always be a black women, tomorrow it could be an Asian or a German. I also wanted to emphasize that sometimes it is hard when you are in a group of people who you feel that they can’t even relate. It is tough. It worries me because when it comes to making decisions we use different lenses. I feel that if we had a union who was more diverse people would feel more comfortable. I saw a video last year from X about diversity and I was sad because it was all white. At that time I decided to run for counsel, I need to do things about it. I see that gap and the need. It is not because the equity rep doesn’t want to put things on the priority list but maybe she can’t relate.

Comment (Gallery): I am the vice president of the aboriginal society and I wanted to reemphasize that this is a moral obligation give our history. I walked into this room and didn’t know what to expect. I realize that I am privileged although I am aboriginal. My father went to a residential school yet I am here. I want to use my voice. If I could sit at that table I would represent every student. This is not a fight I feel like I am being pushed against the wall.

Comment (Annie Sirois): When you go to make your decision does that benefit outweigh the harm?

Comment (Gallery): Just got a tweet and the new university online application will have an option for people to self-identify their minority group.

Chair: I think what was suggested is that Organizational Review would take this back and do some research and logistics then bring it back to the table. So organizational review committee please keep us in the loop. Thank you for taking the time presenters and gallery members for sharing and opening up, I am glad we could make a space that felt safe for everyone in this room. I would say a vote would have to happen around January. Just so you know that it will not be lost in the weeds.

Old Business

None.

New Business

*Addition of External Advisory Committee*

Annie Sirois: Please see mandate.

Nicholas Favero: When appointing the two positions what would be the process of appointing the two students?

Annie Sirois: I think we need to discuss this more, I am looking for 2 students at large I am looking for diversity. The decision is up to the discretion of the VP External Affairs.

Iain MacLellan: Would it be application?

Annie Sirois: Yes, application first.

Victoria Sandre: You would take their feedback at to these meetings? Why only two students?

Annie Sirois: Yes. I originally wanted a larger number but I was advised by Bylaw and policy that more than two would be too many.

Nicholas Favero: Should there be something in the bylaw which would eliminate the subjectivity.

Chair: We could add that they must be ratified by counsel.

Nicholas Favero: Perhaps we could include in the description that would set up some sort of objective way to select these students.

Annie Sirois: If I may, I disagree with community involvement to be a criteria as I want all students.

Connor O’Brien: The original proposal was 8 students at large which was too many, the reason the word diversity isn’t in the description because it is 2 students at large, that language is not appropriate.

Sean Ryan: If you have concerns it comes down to how the application is created. Maybe there is a way to structure the application form.

Cassia Tremblay: Are there often specific issues that are brought up international students?

Annie Sirois: Yes, they are co-chair of the committee.

Rachel LeBlanc: Is there a magic number between 2 and 8?

Connor O’Brien: As it stands now there are 6 people on this committee and we felt that any more than that would be too much and impossible to get everyone in the meetings.

Dr. Khoury: The international student rep is on the committee so that is representation. But the 2 students at large could end up being two students in the same faculty.

Annie Sirois: We are looking for items that doesn’t pertain to a degree here but to general student issues.

Dr. Khoury: But what about funding issues that pertain to academics.

Annie Sirois: That is something that the student could identify in their application. I feel that the goal is to keep this committee small, so where do we draw the line and there is so much we could do with the application process. Maybe this should be approved pending the application.

Taylor Chase: When we added the international student rep as a co-chair, why did we do that?

Annie Sirois: All members are voting members and those issues all come up.

Taylor Chase: The voice needs to be there, but does making it co-chair elevate that issue over others?

Connor O’Brien: Would you recommend just having them as additional membership and having the co-chair elected by the committee.

Chair: We had chosen international rep as co-chair because a large portion of the SNS lobbying if going towards the tuition differentiation. Because we send two delegates to these meetings without consulting counsel.

Taylor Chase: I would say social access is also very topical and we could argue equity would be a good co-chair.

Chair: It would be best practice to review every committee so we can change this if we find this is ineffective. Everyone has an equal voice on the committee and the co-chair just informs council on what’s going on.

Taylor Chase: Why is this the only one that is different?

Annie Sirois: This is new and we are trying something. This is a place where these issues comes up again and again. I think right now it has been a reoccurring topic.

Mildred Syabeenzu: Even seeing the word co-chair, I should be able to chair a meeting without people thinking what this is. It creates a whole new environment.

Chair: other committees don’t have set councillors so it is unable to give certain reps a co-chair title in the bylaws. This is a trial and of it is ineffective we can change it.

Nicholas Favero: Is it kind of a chicken and egg where we could outline objective criteria when the application goes through counsel at a later date?

Chair: Yes

Connor O’Brien: The purpose of the language is to be vague within reason so it is not restrictive. It is purposefully vague but within reason that it is clear.

Annie Sirois: I like to think that whoever is in this position moving forward would have the discretion to choose appropriate candidates.

Nicholas Favero: Perhaps add the application will have criteria laid out that will be ratified by council at the beginning of each academic year?

Connor O’Brien: Do applications have to be ratified by counsel every year?

Chair: It’s up to us.

Connor O’Brien: Then I think the language should be “the application will be ratified by council at the beginning of each academic year”.

Annie Sirois: I would rather have consistent application is better.

Sean Ryan: The goals of the committee are going to change each year, so the application is going to have to change. So your office would bring forward the issue and people apply.

Annie Sirois: But the students at large should be the ones discussing this it shouldn’t be predetermined.

Iain MacLellan: Could it be a potential that the VP External Affairs, international rep and the equity rep all pick the students at large to make it more like a hiring panel?

Connor O’Brien: I would second that. Adding: “Applicants shall be appointed by the VP External Affairs, International student representative and the equity student representative”.

Nicholas Favero: This alleviates the concerns I mentioned previously.

Annie Sirois: I think this has become a collective document which is good and I am happy with this.

Connor O’Brien moves to approves External Advisory Committee as presented on the screen; Iain MacLellan is the seconder (11-0-0 – *PASSED*).

*Ratification of StFX for Safe*

Nicholas Favero moves to ratify StFX for Safe; Cassia Tremblay is the seconder. Nicholas adds: They meet all the criteria and have been doing great work around campus. Cassia has nothing to add.

 Question (Connor): Was this a committee last year and is SAFE the same thing?

Response (Sean Ryan): It was a committee last year and this society is separate from SAFE (community group) but is joint and help each other.

Taylor Chase calls to question; Will Gatchell is the seconder (11-0-0 – *PASSED*).

*Ratification of StFX Sociology Society*

Connor O’Brien moves to ratify the StFX Sociology Society; Bry Crabbe is the seconder. Connor and Bry have nothing to add. Chair adds: they have ERC training and all their documents.

Will Gatchell calls to question; Iain MacLellan is seconder. (10-0-1 – *PASSED*). – Abstention via Nicholas Favero due to being VP of the society.

*MPHEC Student Representative*

Annie Sirois: Maritime Province Higher Education Commission that I am a board member of. I received an email requesting having a student on the commission that would attend meetings in Moncton or telephone, requiring a few hours a month. I am opening up to counsel to see if they have any names of people who would be a good fit for this committee.

Chair: What would the business be for council right now?

Annie Sirois: Looking for suggestions for me to reach out to.

Iain MacLellan: Is this position for the duration of the school year.

Connor O’Brien: Who else sits on the committee?

Annie Sirois: Not totally sure but definitely students and the minister of education. Also note this is not a guarantee to be on the committee other select but we are just submitting names of those that would be interested.

Suggestions:

Rebecca Mesay

*Considered friendly.*

Closing Remarks of Chair

Brandon Hamilton (Chair): Thank you for coming!

Adjournment

Taylor Chase moves to adjourn the meeting; Nicholas Favero is seconder (*UNANIMOUSLY PASSED*)

*Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm*