

Council Package — August 29th, 2021

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Agenda of August 29th Council Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Mi'kmaq Acknowledgment
4. Opening Remarks of the Chair
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Constituency Reports
7. Executive Reports
8. Students' Union General Manager Report
9. Special Reports to Council
 - Student Life Presentation
 - Council Initiatives Presentation
10. Old Business
11. New Business
 - Ratification of Student Advocate Mullen Boulter
 - Ratification of Student Advocate Sarah Prince
 - Ratification of Student Advocate Ahmad Mahmood
 - Motion to approve the council dates for the first semester
 - Motion to approve the September Representative election dates
12. Closing remarks of the Chair
13. Adjournment

Constituency Reports

Board of Governors Student Representative – Anna Hancin

Board of Governors Business:

Emergency Grants Committee: Nothing new to report.

Governance Review Committee: Met on August 17 to discuss policy updates regarding Voting Restrictions, Divestment Policy, House Council, House Hockey, and the Coat Check Policy.

Board of Governors Student Representative – Dhruv Patel

Hujambo (hello in swahili) everyone, I hope you are doing great and planning to come back to campus. I am excited to see you all in-person.

Business related to position: Lately, there has not much happening on my side. However, it is remarkable that I was accepted by the sexualized violence prevention committee. It will be a great experience for me and I will try with my best capacity to serve.

Other Business: I reached out to Dr. Hakin to discuss the celebration of International Day of Truth and Non-violence which is celebrated on October 2nd (Mahatma Gandhi's birthday) across the world.

Proposal: I believe it would be a great idea to recognize the International Day of Truth and Non-violence in the U's calendar. Additionally, we should also start recognizing other important festivals such as Ramadan Eid, Diwali, Yom Kippur, Lunar New Year and so on. Not only this will be a great step towards inclusiveness but it will also be great for local students' enlightenment and knowledge. Looking forward to your thoughts on it. Thank You So Much

Equity Student Representative – Tiffany Bondoc

Equity Representative Business:

External Advisory Committee: Nothing to report.

Equity Committee: Nothing to report.

Hiring Panel: I sat on a hiring panel with VP of Residence Affairs and Brandon Randell for the Student Advocate positions on August 13th.

Other business:

- I encouraged the attendance of the Get Out the Vote Social on instagram.
- I volunteered to review the efficacy of the Safer Socializing Beyond the Pandemic module prototype.
- I completed the updated Safer Socializing Beyond the Pandemic, You Belong @ X, and Consent Education modules on Moodle.
- I attended a Mental Health and Wellness meeting on August 19th to discuss campus culture, campus mental health services and diversity advisors.

Students of African Descent – Atik Galio

Position Business: quiet month again

- Met with Tara Reddick (new black student advisor at Stfx) and the BLACC society to discuss future events and initiatives for the upcoming school year Really looking forward to coming back to campus and seeing you all!

Arts Student Representative – Margaret-Anne Gillis

Arts Representative Business:

o The Governance Review Committee met August 17th to begin our discussion around policies such as voting restrictions, house council and house hockey, and divestment policy.

o The QOL Experiential Learning working group met August 23rd to review the Quality of Life Consultation moodle page. I was unfortunately absent from this meeting because of work obligations, but the committee has already completed some great work on the page.

o JCOS – nothing to report.

o Committee on Studies – FOA – nothing to report.

o Performance Review Committee – nothing to report.

Other business:

o I set my office hours for Mondays 3:30pm – 5pm and Thursdays 12:30pm-2pm. Stop in and chat any time!

o Getting hyped up for O-Week!

Education Student Representative – Tianna Williams

Education Representative Business:

Besides preparing for the start of classes, I am helping to organize the first-year student's orientation day at Crystal Cliffs. During this day I will be actively connecting with fellow Ed. Students and am excited to start my outreach in person.

Committee Work – I have a meeting set up with the Library Strategic Planning Committee, preparing for the coming school year and committee plans. There have been no other committee meetings to report on.

Panels – Nothing to Report

Senate – Nothing to Report

Other Business: No Additional Business to Report.

International Student Representative – Derin Deric

- Attended International Students Health Plan Meeting
- Had the internship position we planned for health plan approved by Donald

Science Student Representative – Mackenzie LeVernois

Position Business: Councillor:

I'll be facilitating one of the Academic Day Panels during O-Week. Finishing the Moodle modules this week.

Senate: Nothing New to Report

Business Student Representative – Hunter Park

Student Mental Health and Wellness Committee: Met on July 19th

Other Business: Hoping to be able to visit first year business classes for a couple minutes to talk to them about The U

Indigenous Student Representative – Molly Burke

Hi everyone! I along with a few other Indigenous students are planning a BBQ to welcome new Indigenous students and to help familiarize themselves with the community. We are also planning a few events for the upcoming school year such as beading classes, lunch and learns (which is for everyone) and movie nights. I'll also be participating in society night along with the other Indigenous students who are running it.

Executive Reports

President – Jack Irvin

Internal (to portfolio):

GOTV: This past reporting period we Nova Scotia had its provincial election. Throughout the election period we worked to promote Get Out The Vote and asked that students pledge to vote in the election. Ben did an incredible job throughout the entirety of the election; interviewing all the candidates from our area, getting promotional material to our marketing team, and completing a lot of interviews from media. We also held a GOTV Social where every candidate had the chance to meet students on campus. It was a great success as we had good turnout, every single candidate was there and even Ian Rankin showed up to meet students.

Student and Family Information Sessions: I participated in three virtual student and family info sessions with the University during this reporting period. A lot of people came and gave the Students' Union as well as the University a good idea of any concerns parents or students had for the upcoming year as well as where there was still confusion with the arrival to campus. By the final one, only around 30 participants were there compared to the 340 participants at the first one which showed us that people are feeling more comfortable with the return to campus.

DEC Meeting: Our Executive team had the opportunity to meeting with the Diversity and Equity team to talk about ways we can support each other this year and properly introduce ourselves. It was a great meeting and we are excited to be working with their team this year.

Check-ins: Meredith and I have continued to complete check-ins with the executive team. Everyone has been doing an excellent job and we are excited for what we will accomplish this fall.

Alumni Affairs: Sean and I met with Shanna who is the Director of Alumni Affairs to talk about events this year. Shanna is interested in putting on some events throughout the year to engage students. We are going to help with some ideas for different events we could have and are excited to get some student engagement!

Students Nova Scotia (SNS): Membership Committee Meeting: The Membership Committee met twice during this period. We finalized the work plan for the committee for the year to be approved at our AGM. It is a solid plan and we are excited to begin work to increase the quality of membership at SNS. Annual Planning Conference: We had the SNS annual planning conference from the 22nd -24th of August. Ben, Naomi and I travelled to Halifax for our first in-person conference with delegates from SMU, Acadia, and NSCC. It was a successful conference and we were able to finalize our annual plan. We had our Annual General Meeting at the end of the conference where we passed the budget, approved the committee work plans, and passed the annual plan.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA): MRC Committee Meeting: The Membership Relations Committee met during this reporting period. We discussed our last conference and the events we put on. We discussed how we could improve on them and what new events we could put on for the members. We also began some work on our committee work plan and finalized a survey that can be given to members after meetings and conferences to receive feedback and see what we can do to improve their CASA experience.

GOTV: We are now in a Federal election and are right back into GOTV mode. It will be a busy time attempting to pull off O-Week while trying to promote GOTV and put on events before the election but we are up to the challenge. We are excited to promote the election to

students and ensure we are getting as many students out to the polls as possible to ensure the voice of students is heard!

External (to portfolio):

LSI: We had our final LSI session during this reporting period to focus on our ability to work as a team and to also understand our personal strengths and weaknesses and how we can support each other throughout those. It was a great final session and we are feeling very confident going into this year!

Committees:

Communications Task Force: I wasn't able to be present at the Communications Task Force meeting this reporting period but Meredith was able to take my place. X-Ring Committee:

The X-Ring Committee met during this reporting period. We had a lot of discussion about the XRing policy and looking at requirements for Nursing Students and Masters Students to make the requirements easier to understand for students.

Residence Renewal Advisory Committee: We met once during this reporting period. We went over what is taking place in the other committees. We talked about a new conduct format that is a lot more focused on a restorative approach than a punitive one which is very positive.

There is going to be a new position in residence called an ARLC which are Assistant Residence Life Coordinators so we talked briefly about their role and training prior to move in day.

Town and County Update: Town and County Committee met during this reporting period. We discussed the off-campus conduct subcommittee, StFX Marketing and Communications, the House Calls Outreach Project which was completed last year, and an overview of timelines and the return to campus. There was a lot of discussion around post-secondary schools implementing a vaccine mandate and the University was getting feedback from the town and county on how the community was feeling about StFX's return to campus plan.

Vice President Academic – Meredith Cudmore-Keating

Internal:

- OERs!

- o Hosted a professional development workshop with Meghan Landry (Library) and Erin Mazerolle (Psychology) for faculty about OER. We had some good engagement and there seemed to be lots of excitement.

- o Working on next steps for establishing a pilot grant
- o Met with Angie Kolen, the Director of the teaching and learning center about her priorities this year and how we could work together.

- MOU

- o Didn't receive any feedback on the MOU. Will be signing it soon.

- o We've also met with Elizabeth Yeo (VP Students) to offer preliminary consultation about what a vaccine mandate would look like to help the University with their plans.

- Academic Day

- o Have had many conversations with the Deans offices about the schedule. The Students' Union will be contributing student panels and a faculty-student lunch.

- The Team

- o We met with the Diversity Engagement Centre and discussed how we can work together this year.

- o The team has been helping Ben work out what a GOTV campaign for the federal election will look like, and work out funding for it.

- o Filmed a race for the new VERSUS promotion campaign for the Inn. Stay tuned to find out who won in my race against Jack!

Committees:

- The Quality of Life Experiential Learning sub-committee met and discussed the moodle consultation they will be doing.

- Sexual Violence Prevention Committee o Appointed two new students at large to the committee with Heather Blackburn and Margaret Mackinnon.

- o Had a sub-committee meeting which went over all of the University's commitments to improving campus safety relating to sexual violence. It's really wonderful to see how much progress has been made over the past few years with the new sexual violence policy and the creation of Heather Blackburn's Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Advocate role.

Outreach:

- Have been recruiting students to sit on the academic day panels.

- The Team attended the town cleanup and helped pickup garbage around the community.

- Ben and Jack organized a wonderful Get out the Vote social with students, community members, and the candidates. It was a success, and we had lots of engagement!

Vice President Finance and Operations – Brendan Roberts

Hey Everyone, Its been so exciting seeing people back in the Nish these past few weeks, I'm getting really excited for this year! Feel free to stop by office during my office hours and we can have a chat about anything, my doors always open!

All the best, Brendan

Internal (to portfolio):

Student Food Resource Centre:

- This year, the Food Resource Centre and the Breakfast program (managed by Bailey Wasdal) will be working together under one name and post-renovation, they will also share a space.

- Semester 1 hours have been set for both the FRC and breakfast program, and they are as follows: o Breakfast program:

- Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 10:30AM

- o FRC:

- Monday- Wednesday 12:00PM – 6:00PM

- Thursday 6:00PM – 10:00PM

- Friday 12:00PM – 6:00PM

- We will have a booth set up at the society fair in order to recruit volunteers for the upcoming year

- The garden is coming along nicely a number of different vegetables growing

Health and Dental Plan:

- We have been meeting over the past reporting period and will be putting a job posting on the website in the near future. This job will be for an international student who will assist the Health Plan Coordinator Barb by answering any inquiries that international students have about the plan, and also to help promote the various services that are covered under the plan.

GXI and Bloomfield Renovation:

- We met with the project manager who will be overseeing the Kevins Corner/Convenience 4 U reno and he explained that the renovation should begin by late September. In the meantime, we have begun ordering supplies and upgrading equipment for both sides of the space. We are soon going to be looking at hiring positions for the convenience store and how the management of the store will be set up.

Orientation Week Sponsorships:

- Sean Ryan, Nick Murray and I have secured sponsorships at a number of different levels with various companies and are continuing to reach out about potential sponsorships from others

Drive U:

- Figuring out the logistics of Drive U for the upcoming year and the hours of operations.

External (to portfolio):

- Diversity Engagement Centre (DEC)
 - o We met with members of the diversity engagement center regarding the various goals that each of our teams are pushing towards and different opportunities for us to connect and collaborate
 - o We are going to make it a priority to ensure that we take advantage of these amazing people and resources at this center
- Student Advocates
 - o Met with Sophia and Jack to discuss a new online application/booking system for the Student Advocates that will be uploaded to the new website within the next few weeks.

Committees:

Emergency Grants Committee:

- The committee has finalized the revised application questions to provide more specific information to the committee in order to assist with the decision-making process. They have been sent to the marketing team who is formatting them online and they will go live hopefully within the week.

Health and Dental Plan Committee:

- Since the last reporting period, the committee has agreed on the job posting for the new international intern position that will assist Barb- the Student Benefit Plan Coordinator with providing students reliable information.

Re-Circle Committee:

- Sean and I have been having ongoing meetings to discuss how this business idea is going to be successfully implemented. There has been conversations about the management structure and what the role of The U will have in this multi-faceted agreement.

Food Sustainability/Kevin's Corner

- Met and discussed the upcoming renovation and the timeline of events. We are looking at late sept or early oct in terms of transitioning the Food Resource Centre to the new space.

JOHSC:

- Met and discussed business that had carried over from last year and how those issues would be addressed before the academic year begins.

Sub-executive:

- Senior Drive U: Sarah Ritchie
 - o We have met and discussed Drive U's operations for this year. We talked about operating hours, covid protocols, and driver training.
- House Accounts Coordinator: Sam Delaney
 - o We are preparing for the arrival of students and are preparing presentations to give to various groups including societies, SUCL's, etc
- Student Food Resource Centre Coordinator: Kali Beaton
 - o Met and discussed the bringing together of the Kevins Corner FRC and the breakfast program with Kali and Bailey. We talked about the hours of operations, delivery/shipments protocols, and volunteer training.
- SFRC Garden Coordinator: Kali Beaton
 - o Kali has been ensuring that the garden is properly tilled and watered daily or every other day
- Peer Support Program Coordinators: Natalina Malandrino and Hannah James
 - o Nothing to report
- Sponsorship Coordinator: Nick Murray
 - o Nick has been in contact with a number of different companies regarding potential sponsorship opportunities

Vice President Residence Affairs – Sophia Fabiano

Internal (to portfolio) :

- I have been working on the voting process for House SUCL elections for the fall.
- I have been having meetings biweekly with Elizabeth Yeo, Meredith Cudmore
- Keating (VPA) and Jack Irvin (President) about Updates from The U and the Student Life Office.
- I have been attending weekly Executive Meetings with the other Executives.
- I have been having meetings with the Training Sub Committee of the Residence Renewal about training week in August
- I have been meeting with the Residence Renewal Advisory Committee, as well as the Staffing working group and the Training working group for the Residence Renewal
- I had the hiring panel and interviews for student advocates and the panel selected three advocates
- The House t-shirts arrived
- Had another meeting with Jack Irvin and Brendan Roberts to discuss the Student Advocate position and the booking system
- I met with a previous student advocate to discuss the role and day to day logistics of the job
- I have been looking at writing a new Strat Plan for SUCL's, I met with Siobhan Lacey to discuss the process of writing a Strat Plan.

- Finalized training dates for SUCL's and have been planning there training weekend

External (to portfolio) :

- Was part of a September Elections FUME hosted by Naomi Stobart
- Met with the DEC Team about partnerships and learning for about the DEC

Committees:

- The Student Orientation Committee has been meeting every week in order to discuss Oweek and other aspects of student orientation.

Sub-executive:

- House Council Coordinator: Broden and I did a lot of work this week on prepping for SUCL elections and training weekend
- House Accounts Coordinator (with VPFO Brendan Roberts): no new discussion from VPRA office
- SUCL's: I have been checking in with the OC SUCL's about there role and responsibilities
- Student Advocates: Have been coordinating training and booking their office hours for the fall semester.

Outreach:

- Have been posting Instagram stories about the house shirts to get people excited without revealing the designs or colours!
- Have been helping the EXEC team film TikTok for theuofficial TikTok!
- Had an interview with CTV Atlantic on returning to campus.
- Wrote up some tips on budgeting for university for the MacLean's University Ranking issue

Vice President Activities and Events – Kyra Tessier

Internal (to portfolio):

- Bar Manager
- o Continue meeting weekly with Shawn to discuss Inn and O-Week events
- O-Week Kits
- o All items have arrived, have scheduled time in O-Crew training to have them packed
- Marketing Meetings
- o Meet to discuss marketing strategies and what is going out and when.
- 2-on-1 Meetings
- o Had a 2-on-1 meeting with Jack and Meredith to discuss how things are going, if I need help with anything and just overall ways to see success this year
- O-Week sponsorship Meetings
- o Looking over what sponsorships we have / could obtain and where the sponsorship money can be used in O-Week
- Executive Meetings
- o Updates and agenda items to discuss as an exec team
- O-Week Logistics
- o Weekly meetings with Sean Ryan and Shawn Kieley to discuss the overall logistics of O-Week and what we can/cannot do
- O-Week

- o Finishing up all the final details, working to create a document with the details of each event and who should be where and when.
- Meeting with Paul from FM to discuss the layout of the field and get started on the logistics of the outdoor events
- Meeting with Shannon from Impact Sound to discuss all the different tech set ups we will need
- Meeting with Jennifer from conference services to book spaces for all O-Week events
- Election FUME with Naomi to discuss different success tactics to use for the September election
- Met with the DEC team to discuss our team and their teams' goals for the year and how to work together to accomplish them
- GOTV Social – met and chatted with all of the Provincial candidates

External (to portfolio):

- GOTV
- o Helping with GOTV wherever and whenever I can
- COCA (Canadian Organization of Campus Activities):
- o Reviewing and rewriting policy

Committees:

- Residence Program Team:
 - o Weekly meetings of the Program Planning team to discuss program implementation
- SOC:
 - o Meet with University admin to discuss how O-Week will look between theU's events and the University's events
 - o Have started getting into the real planning of events and how they will look
 - o Discussing the schedule of O-Week
- Equity Committee:
 - o Nothing to report
- ERC :
 - o Sat on ERC to review and discuss all O-Week events

Sub-Executive:

- Society Coordinator:
 - o Working together to discuss how the society fair will look
 - o Starting to get all of the society's tables booked and ready for O-Week
- Meeting with Co-Chairs
 - o Stay in communication to see how things are going

Vice President External – Ben Fairhurst

Internal to Portfolio

- Meeting with Diversity Engagement Centre
 - Our team met with all the different student advisors for marginalized groups on campus so that we could hear their goals, comments and concerns for the upcoming year. We all talked about our different annual goals and had conversations about points on which we can collaborate throughout the year.
- GOTV Social
 - We ran a super successful meet-and-greet mixer event down at the Coady Gardens before the provincial election. We invited students from the town, any youth, faculty and

administration to come out for some refreshments and conversation with the candidates for MLA of Antigonish County. All of the candidates for our region ended up coming out, and even Iain Rankin - the leader of the Liberal Party of NS - came out to talk with students and community representatives. The doughnuts were unreal.

- OER Student Group and Plans

- Meredith and I have been asked to sit on a student panel of leaders in Open Education Resources from campuses all around the Atlantic provinces. We've continued to meet up and chat about how we can push this internally and externally. I helped the executive director of StudentsNS to set up this student group so that we can have coordinated efforts to government and inside our individual schools when pushing for these resources.

- Audition and Eventual Appearance on Global Election Night

- This was actually a really big moment for the student voice in provincial politics. Lydia, the ED of SNS, and myself were both asked if we would like to audition for a spot on the speaking panel for election night on Global News. We prepared hard and ended up earning a spot on the panel for election night in order to talk about student issues and the power of the youth voter rate. Only one of us were allowed to be on the panel so we decided that Lydia should do it, but this was a large moment to drive home how important it is for politicians to care about the student voice.

- Interviews with Political Candidates

- As I put in my last exec report - I took on the project of interviewing all of the candidates for Antigonish County in order to show students a bit of what they're like, what their platform consists of, and the things they would want to push for as MLA for this riding. We ended up putting out snippets of these interviews on instagram and the full interviews on Youtube.

- Off-Campus Conduct Policy

- Continuously chatting with Elizabeth Yeo on her administration's plan to receive complaints from the community and bring it up with students about their conduct when off-campus. This is not outside of their powers as an institution but we are worried about the procedural fairness and overextension of the university so we will be continuing to hold them accountable for their actions in this realm.

- Interview with Dr Strang

- As the Chair of SNS, I was blessed to have the opportunity to interview Dr Strang about frequently asked questions about Covid-19, vaccines, testing and conspiracy theories. I also asked many student specific questions that we may have about the vaccine including how these will be made available for international students, and others who may wish for further vaccination or testing upon arrival. The interview will be released soon as the SNS team edits the clips and I'm so excited for you all to see them.

- Federal GOTV

- Justin Trudeau has asked the GG to dissolve parliament so we have another election on our hands! It's a bit of a tough one due to the fact that it is a snap election (meaning he has called for an election way before he actually needs to - he's only been in office for 2 years since the last election). Due to this, the U has not set aside any money within the budget in order to run a federal GOTV campaign. We are putting a proposal through for money from Council Initiatives as well as trying to gain funding from the McKenna Centre for Leadership, the Brian Mulroney Institute of Government, StFX University and the town of Antigonish. Once the funding is confirmed, we can plan our GOTV campaign a lot more in-depth.

- Students Nova Scotia Annual Planning Retreat

- Jack, Naomi and I spent three days down in Halifax with delegates from all of the SNS member schools in order to set our official annual plan for the upcoming year. We had meetings with government leaders in Labour and Advanced Education, including the

indigenous and accessibility leaders so that we can establish relationships and continue working together towards these goals through the year. The annual plan was voted in at our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday afternoon, and the plan should be available on our website and the SNS website within the next week or two.

External to Portfolio

- O-Week Planning - Our team has been having a lot of meetings to break up who is going to be doing what during O-Week as well as what the events are going to be looking like. Kyra is absolutely killing it with the O-Week stuff and we're all just trying to support as best we can but if you've got some spare time during orientation week you should definitely hit us up to see if there's some stuff you can do! Everything helps.
- September Election Fume - Naomi organized a few chats with different members of the executive to talk about plans for our student union elections in the month of September. I'm sure Naomi will have some more concrete updates for council but this is something we have on the mind and are working towards.

Committees

- External Advisory Committee - N/A

Sub Executives

- Research and Policy Associate - Nothing new to report as of now.