# Student Union Representative Council Minutes from september 24th, 2017.

**Call to Order: 3:06PM**

**Roll Call:**

Present: Jessica Fullerton, Melissa Grant, Emma Crilly, Amy Bobyn, Tanaka Chikwavaire, Pheerawich Chitnelawong, Tiffany MacLennan, Zakariya Chatur, Rebecca Mesay, Annie Sirois, Patrick Panet-Raymond, William Gatchell, Sean Hopkins, Bry Crabbe, Alex Corrigan, Sydney Pagan, Sasha Paul, Lucas Middleton, Sarah Elliott

Absent with regrets: Kashya Young, Marcia English, Sean Ryan

**Approval of the Agenda**

Annie would like to like to amend to have the opening remarks and Mi’kmaq Acknowledgement moved to before approval of agenda and approval of minutes. Deemed friendly.

**Opening Remarks of the Chair**

Welcome to Lucas and Sarah, congrats! We’re going to have a good year. We have a good agenda today. Speak clearly, loudly and slow so that you can be heard by the gallery.

**Mi’kmaq Acknowledgment**

**Approval of Minutes**

Emma moves to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Amy.

Bry calls to question, Sydney seconds (12-0-0 call to question passes) all in favour of approving the minutes from the last meeting (12-0-0 Passes)

**Approval of the Agenda**

Emma moves to approve the agenda, seconded by Alex.

Bry calls to question, Annie seconds (12-0-0 call to question passes) all in favour of approving the agenda for this meeting (12-0-0 Motion Passes)

**Constituency Reports**
Sarah Elliott - First Year Representative
Goals for the year are to make the first years feel welcome and that all people are looking forward to their second year just as excited as they were for their first. Also to host events throughout the year for first year students to meet each other and get involved.

Amy Bobyn - Science Representative

Quiet week for science. Working on contacting all chairs to talk about starting a list of opportunities in terms of science research as it was one of my goals whilst running. Contacting all science society presidents to talk about the individual departments as different science departments have different needs. Would like to plan an event for all science faculties to come together to in a relaxed, social setting.

Emma Crilly - Business Representative

Been busy. Met with Brad Long to talk about the direction of the advisory board and applications will hopefully go out this week. Working towards a faculty social for all business students so that students can meet the professors within the faculty in a social rather than classroom setting. There is a round table happening this week to talk about matters regarding first and second year students and will be facilitated by upper year students. I encourage students to come out as it’s a great opportunity for students. I also attended Schwartz Business Society meeting to plan joint events throughout the year.

Q (Sarah): So, the event is for first and second year and is ran by third and fourth year?

A (Emma): Yes!

Bry Crabbe - Graduate Student Representative

Any questions about report can be answered now. Orientation day will be happening October 6th for graduate students so that they can be introduced to things like the gym, the library and security, etc. Having a meeting with Information Technology Services to update the listserve for grad students.

Sydney Pagan - Board of Governor’s Representative

Since our last meeting, Alex and I attended the sod turning ceremony for the Mulroney Institute. We had a meeting with BoG and hoping to have a BoG meet and greet so students can be able to meet the members of BoG and learn about what the BoG does. The first building and grounds meeting will be happening next week so an update will come then.

Melissa Grant - Education Student Representative

It’s been a busy couple of week. Elected first year representatives for education and it’s now a very big executive. There are 6 new first year reps and they’re now working on goal setting for the year. Got a lot of positive feedback from education orientation and good feedback on dry events. There is a personal development day is happening in Mid-October and an NSTU conference is happening at the end of November.

Alex Corrigan - Board of Governors Representative

Speaking more around the things that are not on report on my constituency report. Things are progressing on BoG meet and greet! Andrew Beckett likes the idea and Mr. Boyd is also on board, also meeting with Rory Connors to promote the event. There will be a cap on the event so that there are not 200 students meeting with our small board as it would take away from our goals. We would like to spend some time in residences to promote and talk about BoG and would like to meet with Rebecca to talk about the BoG position in its entirety and also the direction that BoG should be moving towards. I would also like to mention that the Investment Committee is meeting with fund managers in Toronto are meeting to discuss the StFX endowment and any questions about our endowment can be answered directed to me and I would be happy to discuss them. Also attended MacIsaac Town Hall.

Lucas Middleton - Arts Representative

I was just elected so haven’t done much. My goals for the year are to have workshops for papers outside of the Student Success Centre and also to make the arts representative position more known so that students are aware that they have a resource within theU.

Pheerawich Chitnelawong - International Student Representative

Meeting with International Student Society, Chinese Student Association and the international advisor to talk about the direction for the year. There is some turn over happening within the International student office. The internationalization advisor will be hired next month. Chinese Mid-Autumn banquet is happening next week and I encourage you to go. Today, the Antigonish community is having a multicultural potluck and will be happening at St. James Church. Many Coady and international students will be attending. Had the opportunity to meet with Karen Foley, who runs the friendship cafe in the library which happens every Thursday, we urge international students to go but it is usually only people in town.

Q(Alex): I noticed you mentioned the Coady students, do you represent them on council? If so, do you do much outreach.

A (Annie): Coady students do not pay SU fees and therefore are not represented under the international student constituency however we work to include them within our events.

A (Pheerawich): We do host events with the Coady students throughout the year.

Sasha Paul - Equity Representative

Next month is Mi’kmaq history month! The calendar is not yet finalized but it will be sent out to people as soon as it is finished. A discussion was facilitated by Robert Chatterton to talk about gender diversity and making StFX a more welcoming place to people of any gender/sexuality by removing stigma surrounding gender/sexual diversity. I had the opportunity to meet new international students who live in Lane Hall and from this a concern was raised about international students who arrived late. For example, there was a student who arrived the day after course drop date. Is there a way to help these students?

A (Emma): You can go to the office of the registrar and they can do it manually.

A (Patrick): You can email me with any further questions regarding this!

Tanaka Chikwavaire - Students of African Descent Representative

Have been doing interviews for Students of African Descent Advisor and she’s been hired! Her name is Kelsey Jones and she will be starting very soon. The Student of African Descent Office used to host games night on every last Friday of the month and would like to continue them throughout the year. This would be a good way for new Student of African Descent Advisor to meet her students as well. I would like to meet her to get some panels started for students so that they can speak out.

Q (Pheerawich): Is there no Afro-Caribbean Society this year?

A (Tanaka): No, there is not.

**Business Arising**

Annie moves to add to new business an update on the Alternative Vote Pilot Project. Deemed Friendly.

**Executive Reports**

President, Ms. Annie Sirois

Hello everyone! Happy to have everyone here! Executive Reports were not sent out this week as they are sent out once a month. I have been doing a lot of meet and greets with things like Brian Mulroney Institute. I also had the opportunity to meet with Mila Mulrooney and Caroline Lapham regarding Women in Leadership. There have been many X-Ring meetings for appeals for X-Rings as well as honorary X-Rings nominations. The decision on the Honorary X-ring recipient will be happening before Oct 14 so that there is time for the ring to be ordered. Happening soon is the StudentsNS Budget Lock Up; StudentsNS will be able to look at the budget before it is publicly released to be able to talk about what this budget means for post-secondary students. We are also in the midst of planning the advocacy week for both StudentsNS and CASA. The festivities for Homecoming weekend are now all set-in stone! We have also started the framework for Frost Week which will be happening this year. The Bloomfield Management Committee has met and will be bringing new things to the table very soon. We have asked for small things to happen whilst a lot of construction is happening on other parts of campus. One of the bigger projects is to make a 4th floor lounge for people to be able to hang out as there is no place for Off-Campus students, or other students, to simply hang out on campus.

Q (Sydney): How do people get nominated for honorary X-Ring?

A (Annie): All nominations are emailed to me.

Q (Sydney): Where is the 4th floor lounge taking place?

A (Annie): Where the fourth-floor study space is but study space will be sufficient!

Q (Alex): Student at large applications are coming out this week, what can we do to advertise and support this?

A (Annie): Please everyone, share the Student at Large Applications! Once students apply, it is up to the discretion to the chairs of the committees to choose the students at large for the committee. The application will not actually be closed at any point in the year and will remain open for students to get involved at later dates.

Q (Alex): So, students can be on the committee but then leave?

A (Annie): Yes, we would like them to be on for a year for the purposes of consistency.

Q (Alex): Would it be possible to open council chambers for students to study?

A (Annie): Any student on campus can go to Conference Services and book study space. However, the Council Chambers is a room that would cost students money as opposed to rooms in Schwartz that would be of no charge to students.

Q (Sarah): What is the Students at Large application?

A (Annie): Students at Large are students sitting on committees giving biased feedback for all committees so that we can have grassroots feedback for what we are doing as a students’ union.

Q (Pheerawich): Because a lot of students come in winter, could we incorporate the international students who are coming in January into the activities of Frost Week?

A (Annie): International students who come in January sometimes participate in the frosh week of the following year.

A (Sean): This will be an orientation for new students as well as fun events for all other StFX students.

Q (Sasha): What is frost week?

A (Annie): It is a week of events laid out similarly to frosh week but it’s open to ALL StFX students happening during the second semester. It’s not frosh week but its frost week.

Q (Amy): Is it possible to have the 2nd floor cafe space open for students to compensate for the loss of study space on fourth floor?

A (Annie): If we don’t think there is sufficient study space for students, we can open it.

Q (Emma): Is there a better location for the lounge since the tremble rooms are right there?

A (Annie): The tremble rooms will be moving.

Q (Alex): what is the timeline for the fourth-floor study space to be turned into a lounge?

A (Annie): The proposal would be reviewed by council in January and therefore will not be interfering with December exams.

Vice President Academic, Mr. Patrick Panet-Raymond

Welcome everyone! The Student Orientation Committee met with Margie MacKinnon to debrief about Monsters of Sholock and to make a plan on what would happen if a similar situation were to happen in the future. Orientation week debrief also took place and there was very good and constructive feedback all around. The first Enrolment Advisory Committee meeting has happened. The Enrolment Advisory Committee is a committee that works towards getting many great students coming to the school as possible. This was a quick meeting, more so of an introduction to each other and the goals of the committee; the next meeting date has not been set. The new Human Rights and Equity advisor has begun here work here, her name is Megan Fogerty and she wants to meet with Students Union to talk about how to be more inclusive and equitable around campus. Attended the Sod Turning ceremony as well as a Cameron Hall meet and greet. I’m happy to answer any questions at this time or stop by my office.

VP Finance and Operations, Mr. William Gatchell

Thank you, Jess. I just want to bring to attention is the StFX Open House happening on October 14th, 2017. It is a great way to get involved; the StFX SU has been asked to get involved within the event, with the event, more students will have the opportunity to see the campus before applying. I will be sending out an email about ways to get involved! Since the last council meeting, Drive U training has happened and Drive U is up and running. Happy to see students using it again! Bringing in the Bystander training was mandatory for all Drive U drivers which is great to help students as the drive U drivers are potentially the last people who see students at the end of the night. I’ve also been looking at council initiatives fund and they will be coming to council in the coming weeks. We’ve had many people reach out for these initiatives and we are very happy about this. We are going to help these groups form their ideas before they are brought to council so that they are as prepared as possible. Met with the Xaverian Weekly and CFXU about their budgets and as well as societies about allocations. Any questions from societies about allocations can be brought to Will or Sarah, the societies coordinator. Since we voted to go to RFP, we did speak with Owen from PBAS and went over very, very smoothly and we have been in contact with Grant Thornton. Also to the emergency Grant Program which will help with a committee with the Financial Aid committee which will also be brought to council to be advertised to all constituents. This is great for students who want to attend post-secondary education but may not be able to, or to help students who may be here but are struggling financially.

Q (Emma): About the open house, if it goes well, would anyone be willing to have another second semester for students who are living out west? It would be great because students have their break then.

A: It would definitely be looked into!

Q Tanaka: About the Emergency Grant Program, how much is it?

A: It was $5000, but were enable to access funding from Campus Affairs and is now $10,000. Last year we had a lot of demand for it which is why this will be created as a committee.

Q (Alex): Will council be voting on the allocation of this or is this given?

A (William): Since it is sensitive topics, we will make sure to work with Financial Aid for the Emergency Grant Program. There will not be Students at Large on the committee as there will be sensitive information that comes across the table.  A (Annie): The other $5000 is separate from the U. The committee will be a standing committee rather than something within the bylaws.

Q Alex: Is there something in place to keeping it objective rather than subjective in terms of feelings?

A: There will be some kind of criteria to keep personal opinions, etc., out of the committee.

Vice President Activities and Events, Mr. Sean Hopkins

Congrats Lucas and Sarah on your elections! I’m on the Open House steering committee and we are seeing how students and the Students Union can help to make it the best event possible for the high school students. I’ve been working the promotion of Poster Fair which will be happening Oct 3-6th in the MacKay room. We have a new program: Smart STFX. Currently getting an idea on what these seminars will looking at, how they will be formatted. Smart STFX will help to provide students with lessons about life after university. Some examples of things that will be looked at for Smart StFX: Personal wellness, Financial Literacy, etc. The theme for the October X-Talks is success and empowerment, working on finding a guest speaker for the event. I’m currently working with Sean (GM) and Cody (Bar Manager) on Inn Events and X-Ring Super Sub. I attended Sod turning briefly but had to attend Society Review Committee. Also gave the incoming society presidents ERC training during Society President Training.

Q (Tanaka): Who decides the topic of X-Talks?

A (Sean): Me, if anyone has ideas, email or stop by!

Q (Alex): Speaking about the open house, is the university looking for any StFX student to help?

A (Sean): Looking for people on o-crew, ask me, SU in particular.

Q: Who is responsible to running super sub for X-Ring?

A (Sean): Me

Vice President Residence Affairs, Ms. Rebecca Mesay

Hello everyone! I hope you had the opportunity to read my report. A lot of the work has been done around communication between Residence Life Staff, Student Life, Student Services, etc., around the restorative justice approach being taken this year. Had the opportunity to talk with the Manager of Student life about guest policy for homecoming weekend. On September 20th, applications for House Council Coordinator and Off Campus Leader closed and hiring will be taking place in the following weeks. Student Advocate applications will be reopening soon as well. House Councils will be chosen by the end of today. House Council Training will be happening during October 6th-7th, 2017. MacIsaac Town Hall happened for former and the placed MacIsaac Students to talk about why the building closed/what the future plans are for the building. Had the opportunity to talk to the MacKinnon and Cameron Hall House Presidents and Vice Presidents over the week.

Q (Sarah): What was the final decision about guests at homecoming?

A (Rebecca): There will be a No Guest policy in place for homecoming.

A (Annie): I would like to recognize that this decision was not brought to the Students Union.

Q (Melissa): House Council training is happening on thanksgiving weekend?

A (Rebecca): I did not think about that, it will be rescheduled.

Q (Tanaka): How often do you meet with HP/VPs to hold them accountable to their job? As a Community Advisor, if there is something happening with the HP/VPs that are making the jobs of CAs harder, what is the process?

A (Rebecca): The Residence Life Coordinator, or the Director of Student Life would contact Rebecca. This would be followed up with if deemed necessary.

Comment (Pheerawich): Sometimes HP/VPs are overwhelming to international students and therefore are not as much as a resource to them.

A (Rebecca): If they are comfortable, direct them to the CAS, RLCs.

Q (Alex): So, there is no guest policy, who will be in charge of looking after this? It would be nice to have the Community Advisors be able to help students rather than to be stationed at doors.

A: ResLife, X-Patrol and Safety and Security will have a joint effort. CAs will have bracelets.

Comment (Tanaka): X-Patrol is not planned to be stationed anywhere during homecoming.

Rebecca: This will be looked into further.

Q (Patrick): What about Alumni about who are coming back?

A (Rebecca): That is a concern that we brought up to Student Life. The Director of Student Life will be having a conversation about Alumni Affairs about possibly returning as a planned tour. However, currently, there is to be no alumni in residence.

Vice President External Affairs, Mr. Zakariya Chatur

Annie touched on a big thing for StudentsNS; to have the opportunity to go to Halifax to attend the Budget Lock Out however, I cannot make it. The following Tuesday we have a round table with the minster of advanced labor and education and an agenda has been circulated and touches everything from Mental Health to finances. If anyone from your constituencies have anything they want to be discussed, please direct them to me. Research and Policy Associate will be running a research project around campus.

StudentsNS: made by-laws and policy. CASA: had their first board call where reports and updates were given. Going to have committee calls across Canada to ensure that all advocacy across the country is consistent. Met with a student about applying for StudentsNS and it went very well! I also had a very good meeting with Sean Day from Planning and Advisory regarding zoning and student health & safety so that our practices are modernized. Some of the things that this committee looks into is to see if students are living in single houses, etc., or if it is safe to have 14 people living in a house. It is usually a student at large sitting on the committee, the student is Patrick Andersen and is very committed to the committee.

Q (Alex): Question about common practices about outreach in advocacy groups, how do you often figure out what students want? What students look for?

A (Zakariya): We look for this through councilors, also hires a service learning student to conduct research on this. Annie also added the Student at Large positions to ensure that we are getting the greatest amount of student input possible.

A (Annie): There are people who work with CASA and do this research as a full-time job. As for StudentsNS, people run on platforms and are important issues universally. Everyone is moving towards an advisory board because we are one of a kind and people like it.

A (Zakariya): We review a contract every year to ensure that polling is still legitimate so that we can ensure that what we are researching is accurate.

\*Pheerawich leaves 4:18PM reducing the number of voting members by 1.

**Faculty Representative’s Remarks**

Absent

**Student Union General Manager Report**

Absent

**Committee Reports**

Bry - Sat on SRC, notes that is not on the committee for the full year but touched on what the committee has to do for the year and also to set up the societies for ratification today.

**Special Reports to Council**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

1.) Ratification of Societies

Bry moves to approve the list of societies as given in the council package omnibus. The motion is seconded by Emma.

Bry yields time to the societies coordinator, Sarah Comandante.

Comment (Sarah): The Society Review Committee (SRC) has gone through all of the constitutions from each society. All societies would have had to completed society president training, attended societies night and did their constitution and ratification forms. Any additional requirements for membership have to be reviewed by the SRC. There will be another training session for any societies that missed training.

Annie yields to Zakariya

Comment (Zakariya): I have looked at the additional requirements for philosophy, being a philosophy student is requirement however that is not accurate.

Bry calls to question, seconded by Emma (11-0-0, motion passes). All in favour of ratifying the societies omnibus (11-0-0, motion passes).

2.) Motion to approve Finance Policy

The Finance Policy was passed by By-Law and Policy Committee over the summer and is now being presented to council.

The policy was read by the Chair.

Section 3.4 is highlighted because we cannot currently find the Terms of Reference for the Sponsorship Coordinator. However, since the sponsorship coordinator is not an honorarium member, this can be removed completely from the policy.

Section 4.2.1, Changes to representatives from the Financial Aid office will sit on the adjunction committee from for this grant.

Q (Melissa): Keeping the language consistent: should the LGBTQ2S+ include the IA as well?

A (Annie): No because that is not the name of the bursary.

Comment (William): Section 6.2.1 should be changed to any signing officer because the president can also sign off on purchase orders.

Emma moves to approve the Finance Policy as presented, seconded by Alex.

Comment (Alex): I’m content with the time and effort spent by council and the executives to make the necessary amendments to this policy.

Bry calls to question, seconded by Emma (12,0,0, motion passes), all in favour of approving the Finance Policy (11-0-0, motion passes).

3.) Motion to approve Equity Policy

The policy was read out to council by the Chair.

Comment: condemns refers to a physical action. Since we do not have a policy in place with physical actions, condemns is not the most appropriate wording. Denounce would be a better word within the policy.

Comment (Alex): Instead of 1.2, should it be changed to something regarding the fact that council has the discretion of council.

Comment (Zakaryia): We should be careful around the language we use.

Comment (Alex): Because of the wording, it seems that we are going to support ANY group who claims to be equity-seeking groups, even if they are not seen as equity-seeking by Council.

Comment (Lucas): By outlining who is equity seeking is also more limiting than helpful.

Comment (Rebecca): From the definition of equity, is that, if we are looking at privilege, we are looking to level the playing field for those who may have been put back by things out of their control.

Comment (Zakaryia): Stipulation in 1.4 also helps this, by referring to the Nova Scotia Human Rights acts.

Change to “all groups deemed to be equity-seeking by council” deemed friendly.

Q (Alex): Question about 1.3.1, does that mean that an event such as freeze tag would no longer be permitted? For example, would something like Freeze tag, no longer be able to occur because someone with a physical disability cannot participate?

Comment (Rebecca): We shouldn’t be allowed to host events that exclude other groups.

Comment (Alex): We could add that appropriate alternative programming shall be added to ensure that people with disabilities are equally represented within our events.

Emma moves to approve the Equity Policy, seconded by Bry.

Emma: after reviewing the policy, it seems like a great document to implement within the Students Union.

Patrick calls to question, seconded by Emma (11-0-0, motion passes) all in favour of approving the Equity Policy (11-0-0, motion passes).

**Closing Remarks of the Chair**

Great meeting. Glad to have almost everyone here and be able to get everyone together. Thanks to all councilors to coming out to training this weekend.

**Adjournment**

 Annie motions to adjourn, seconded by Emma.

Alex calls to question, seconded by Emma (11-0-0, motion passes) all in favour of adjourning (11-0-0, motion passes).

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:48PM.**