

# Council Package

May 23rd 2021

Prepared by Rebecca Cano Deputy Chair of Council

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Agenda  
Students' Union Representative Council  
May 23, 2021, 3:00pm

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:
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  - President- Jack Irvin
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12. Special Reports to Council
  - Special presentation on Ad Hoc Committees from the GM and VFO
13. Old Business
14. New Business
  - Motion to Ratify Sarah Elliott as Chief Returning Officer
  - Motion to Ratify Cole Curnew as Returning Officer
  - Motion to Ratify Ashley Hatt as Returning Officer
  - Motion to Ratify Hannah James and Natalina Malandrino as PSP Coordinators
  - Motion to Ratify AD HOC: Students' Union Renovation Committee: Phase 2
  - Motion to Ratify AD HOC: Sustainability Committee/Kevin's Corner
15. Closing remarks of the Chair
16. Adjournment

## Constituency Reports

### **Board of Governors Student Representative – Anna Hancin**

Board of Governors Business:

- Governance and Nominating Committee: Met for the first time as BoG with the Governance and Nominating Committee. We reviewed StFX official documents.
- Council Training: I have met with the Chair of Council, Naomi, the past few weeks to complete training for my position on the Students' Union. I also participated in the Governance Essentials presentation with Paula from Minnikin Resources Inc to discuss responsibilities in the U.
- India Relief Meeting: Met with Chair of Council and other councilors to discuss ways StFX, students, and the community can help the Covid-19 crisis in India.

### **Board of Governors Student Representative – Dhruv Patel**

Hello everyone, I hope you are absorbing as much sun as you can. I am really excited to work with all of you in order to serve best to our amazingly vibrant and flourishing community here at X. It has been a great learning period for me in this past month as we went through all the training sessions.

Work related to business:

- It is remarkable to note that being Board of Governors Representative exposes one to multiple diverse committees and people as well that helps a lot in grappling a good grip over professional skills. Regarding work, it is remarkable that we distributed our committees and have almost had our first meetings as well. I had my first meeting with the buildings and ground committee and one of the concern that discussed was regarding bicycle parking on campus. As a biker I personally feel that there is a great need to promote cycling as a mode of transport on campus which starts with easy and commutable parking spots for bicycles. I proposed that I will bring forward the aspect to next council meeting which serves the purpose of reaching out to larger student body. I would love to know everyone's thoughts on it. In my second committee meeting with the advancement and external affairs committee I got to know that last year the university started distributing degree parchments in Mi'kma'ki and Latin along with regular English parchments. I believe that distributing parchments in Mi'kma'ki is an incredible initiative to display our solidarity and pay tribute to Mi'kma'ki culture. However, I strongly believe that it would be a great initiative to distribute parchments in language preferred by our international students which can replace Latin or can be just another addition along with pre-existing parchments. I am also writing an action plan for that.
- Action Plan: We can recommend to the university that they can send out a form to our International Students going in their final years and ask them if they would like to receive their parchments in their own language. If they want they can fill up the information form and the university can provide the parchment in students' native language. I strongly believe that this will certainly play a vital role in displaying our vibrant community and

its continuous efforts to reduce inequity in our community. Looking forward to your thoughts/ questions/ suggestions.

Other business:

- Help India Breath Campaign has been a great success. I really appreciate everyone's support in doing things at a great pace. Additionally, I also thank the University Administration for raising the Indian flag in a time crunch like this. Don't forget to share the donation page on social media right after the council.
- Proposal: I propose to the council to add three new awards to the annual awards giving. It is remarkable that the U's long term goal is to increase diversity and this will certainly help in reaching towards that goal. I am writing down 3 awards that are must according to me:
  - (1) Awards for Black Students
  - (2) Awards for 2LGBTQIA+ Students
  - (3) Awards for International Students
- I suggest further discussion and I believe we can do this together.

### **Equity Student Representative – Tiffany Bondoc**

Equity Representative Business:

- Council Training: I have attended Governance Training with Paula Minnikin, as well as a mock council meeting to review Robert's Rules. I have submitted my Council Committee Application form, and have accordingly been assigned to the External Affairs Committee and the Equity Committee.
- Hiring Panel: I have offered my participation in the hiring panel set for Friday, May 21st from 9:30 am to 11 am.

Other business:

- During the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, I attended a meeting with Elizabeth Yeo, amongst other representative bodies, to discuss the President's Action Committee on Racism (PACAR) to identify and address systemic barriers to full and equal participation that affect all under-represented and marginalized groups at StFX.

Moreover, I have been reaching out to individuals in which I represent and have discussed some goals to help promote an inclusive and respectful campus environment. Some goals include updating student attendance lists and student IDs as to avoid "deadnaming" transgender students, increase supports for cultural groups, like the Black Student Society and X-Pride Student Society, as well as promote accessible learning by supporting the movement of Open Education Resources.

Outside of my position as Equity Representative, I have applied to be a part of the Quality of Life Committee's Student Mental Health and Wellness Micro-Team.

### **Students of African Descent – Atik Gilao**

Hiring Panel: N/A

Other Business:

- Officially obtained position on May 1st 2021. Attended multiple training sessions with other councillors. I have Learned a lot about student council and how things operate. I met with Naomi via Teams yesterday to revisit the Robert rules. Really looking forward to working with everybody!

### **Arts Student Representative – Margaret-Anne Gillis**

Arts Representative Business:

- Joint Committee on Studies: I attended my first Joint Committee on Studies meeting with Meredith and MacKenzie on Tuesday, May 11th. The Joint Committee on Studies reconvenes on June 4th to further discuss agenda items pushed from Tuesday's meeting.
- Quality of Life Committee: I was appointed to the Quality of Life Committee, which plans to meet June 11th.
- Upcoming hiring panel: On May 21st I will be sitting on a hiring panel for the Policy & Research Associate.
- Senate: I have been attending the council training sessions hosted by Naomi, as well as the Minnikin Governance training session, which I thought was especially insightful. I am looking forward to convening with the senate again on future decisions.

Other business:

- On March 31st I sat on a committee to deliberate the results of senior academic and athletic awards.

### **Education Student Representative – Tianna Williams**

Education Representative Business:

- For my position, I have been required to attend multiple training sessions around Robert's Rules, Governance, and more. I also attended Mock Council which prepared me for the dialect and process of Council meetings. These were extremely beneficial for me to get more familiar with Union and Council functions.
- Committee Work: I was assigned to the Organizational Review Committee and have started my research on what this committee does and how I can make the maximum difference through my time as a member.
- I was also invited to join the Joint Committee on Studies which will meet in June.
- Panels: I sat on a hiring panel on May 20th, 2021, adopting the position to evaluate a candidate for tenure position in the BEd program. This candidate was Marc Husband, an elementary math educator and he seemed extremely passionate and informed about his work. I used my position to support his candidacy at the end of the presentation. This was my first hiring panel and I really appreciate being able to attend and to have a say in the process.
- Senate: Nothing to Report

Other Business:

- I have created an Instagram profile for my position and have posted “get to know your representative” on Instagram and in the Education class Facebook page for incoming students. I intend on expanding my social media platform for my position. Continue sharing the U’s posts and initiatives.

### **International Student Representative – Derin Deric**

Internal (to portfolio):

- Councillors: I had training with Naomi where we learned about the process of the Robert Rules.

External (to portfolio):

- Currently trying to reach SAFE and ISS to figure out an awareness project for Palestine along with Naomi, Sean, and Dhruv.

Committees:

- External Affairs : I got the information template from Naomi
- Equity Committee: I got the information template from Naomi
- Health Insurance Plan Committee: I got the information template from Naomi

Sub-executive: N/A

Outreach:

- I have been in contact with a couple international incoming students through LinkedIn and helping with their questions about campus and quarantine. My goal for this month is to arrange the campaign for Palestine.

### **Science Student Representative – Mackenzie LeVernois**

Position Business:

- Training: I have attended a few training sessions to start off my time in this position, including Councillor training and Robert’s Rules sessions with Naomi, a senator transition session with Siobhan, and governance training with Minnikin.
- Committee Work: I have been assigned to the Organization Review Committee and Society Review Committee. I am excited for my first meetings in both.
- Hiring Panels: I will sit on the Society Coordinator hiring panel this week. I am looking forward to it.
- Senate: I have sat on two committee meetings; Joint Committee on Studies, and Academic Priority and Planning. I am learning a lot, and have volunteered to be part of the consultation process for the new Academic Plan. Next meetings for both, and my first Committee on Studies for Science, are TBD.

Other Business:

- I have created an Instagram page to reach out to constituents. I plan on developing this channel throughout the summer and semester to have a strong platform for informal consultation.

### **Business Student Representative – Hunter Park**

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Academic Priorities Planning Committee: I attended an APP meeting for the first time on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Here, we discussed that data was needed from students to build a plan, and we could gain this data through holding focus groups. It was recommended by Mackenzie Le Vernois to hold student representative moderated focus groups, and we both volunteered to host them at some point.

Committee Assignment: Chair of Council Naomi and I have met several times in the past few weeks, and she has assigned me to the Campus Affairs, and Budget and Finance committees. I am looking forward to sitting on these.

Training: The U has organized several training sessions to help prepare us for Senate, committees, and council. These were very helpful and laid a good foundation to serve as Business Representative

Other business: Last week I gained access to the @su\_businessrep Instagram account, and plan to take it over next week. I would like to hold a contest to increase my outreach in the Schwartz community this Fall.

Once classes begin this September, I would like to visit the first year business classes to introduce myself and give a quick presentation on what The U does, and ways they can get involved on campus.

### **Indigenous Student Representative – Molly Burke**

Over the month of May I have been working with Terena, who is the Indigenous Student Affairs Coordinator, in creating workshops for Indigenous Students. These workshops will start in September and will happen monthly for the academic year.

In other Business: I attended the Spring Teacher retreat in Mi'kmaw understanding and education, as well as working for the library in creating a safer space for Indigenous students and a better way to educate all students on indigenous topics.

## **Executive Reports**

### **President – Jack Irvin**

Executive Report: Jack Irvin, President

Date: May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Reporting Period: May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Internal (to portfolio): This was a very exciting reporting period as it was our teams first three weeks in office! A lot of time was spent on training sessions as a team and individually to provide good knowledge of the organization as well as knowledge to ensure everyone will execute their duty as an executive member effectively. Meredith and I completed check ins with all the executive members to ensure they were off to a good start. I have begun to research advocacy items that we will be exploring further in SNS and CASA. We have continued to meet with the University/Student Life to talk about a new Residence Renewal Project to look at residence and how it could potentially be improved in the future. The executive team was also consulted on ideas for upcoming renovations for Cameron and MacKinnon Hall. We have continued progress on the Bloomfield Renovation Project, planning out the upcoming year and what we would like to accomplish. The Annual Giving's report has been finalized and money will be sent out to groups that were awarded.

*Students Nova Scotia (SNS)*: We had our first Board meeting of the year for Students Nova Scotia and had the opportunity to meet the other student representatives from other student associations in Nova Scotia. Ben Fairhurst was voted in as Chair of the Board for the upcoming year and we are very excited to see Ben representing X well as the Chair! Matthew Stanbrook, the President of the Acadia Students' Union was voted in as Vice-Chair. We then voted student representatives as Chairs for each of the committees for SNS.

*Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)*: Ben Fairhurst and I will be participating in the annual CASA conference from May 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. We will get the opportunity to meet virtually with student executives across the country and work to advocate for students on a federal level. This will also give Ben and I the ability to see different perspectives of students' needs across Canada and at different institutions.

External (to portfolio): External to my portfolio, we have completed a lot of brainstorming sessions about different areas and events for the upcoming year (ex. Marketing, O-Week... etc.). I as well as the team participated in a lot of external training to learn about our leadership styles as individuals and how we can be most effective as a team. We have received other training to look at the structure of the U, organizational responsibilities, professionalism and social media training, crisis/disaster management, and governance training.

Committees:

*Communications Task Force*: Met on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Discussed Return to Campus for employees of the University that needed to work on campus and how it was going. Few were on campus working and quite a lot of employees are working from home. Discussed how often the committee should meet. It was decided to leave it as a weekly meeting, but if no agenda items it was alright to take a week off.

*X-Ring Committee*: Did not meet this reporting period.

*Residence Renewal Advisory Committee:* Did not meet this reporting period.

Sub-Executive:

N/A

Outreach: For outreach during this period, we coordinated a “Year in Review: COVID Town Hall” on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, where we held an open Zoom call for students. We held five separate breakout groups with different topics including Student Life, COVID-19 Successes and Challenges, Stress Management, Academics during a Pandemic, and Risk-Taking Behaviours Concerns and Strategies. Each group had prepared questions, but discussion was meant to be led mostly by students. Students had the option to pick which breakout group they were most interested in to share insight for us to help better understand what supports students need more of.

### **Vice President Academic – Meredith Cudmore-Keating**

Internal:

- Hiring for Visible @X coordinator: At the start of May I was finishing up sitting on the hiring panel for the Visible @X coordinators. It was a pleasure working with Heather Blackburn, Margie Mackinnon and the outgoing Visible @X coordinator, Catherine.
- The team has been doing a ton of training and transition work! We’ve participated in the following sessions:
  - Disaster management, professionalism, social media, LSI, Health and Dental Plan info session, fiduciary duty, governance training, SU structure training
- Residence renewal project: I’ve been working with Sophia and Jack meeting with Elizabeth Yeo (VP Students), Jacqueline DeLeebeck (Director of Student Life), and Leigh Gillis (Consultant) on the University’s restructuring of the residence leadership team.
- OER advocacy: Ben Fairhurst and I have been working together on how we’d like to see more implementation of OERs on campus. We will be meeting with some faculty and administrators soon to take the discussion further!
- Waiver response: The exec board has been preparing for the possibility of another waiver release and we are preparing a response plan involving some consultation, further development of the MOU and communication efforts with the University.
- Check ins: Jack and I have been meeting with the exec every other week to make sure everyone is getting settled in. I’ve also been meeting with Sean Ryan and Naomi with Jack.

External:

- O-Week FUME: The Exec team had a FUME (Fired Up Meeting of the Executive) to start some brainstorming for some O-week ideas, and what OWeek might look like this year. It was really fun and exciting!

Committees:

- Academic Priorities and Planning: Had an APP meeting where the overview and consultation structures for the Academic Portion of the Strategic Plan were discussed. Had pre and post meetings with Mackenzie and Hunter who also sit on that committee.
- Joint committee on studies: Had a JCS meeting where we talked about English language requirements for international students, and a preliminary presentation of the renewal of the Academic Integrity policy. Had a pre-meeting with Mackenzie and Margaret Ann who both sit on that committee too.
- Library Strategic Planning: Met and discussed the development of the library strategic plan.

Outreach:

- End of year town hall: Hosted a town hall with the exec board and invited students to speak with us about various topics including student life, stress management, balancing academics and life/work, risk taking behaviours. We got a lot of great feedback.
- Spoke with cheerleading coach: I had a call with the old cheerleading team coach because I am interested in learning more about which supports are available for club sports. It was interesting and really productive!

**Vice President Finance and Operations – Brendan Roberts**

Hey everyone,

I hope you have all been enjoying your time off of school and that you have all had some time to relax. I have provided a brief overview of my work the past few weeks however I would like to note that this list is by no means exhaustive. The past few weeks have been extremely busy as I (along with the other execs and all of you) transitioned into our new roles. If anyone has any questions regarding something I touched on in my report, questions relating to my portfolio in general, or if you just want to touch base and say hi, don't hesitate to reach out!

All the best,

Brendan

Internal (to portfolio) :

- Hiring: Hired for the following positions:
  - House Accounts Coordinator: Sam Delaney
  - SFRC Coordinator (+Garden Coordinator): Kali Beaton
  - Drive U: 5 new drivers for a total of 12 drivers

- Looking ahead, I hope to hire a sponsorship coordinator in June to help with O-Week sponsorships this summer.
- Drive U:
  - Had numerous conversations with Senior Drive U, Sarah Ritchie to go over a variety of topics for the upcoming year including: roles and expectations of each other, roles and expectations of the drivers, areas where Drive U has done well, areas where Drive U could be potentially improved
  - After the hiring process we are back up to a full team of 12 drivers including Sarah
  - Not much else to report seeing as the service is closed for the summer months
- Student Food Resource Centre:
  - Summer Hours were operating at 1 day per week but due to high numbers and people having schedules that prohibited them from going on Thursdays, we have decided to operate on Saturday as well from 9-11
  - SFRC Instagram (under the direction of SFRCC Kali Beaton) is being utilized to bring more awareness to the center and has become much more popular
  - Sean and I have been working with others have having preliminary discussions about changing the location of the SFRC to Bloomfield Centre (further discussed later in this report)
  - Along with the location change, I am currently looking at slightly restructuring the management setup of the SFRC, and the Kevin's Corner Breakfast Program to bring them under one name, location and management
  - Conversations are going to be held regarding the SFRC's garden this year in terms of getting it ready, tilling the soil, etc.
  - We are considering asking to receive FeedNS shipments again due to the large number of people using the center
- Health and Dental Plan:
  - I along with the other Executives had the chance to meet with and watch a presentation given to us by representatives of Gallivan (for those who may not know, they are our current health and dental plan provider)
  - They discussed some of the benefits that they offer and some of the amazing services they provide through things such as MyWellness

External (to portfolio) :

- Training sessions:
  - As I'm sure you all have as well, I have partaken in my fair share of training sessions over the last few weeks covering a very wide range of information.
  - I have found these sessions to be very helpful/useful at better allowing me to create a vision for the future in terms of my portfolio and agenda
- Annual Givings:
  - For those who may not know, Annual Givings is a \$20,000 budget line that The U disburses annually by reviewing applications and deciding whether to give/how much to give to each applicant. Over the past reporting period, every individual application has been reviewed and I have sent out the amounts that will be provided to each applicant. For more information on Annual Givings, go to the U's website and check out Annual Givings under "Forms"

- GXI and Bloomfield Renovation:
  - As a result of phase 1 of the renovation being completed, the first GXI renovation committee has since been dissolved as it successfully completed its duty to put out an RFP (request for proposals) and select an architect firm to work with
  - Moving into the next phase of the renovation, I along with Jack, Sean and Julieanne have met with a number of banks to get a general sense of what size of a loan is appropriate for this project
  - A new ad-hoc committee will be created to help provide oversight and feedback as we move into the next phase of this project
  - Convenience For U:
  - As a part of the GXI and Bloomfield renovation, we are currently looking into the possibility of starting a convenience store run by the U where the old Pharmasave was
  - This would add an additional revenue line and would provide a service that students on campus currently lack
  - The current timeline for this project is such that it should be completed by late summer/early fall
  -

Committees:

- Emergency Grants Committee: did not meet
- Budget and Finance Committee: did not meet
- Health and Dental Plan Committee: did not meet
- University Budget Committee: did not meet
- JOHSC: did not meet

Sub-executive:

- Senior Drive U: Sarah Ritchie
  - I have checked in multiple times with Sarah regarding Driver hiring and expectations for the upcoming year. We will continue to meet bi-weekly throughout the summer months as we further discuss ways to improve the Drive U experience.
  - Drive U Drivers: 11 Drivers
  - All drivers have been successfully hired and over the next few weeks I will be scheduling short 1 on 1's to introduce myself and make sure they feel comfortable in their new positions.
- House Accounts Coordinator: Sam Delaney
  - I have had a couple meetings with Sam, and Sophia sat in on one so that we could all get on the same page and go over any expectations or ideas we had for the upcoming year.
- Student Food Resource Centre Coordinator: Kali Beaton
  - I have been meeting fairly frequently with Kali over the past few weeks due to the fact that the SFRC is still open even though we aren't in the academic year. We are having discussion about whether to request shipments from FeedNS seeing as a fairly substantial number of people are currently using the centre.
- SFRC Garden Coordinator: Kali Beaton
  - As a result of the weather still being less than ideal for gardening, we are waiting for things to warm up a bit before starting.

- Peer Support Program Coordinators: service doesn't operate in the summer
- Sponsorship Coordinator: To Be Hired in June

Outreach:

- NSSSA Conference:
  - Every year, the Nova Scotia Secondary School Students' Association hosts a conference for high school students across the province. The purpose of the conference is to provide current students leaders with further insight, experience and knowledge into being a leader. The hope is that students will leave the conference feeling better equipped to be a better leader in their schools, community, and as they move forward into university.
  - On Sunday May 23, Sophia and I will give a presentation titled "How to Conquer Your University Transition and Getting Involved!" The main theme of this presentation is what to expect as an incoming first year student and we will cover some of the ways to get involved.
- Town Hall:
  - Along with the other members of the executive team, I helped facilitate a town hall meeting aimed at understanding what students thought went well during the pandemic, and what could potentially be changed or adapted.
  - I helped facilitate the risk taking behaviors, concerns and strategies topic with Kyra where we were able to facilitate a great discussion and received amazing feedback

**Vice President Residence Affairs – Sophia Fabiano**

Internal (to portfolio) :

- Applications for Students Union Community Leaders (SUCL) closed on Monday May 17th and I am currently working on a hiring plan for the position. There are many first year applicants this year so we are looking at either delaying the start date of the position until after O-Week or delaying hiring to after O-week.
- I have been having meetings biweekly with Elizabeth Yeo, Jacqueline DeLeebeck, Leigh Gillis, Meredith Cudmore - Keating (VPA) and Jack Irvin (President) about a Residence Renewal Project.
- I have been attending weekly Executive Meetings with the other Executives.
- I have been having meetings with Sandy MacIntosh and the ResLife team about integrated training week in August
- I've had to meetings with Jacqueline DeLeebeck in order to discuss the SUCL's in Cameron and MacKinnon Hall this upcoming year

External (to portfolio) :

- I have been in many training sessions as follows:
  - Professionalism and Social Media training
  - Council training
  - Governance training
  - Crisis and Disaster Management training

- SU Structure Training
- Organizational responsibility Training
- I have been in two FUME sessions as follows:
  - O - Week FUME
  - Marketing FUME
- I have been participating in an LSI evaluation and group training surrounding the results of that evaluation
- I was in a meeting with Carla Gillis and the Executive about renovations to Cameron and MacKinnon Hall

Committees:

- As of now none of the committees I sit on have convened

Sub-executive:

- House Council Coordinator: Communicating regularly right now as SUCL hiring is being discussed
- House Accounts Coordinator (Joint with VPFO Brendan Roberts): Had a meeting to discuss expectations for the year.
- SUCL's: applications closed, hiring timeline options are being discussed
- Student Advocates: Applications haven't been opened yet

Outreach:

- I spoke with students via Instagram about applying to be an SUCL for the upcoming year and posted hiring ads on the su\_resaffairs page
- I facilitated a session on Student Life for our SU Town Hall
- I have been preparing a presentation on 'How To Conquer Your University Transition and get Involved' for the NSSSA conference on May 23rd with Brendan Roberts (VPFO)

**Vice President Activities and Events – Kyra Tessier**

Internal (to portfolio):

- COCA: nothing new to report
- O-Crew: Hiring of Co-Chairs and executives completed. First round of generals hired, reopened for another round of hiring as we did not have the needed numbers
- O-Week Kits: Met with Jay from Big Tree Promotion. Working with Brendan and Sean to choose a provider and work on creating our O-Week kit.
- Society Coordinator: Interviews for the hiring of this position taking place this week.
- O-Week: Had a meeting with the executives to begin brainstorming for O-Week. Looking at different plans and potential events depending on protocols.
- X-Fest Logo: Meeting with Matt to begin brainstorming the logo for X-Fest
- Budget Review: Met with Sean and Brendan to go over the O-week budget review.

External (to portfolio):

- Governance Training: Participated in Governance training with Paula, very informative.
- SU Structure Training: Meredith and Jack ran an SU structure training, helped me learn all the different positions and which sub-executives are under which portfolios.
- Mock Council: Naomi has us run through a mock council. I really appreciated it as it helped me wrap my head around it and have a more solid understanding of what my role is in council and what happens in a council meeting.
- Professionalism and Social Media Training: Clancy and Lydia from SNS ran this session, really appreciated it as it was informative yet engaging.
- Marketing FUME: Led by Matt McGlashen. Matt opened the floor for us to give feedback on past ads, super open and honest conversations.
- Crisis/Disaster Management Training: Sitting in this training was very informative, helped me to learn the ways around managing potential crises.
- Mk/Cameron Hall renewal: The team met with Clara Gillis to discuss future renovations within Cameron Hall and MacKinnon Hall.
- NSSSA: Working with Ben to create a presentation about how to get involved at StFX to present at the NSSSA conference.

#### Committees:

- SOC: Did not meet
- ERC: Did not meet
- Residence Program Team: Did not meet

#### Sub-executive:

- O-Crew Co-Chairs: Updated the descriptions of the committees and had Matt update them on the U website
- Society Coordinator: Interviews taking place this week

#### Outreach:

- Town Hall: Participated in a Town Hall for students to respond to some questions that were brainstormed by Siobhan Lacey and other execs to get information regarding how Covid has impacted the students on our campus. Brendan and I facilitated the breakout room discussing risk taking behaviours and our student's involvements with these behaviours.
- Naloxone Kits: Working with Shoppers Drugmart to have them provide Naloxone kit training and the physical kit to all first years.

#### **Vice President External – Ben Fairhurst**

Internal (to portfolio) :

#### STFX Town and County Update:

- On my first official Monday, I attended the StFX Town and County update meeting which included members from our university's administration, representatives from Antigonish county and municipality (landlords association, community leaders, RCMP),



and representatives from our Student Union, Jack and myself. The purpose of the meeting was to go over an element of the return to campus plan for students; The Good Neighbours Strategy. We introduced ourselves to the committee and extended our initial ideas for how to best support students coming back to StFX for next year. Due to the uncertain and fluid nature of this pandemic, we agreed that we should continue to meet bi-weekly over the course of the next year so that students' concerns are being consistently represented and understood by this committee. I will make sure to regularly update the council on any developments from this committee as we keep meeting up.

#### Meeting of StudentsNS member schools:

- In collaboration with the VP External Affairs at SMUSA, we were able to coordinate an introductory meeting between all the executives of SNS-member universities around the province! The meeting included all executives from AcadiaSU, SMUSA, NSCCSA and StFXSU. It was an excellent opportunity to create relationships with other Nova Scotian post-secondary institutions, see where our mutual priorities line up (very important for student advocacy), and become a bit more familiar with the functions of StudentsNS.

#### Meeting with the ED of SNS:

- Had an introductory meeting with the Executive Director of StudentsNS, Lydia Houck. She helped shed some light on the functions, processes, and future goals of SNS. Jack and I introduced ourselves, gained knowledge about how to utilize/support SNS to achieve policy goals, and discussed the policy areas our executive would like to focus on in the year to come.

#### First SNS Board Meeting and Elections:

- We had our first official executive board meeting with StudentsNS. These meetings are between all the VPs of External Affairs/Advocacy, and Presidents from different student unions around Nova Scotia. The first board meeting had the purposes of introducing us to SNS Council processes, giving an update on the political climate of post-secondary education, and holding our SNS Board elections. I ended up being nominated to be the Chair of the SNS executive board by the SMUSA delegates and was unanimously voted in! So I'll now be working much more closely with SNS to develop, collaborate, and advocate for policies that will improve the lives of post-secondary students all over Nova Scotia.

#### CASA:

- In preparation for the first major CASA conference coming up next week, CASA Digital Foundations, I connected with the Executive Director and the Member Relations Officer just to introduce myself and explain how excited I am to take part in an organization that focuses on accessibility, affordability, innovation and quality of education for all post-secondary students in Canada. I made a Slack account in order to converse with all student representatives from around the country who will be at the CASA conference, and was invited to a working page where all of us can add our thoughts or policy plans

for the year ahead and comment on each other's ideas. Jack and I have received tons of emails from different SU Presidents and VP Externals around the country who are looking to understand the student issues affecting life at StFX and include these ideas when they run for board positions within CASA.

#### Hiring Process for Research and Policy Associate:

- Due to a very low amount of applications for Research and Policy Associate back in early April, the hiring process was put off until I officially assumed office back on May 1st. I then reopened the application portal and timeline until last Friday. We now have more than enough applications from which to hire a Research and Policy Associate. I will be in touch with more info as I work out the interview panel and timeline that works for everyone.

#### External (to portfolio) :

##### OERs:

- Met with Meredith, our new VP Academic, several times over the last couple weeks in order to develop ideas surrounding Open Educational Resources (OERs). We saw a lot of students really struggling with the additional financial burden of textbook costs through the Student Satisfaction Survey and SU Townhall meeting last week, so we will be continuing to meet and develop plans for OER implementation at StFX in the year to come,

#### Town hall:

- I helped facilitate one of the breakout groups at our SU Town hall on Monday, May 10th. I was in charge of facilitating the stress management group and had a great time conversing and relating with students on the impacts of Covid-19, their stress management strategies, their engagement with resources on campus, and their suggestions for how to better support students in a stressful time.

#### Crisis Management Training:

- The executive team received training in how to best manage and react when a stressful issue or ‘crisis’ arises within our jobs! With the valuable expertise of Bridget Burgess, a former StFXSU exec, we received lessons on how to be most transparent, honest, and helpful to the student community when problems arise!

#### SU Structure and Responsibility Training:

- These two sessions formed most of a one day and went a bit hand in hand. We received lessons in the structure and services of the Student Union here at X, and what specific services, part-time workers, volunteers, and programs went under our diverse portfolios. This initial training in the structure of the Union was capitalized by an afternoon of training from the Union’s legal support, Tom MacEwan. He gave us insight into our legal

responsibilities to this organization and how to conduct ourselves appropriately under our roles.

#### Health and Dental Plan Info Session:

- Gallivan, the external company hired by the U to provide students with a health and dental plan, organized an informational and introductory meeting with our new exec to explain their services and roles in student life at X. They explained the partnership between their company and The U. Due to the fact that their contract will need to be renewed (in the near future) in order to continue their services, we will be meeting up again to discuss the details in depth and will keep you all posted.

#### NSSSA Presentation:

- The Nova Scotia Secondary School Students' Association will be holding their yearly leadership conference for all high school students in Nova Scotia. They reached out to our executive team about holding different "How to" sessions for the student leaders who will be attending their conference! I thought that this could be a great opportunity to inform the next generation of student leaders of the different paths, internal and external, that they can utilize in order to advocate for student issues that they will come across in university. I partnered up with our VP Activities and Events, Kyra Tessier, to put on this "How to Advocate" presentation which will be going down this Sunday, right before council!

#### LSI:

- The Executive team has been going to consistent lessons with Frank Gallant, an external leadership advisor, in order to better understand what aspects of our personalities make for great leadership - and which ones aren't as helpful. In breaking down our different leadership styles, we've been able to better understand each others' diverse personalities and utilize our differing strengths and weaknesses to be better leaders for the students here at StFX.

#### Committees:

##### Social Issues and External Advisory Committees:

- I have been in contact with Naomi about my excitement to get going with these committees, and committee assignments have now been posted so I'll be reaching out to many of you very soon! I'm really pumped to hear everyone's ideas and start moving towards some policy solutions.

##### Sub-executive:

- Policy and Research Associate: Applications are now closed, and applicants will soon be emailed with their interview time slot once I can get the hiring panel figured out! If a candidate is not put forward for ratification this Sunday, you can bet on seeing them on the agenda at the following council.

## Outreach:

- SNS Outreach: I have now been in contact with all the VP Externals and Presidents from SNS-member postsecondary institutions and have created tight bonds with many, as exemplified in their decision to appoint me as Chair of the SNS executive board for the upcoming year. I will continue to work closely with these individuals in order to make sure effective, meaningful, and inclusive policy solutions are being put forward to the government and advocated for.
- CASA Outreach: With CASA Digital Foundations rapidly approaching, many executives from universities in Nova Scotia, PEI, Alberta and BC have been reaching out to Jack and I in order to establish closer working relationships. We plan on scheduling a few meetings with representatives from Western-Canada in order to make sure our students are represented well, regardless of who gets appointed to large leadership positions within CASA this year.
- Student Outreach: A large portion of the student outreach that I've received so far was actually from the Town Hall that was held the other day! In covering the stress management group, I received a lot of feedback in terms of the strategies that work well for some students, gaps in the university's current approach of mental health support, the added challenges of Covid-19, and their suggestions for better support over the next year. This feedback really got me thinking about ways in which external bodies could increase and expand our school's ability to respond to growing mental health concerns from the student body

## Appendix A-

### **AD HOC: Students' Union Renovation Committee: Phase 2**

#### Article 1: Structure

1. The Renovations Committee is Co-Chaired by the VP-Finance and Operations and General Manager, St.FX Students' Union.
2. The membership of the Renovation Committee is to include:
  - i. One (1) Representative Councillor so designated by the Chair of Council (voting)
  - ii. The VP-Finance and Operations (voting)
  - iii. The President (voting)
  - iv. Accounts Manager (non-voting)
  - v. General Manager ( non-voting)
  - vi. StFX University representative ( non-voting)
3. The Councillor designated will report to Council on the deliberations of the committee after each meeting of the committee.

#### Article 2: Mandate

1. The mandate of the Renovations Committee Phase 2 is to discuss, deliberate, recommend and report on all matters related to renovation projects within the Students' Union spaces.
2. Be responsible for updating on the finances associated with various renovation projects.
3. This may include but not be limited to making recommendations for the annual budget, developing fundraising campaigns and activities; soliciting corporate entities; conducting outreach to students for feedback.
4. Prioritizing the projects being considered by the Students' Union.

## Appendix B:

### **AD HOC: Students' Union Food Sustainability Committee/Kevin's Corner**

#### Article 1: Structure

1. The Students' Union Food Sustainability Committee/Kevin's Corner will be co-chaired by students' union VP/Director of Finance and Operations and University Director Ancillary Services.
2. The membership of the committee shall be:
  - i. One (1) Representative Councillor so designated by the Chair of Council (voting)
  - ii. The VP-Finance and Operations (co-chair)
  - iii. Director Ancillary Services ( co-chair)
  - iv. Representative from Sodexo(non-voting)
  - v. General Manager ( non-voting)
  - vi. SFRC Coordinator
  - vii. One (1) Student at Large
3. The Councillor designated will report to Council on the deliberations of the committee after each meeting of the committee.

#### Article 2: Mandate

1. The mandate of this committee is to set direction each year for the resources provided through the Students' Union food resource services and Kevin's Corner fund.
2. Be responsible for updating on the finances associated with various food resource services, this includes but is not limited to the food resource center, breakfast program, community garden and the study snack program.
3. This may include but not be limited to making recommendations for the annual budget, developing fundraising campaigns and activities; soliciting corporate entities; conducting outreach to students for feedback about current and future services and supports.
4. Developing a yearly timeline and schedule for the activities associated with increasing food stability for students.