# october Constiuency Reports

Name: Sydney Pagan
Position: Board of Governors Representative

Since our last council meeting, Alex and I have finalized the Board of Governors Meet & Greet for students that we had been working to organize. This event will take place on Thursday, October 26th at 8:30pm following the board dinner.

The Buildings & Grounds committee met for the first time this school year on September 27th.

Updates:

Mulroney Hall

I was informed that the Mulroney Hall project is on schedule and on budget, and that the form work for the building was beginning that week. There is expected to be some disruption to the campus community once more construction begins, but thus far it has been relatively not disruptive. They are also aiming for the new ramps around the building to be constructed before next July, in time for the Special Olympics to be hosted at StFX. Some restrooms in the building will be gendered, and some will be gender neutral. This means that there will be women’s and men’s restrooms, but also some single stall rooms that will be unisex. These gender-neutral washrooms are in line with the Students’ Unions push for washroom inclusively over the past few years.

Xaverian Commons

The aim of this project is to make upper campus a greener and more people friendly place. They are also looking at incorporating a flag plaza and potentially an outdoor amphitheater for the campus community to use, located on the Annex hill once the Annex is demolished.

Nicholson Tower Renovation

The budget for this project is likely to be a challenge, as the bricks are attached to the shell of the building and construction of the building will require a complete residing of the building. They are also looking at a complete mechanical and plumbing refurbishment to the tower.

Temporary Classrooms

So far, the temporary classrooms which were implemented after the destruction of Nicholson Hall are going along very well. The committee has received a lot of positive feedback about the arrangement of these temporary classrooms.

Tramble Room Move

The tramble rooms will be moving from 4th floor of the Bloomfield Centre to the library, as there is not enough space at the tremble rooms current location and sessions are going on in the hallway. This is also a beneficial move as it puts the tramble rooms in closer proximity to the Student Success Centre. I was worried that this move would get rid of valuable study space for students, as it is already difficult to find a spot in the

library, especially during exams. However, I was informed that it would not bump off much study space, as the new location for the tramble rooms will take up the space of currently unused offices in the back of the 1st floor of the library.

West Street Apartments Demolition and Observatory Set-Up

With the destruction of the West Street apartments, a new observatory has been constructed in its place. This will be used for academic programs in courses such as physics and earth science.

Active Living Centre (Phase 1) - Oland Centre Main Gym

The construction on the new gym is mainly finished, although some of the spectator seats are still arriving as there was a late shipment. The new bleachers have seats with backings on them.

Active Living Centre (Phase 2) - Oland Stadium New Bleachers

ACOA (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency) donated 1/2 million dollars for this project and the province donated 1 million. The aim is to have the construction of these bleachers completed by next summer for the Special Olympics. They are also planning to work on the locker rooms and physical therapy spaces. There are long-term plans for a new fitness centre because of considerate feedback that the current wellness centre is far too small. However, because of the many projects taking place on campus currently, this will not be in the works for another 3-5 years. The committee is also looking at an expansion of the aux gym in 3-5 years.

Energy Reduction Action Plan

This is a project to reduce energy consumption on campus. Thus far, the largest disruption was that the library was out of energy for six weeks during the summer to replace the air conditioning. However, everyone has been very cooperative thus far. The project is nearly complete, as they have already replaced 70-80% of the light fixtures on campus. The project costs 12 million dollars in total, with a payback time of 15-16 years. This estimated time period is likely to be much shorter based on the savings we are already seeing so far. The energy reduction action plan is expected to save StFX in excess of $800,000 per year.

The next Buildings & Grounds committee meeting will take place in December, with the next full board meeting taking place on October 26th & 27th.

Name: Pheerawich Chitnelawong

Position: International

Since last council meeting, I have met with the International Society and the Office of Internationalisation. I was informed that a number international students attended the Antigonish community potluck also with a number of Coady students. The event also presented the photos from the International Student Orientation Week to the community. Furthermore, The Office had planned a trip to Halifax for international students on October 6th. We received great attendance and the tickets were sold out. Though there were some technical errors on the transport, the event turned out to be very enjoyable. On the following weekend, a few international students attended the Share Thanksgiving program which provided them the opportunity to join the Thanksgiving dinner with a family in Antigonish. The Friendship Cafe in the Antigonish Library is also having talks by international students every week about their homes and experiences. As the midterm period approaches, we have more students attending the International Student Study Hall which takes place Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The attendees are mostly new students. We will find a platform to reach out to the international students who have been here.

Name: Sasha Paul
Position: Equity Representative

Since the last meeting, I have visited the offices of the Advisors with whom I will be working closely this year. On Tuesday the 3rd, I introduced myself to Kelsey Jones, the new Students of African Descent advisor. I am very excited that we finally have someone filling this position, as the gap was strongly felt by students in this constituency. I will be going back to see her in the next week or so to go over some plans for the semester, including planning the Meet & Greet event to officially introduce her to her constituency. I also had the pleasure of meeting the Gender and Sexual Diversity Advisor, Bree O'Handley, followed by the Human Rights and Equity Advisor at the beginning of this week. I am keen to start work with each of these offices, and have promised to maintain close communication with each of them throughout the year.

On September 27th, I attended the Hive for Feminist Research Annual Lecture, which had a focus this year on Academic leadership by women, through lenses of Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility. It was an immensely informative session, and I was enlightened on the challenges faced by people with disabilities, in school and in the workforce, as this group was the main emphasis of the lecture. We also discussed what items/entities perpetuate a lack of diversity and equity, and what possible solutions we could come up with to resolve these issues. My goal is to make myself present and of use to the StFX Accessibility office and its constituents, and therefore I will schedule some time to meet with the staff and student mentors in this community in the coming weeks.

Concerns and Issues Arising

A concern has been brought to my attention concerning the Accessibility of the Mulroney Centre which is currently under construction. A student had the opportunity to view the Blue prints for the new building, and was troubled by the fact that there seem to be plans within the construction to have wheelchair ramps in the building, which however lead to stairs. The student also stated that when Mount Saint Bernard was undergoing renovations, they had inquired into whether or not it would be more accessible than in previous years. The student was assured that it would be, only to find that the building was also constructed with several elevators which lead to more stairs, thus making it rather inaccessible. This issue is

one which the student is unsure can be changed, but which they wished for me to bring up and have addressed in council this week.

Upcoming Events

· International students trip to Halifax – Friday October 5th

· Our Pride at X – Monday October 16th (O’Regan Hall)

Name: Lucas Middleton
Position: Arts Representative

I sincerely apologize for missing this council meeting. I am at a wedding in Toronto, and unfortunately my flight home lands just as the meeting is scheduled to begin.

Since last meeting I have spent most of my time getting acquainted with my role. I have met with and spoken to a few constituents about things that they would like to see done, and am working towards a plan to address their concerns. Also, I have attended events held by the school, sat on the hiring council for House Council Coordinator (HCC), and begun my roles on various committees.

First, a word from my constituents. A desire for a greater availability of peer-editing was brought to my attention, beyond the reach of one’s individual friends, and reaching into the public. To address this, I am constructing a proposal to start a peer-editing program, based on a volunteer system, for students’ papers. Though there are a few issues with this idea I hope to work them out, and eventually put it into place, ideally for paper season in November and December. The second idea I have in mind for an event is an information session about deciding on, and declaring, majors/programs. I would like to have at least one upper-year student from each department and ideally a professor from as many departments as possible. I plan to complete an ERC form, and begin to reach out to potential students and professors before the next council meeting. The end goal for this event is to inform first and second year arts students about the available programs, and how to declare their majors/minors.

Since the last council meeting in my role as arts councilor, I sat on the hiring panel for HCC. After some deliberation we reached a consensus, and Carl Miller was elected as this year’s HCC. I also attended Take Back the Night, an event put on by the StFX Student’s Union and the Antigonish Women’s Resource Centre.

Since last month I also attended a senate meeting, have a meeting scheduled in November for the Academic Priorities and Planning committee, a committee for studies meeting scheduled for next week (October 20th), and have been assigned to the Organizational Review Committee and the Bylaw and Policy Committee. The Bylaw and Policy Committee met for the first time earlier this week, consulting the bylaw on annual general meetings. The Organizational Review committee is yet to convene, but I look forward to taking on that role.

In the near future, I look forward to successfully organizing events, convening with the various councils and committees I sit on, and further materializing my ideas for a peer-editing system, hopefully in time for the upcoming paper season.

Again, I apologize for my absence,
Lucas Middleton

Name: Sarah Elliott
Position: First Year Representative

Meeting: October 15th, 2016 at 3:00pm

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

I have begun goal setting and reaching out to many people in my constituency. I have discussed with them what type of events they would want to see for the year, as well as collaborating with them over ideas I have. I am trying to provide a comfortable relationship with myself and the first year class, so we can discuss and push each other’s ideas to be the best possible versions of them. I have been sitting with a variety of different people in my classes, and at meal hall to have organic and natural conversations where we can talk openly. And for next week, I want to advertise my office hours more so more frosh can come to me.

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

I am still in the early stages, I haven’t really been able to fully reach out to my entire constituency. Concerns that people have brought up to me is concerns with facilities in certain residences. In the older residences, such as MacKinnon and Cameron, they have brought attention to the fluctuating water temperature while showering. If possible, a lot of people would be happy if the student union could talk to maintenance about looking into that possibility. Another issue that has come up a lot was the concern with being isolated from other residences, many people have only made friends within their residence and want to broaden their horizon. This can be aided by full frosh activities.

What committees or meetings have you participated in?

I will be attending my first budget and finance this Friday from 2-3pm.

What events/activities are coming up in your constituency?

I am very excited about a specific idea I have been working on. For more frosh to get to know each other, I want to propose a dance for just first years. The theme of the dance will be “Party Like it’s 1999” because most of the freshman class were born in 1999. I was hoping to rent out the Inn on a Saturday night when it would be regularly closed, hopefully sometime in November (whenever the Inn is free). This would be a dry event, considering most first years are underage, and would include a photo booth, music from our childhood/early teen years, and the selling of non-alcoholic beverages. The ticket sales would go back to the student union in order to put on more events.

Another event that I would be interested in putting on is a time capsule that each frosh has the opportunity to come in, write a letter and drop it in for themselves on either graduation, or the x-ring ceremony in 4 years. We can rent out a room in the student union building for one day where people can come in whenever they want to write/decorate a letter and drop it into the box so they can have a nice letter from their past.

My final idea that I want to begin implementing around campus is the idea of a suggestion box/envelope to put in all of the first year residences that I can go around and check once a week to see if people have any complaints or ideas, but do not know/want to approach me.

Name: Tanaka Chikwavaire
Position: Student of African Descent Representative

Committees

I have not sat on any committees as yet.

Interactions and Events

As I mentioned in my previous report, Ms Kelsey Jones started working as the Students of African descent Co-ordinator on Monday 2nd October. She seems to be settling in well and she tells me she has met quite a few students and I am happy that some of them are first years, because one of my main concern was that the first years arrived, and they didn’t have that immediate support that the office provides, so I’m glad they are aware that she is here now. I am also collaborating with Kelsey on planning a game night/ meet and greet on the 27th October starting at 7. We want to give students an opportunity to meet each other in an informal setting and Kelsey and I want to introduce our roles and make sure everyone is aware that we are there as a resource. We plan on getting some snacks, games and music and hope that it will be a great night. In the future Kelsey and I were discussing continuing with the stories and stanza’s event that Michael and Abena had started, but we plan to change it a bit to get more students involved. Ultimately, we would be looking at changing the structure and maybe introducing a rap category as part of the night. I am trying to tailor the events I plan to different demographic groups within my constituency, that way we can see more people of African Descent get involved on campus.

Name: Melissa Grant
Position: Education Student Representative

Since the last meeting I have gone to numerous events organized by both St.FX and the B.Ed society. One of these events was Take Back the Night, and I was pleasantly surprised to see such a large turnout of students, professors, faculty, and residents of Antigonish. Another event that took place since our last meeting was a pre-homecoming Tie Dye night that I organized for my constituency that had a slow but steady turnout of students. A second B.Ed homecoming event that occurred was an off-campus pancake breakfast on homecoming morning that we had planned so that B.Ed students who were new to town, or who didn’t want to drink throughout the day, were able to socialize still. Following homecoming weekend, I sat on the hiring panel for the Off-Campus Leader, as well as the hiring panel for the House Council Coordinator. I believe that both of our successful applicants will do well in their new roles.

I haven’t heard many concerns from my constituents, but there were some challenges with registering for our Professional Development Day as it was an online system that didn’t want to accept some of the students’ passwords. This has luckily been sorted out, and almost everyone is now registered for their sessions.

Since our last council I have gone to both Senate training as well as the first Senate meeting. I look forward to these meetings in the future, and I am excited to participate in the three committees I have been placed on for Senate (Quality of Life Committee, Committee on Studies- Professional Programs, and the Joint Committee on Studies).

The following are a list of events that will occur over the next few weeks-

· Various recruiters have started to set up information tables during lunch hour in Xavier Hall, and these along with presentations will continue to occur for the majority of our school year.

· Family Dinner- October 14, Location TBD

· B.Ed 1st Year v.s. 2nd Year Softball- October 14, JH Gillis Baseball Field

· Pancake Breakfast- October 17th and 31st, Xavier Hall

· B.Ed Halloween Social- Date and Location TBD

· Pumpkin Carving- October 24, Location TBD

· Halloween at the Inn w/ St.FX for SAFE (grilled cheese, coat check, drink specials, etc.)- October 27th and October 31st, The Golden X Inn

Name: Bry Crabbe
Position: Graduate Student Representative

Since the last council meeting the first regular meeting of senate occurred however to do TAing I was unable to attend.  I have been assigned to the organizational review committee for the academic year but has yet to meet.  After tabling, on Friday October 13th the X-Ring committee is set to vote on an appeal I submitted on behalf of thesis based graduate students, updates on this will be provided at council. Graduate studies orientation/welcome day was a great success on October 11th with over 20 on campus graduate students in attendance, which provided time for myself to discuss what a majority of my constituents want from my position in the coming year and how they can get more involved in the StFX community.

Name: Alex Corrigan
Position: Board of Governor’s Representative

Hello all,

Before providing an update, I must express my apologies and regrets for missing this session of council. As part of the admission process for The University of Alberta medical school, I am required to write a standardized CASPER test. I had booked this several weeks in advance and due to a dearth of options, I was forced to book on a Sunday afternoon and hope that Council would not conflict. I was wrong and I apologize. In an attempt to make up for my absence, I have elected to proxy my vote to Sydney Pagan.

With that said, I have indeed been busy since the last council meeting. First off, I have been assigned to the Budget & Finance committee, a position I was glad to accept. At the time of writing, this committee has yet to convene, but a meeting may be scheduled by the time this report is read.

Secondly, I sat on the hiring panel for House Council Coordinator. I am glad to say that Carl Miller was chosen and I am optimistic that he will do a fantastic job in his new role. This was the first hiring panel on which I have sat and found that for some sub-executive positions, it may be helpful to consider a reference submitted by the candidate. I feel that this may align our sub-executive hiring process more closely with executive hiring and with best practice in the private sector. I have therefore spent my office hours reviewing byelaws in search of a specific hiring policy for all positions or specific positions. I have so far been unsuccessful but will continue my investigation into the feasibility of requesting reference letters. My proposal will take a while to come to council and is indeed in the research stages of planning but I still feel it is relevant to mention in this report. If anyone has any questions or feels that this would be inappropriate to pursue further, please let me know.

Thirdly, I have consulted several constituents about proposed renovations to the 4th Floor of the Student Union Building. I have heard mixed reviews and want to be certain that this proposal will be properly debated by council. I feel that the U should make social media posts advertising proposed changes and asking students for input before council debates the renovations. At this time, I do not feel comfortable debating or voting about the future of the 4th floor because I do not have an accurate sense of what students want. Should it come up in this session of council, please let it be known that I favour a formal consultation process and should council move to vote on a renovation proposal, my vote shall count as an abstention. I really do wish I could have been at council today and have asked Sydney to recommend an outreach campaign on my behalf.

Finally, I am delighted to announce the approval of a Board of Governor’s Wine and Cheese Meet and Greet that will take place at 8:30 on Thursday, October 26th. This event will be free for students but will require them to sign up. Registration and details about the venue will be released shortly, but this will be a fantastic opportunity for students to meet some very successful StFX alumni. The event will give Board members the opportunity to gain insight on student issues while providing students with a window into life after graduation. It will also provide students with a fantastic networking opportunity and a better idea what exactly the Board of Governors is/what it does. Students will be asked to dress semi-formally and will have access to a pay bar. This is the first time this event has taken place and all involved with planning are most excited. I would recommend all council members attend as it will be a free and valuable experience.

Should I finish my test before the conclusion of council, I will make every effort to join.

Many thanks for reading,

Alex

Name: Amy Bobyn
Position: Science Student Representative

These past several weeks have been quite busy, but there are many exciting things of the go! I was able to attend a portion of the annual take back the night march—an event that is always well attended and supports a cause many of us are extremely passionate about. I also attended a senate training session in which I learned of the proceedings and roles the senate plays and was able to meet many of the new senators this year. This is something I’m very excited to participate in this year, I believe I’ll gain insight into the proceedings of the university as well as be able to contribute a valuable perspective. Due to a class, I was only able to be present for a portion of the first official senate meeting. This coming week I will be sitting on the committee on studies as a science student representative and senator.

I held a meeting with the presidents of the science societies on campus, which proved to be extremely productive. We were able to come up with plenty of great ideas and plans for the year and I was able to gain a better understanding of the specific goals and struggles each science department is facing. I hope to collaborate more with these leaders in the future as they are a great resource.

Name: Emma Crilly
Position: Business Student Representative

This past week I have made the Facebook Business Representative Facebook page active. In addition, applications for the Gerald Schwartz Student Advisory Board have been sent out. Deadline is Monday October 16. I have moved my office hours for the week to Friday October 13 to accommodate for personal exams, 4/5 done! I was a part of the bylaw and policy meeting this week. Good luck on midterms everyone.

Kind Regards,

Emma Crilly