

# COUNCIL PACKAGE

JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

PREPARED BY: MAGGIE BUNBURY – DEPUTY CHAIR

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Agenda  
Students' Union Representative Council  
January 27th 2019, 3:00pm  
Council Chambers

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Mi'kmaq Acknowledgment
4. Opening Remarks of the Chair
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Approval of the minutes
7. Constituency Reports
8. Business Arising
9. Executive Reports:
  - President, Ms. Rebecca Mesay
  - Vice President Academic, Ms. Tiffany MacLennan
  - VP Finance and Operations, Mr. Tega Sefia
  - VP Activities and Events, Mr. Sean Hopkins
  - VP Residence Affairs, Ms. Kallie Ross
  - VP External Affairs, Ms. Clancy McDaniel
10. Students' Union General Manager Report
11. Committee Reports
12. Special Reports to Council:
  - Organizational Review presentation on Representative Councillor Positions
13. Old Business
14. New Business
15. Closing Remarks
16. Adjournment

# STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



**Date:** January 13th, 2019

**Time:** 3:00pm

## Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:06pm

## Roll Call

### Present

Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess  
Board of Governors Student Representative – Emma Crilly  
Education Student Representative – David M. Lewis  
Equity Student Representative – Iffat Sohi  
Arts Student Representative – Lucas Middleton  
First Year Student Representative – Mary Bailey  
Students' of African Descent Representative – Summer Upshaw  
Science Student Representative – Bryan Fedchun  
President of the Students' Union – Rebecca Mesay  
Vice President Academic – Tiffany MacLennan  
Vice President Finance and Operations – Tega Sefia  
Vice President Activities and Events – Sean Hopkins  
Vice President Residence Affairs – Kallie Ross  
Vice President External Affairs – Clancy McDaniel

### Absent with regrets

Business Student Representative – Caelan Peters

International Student Representative – Happiness Bhoke John  
Board of Governors Student Representative – Cecil VanBuskirk.

## Opening Remarks of the Chair

Welcome back!

## Approval of the Agenda

Emma – Motions to approve the agenda.

David – Seconds.

Motion passes 10-0-0.

## Approval of Minutes

Lucas – Motions to approve the minutes.

Emma – Seconds.

Motion passes 10-0-0.

## Constituency Reports

### **Board of Governors Student Representative – Emma Crilly**

- Hasn't been too busy since the last meeting.
- Teleconference meeting with the BoG and it went very well. It was very student focused.
- By-law and Policy Committee will continue to meet this term.

### **Arts Student Representative – Lucas Middleton**

- Met with the committees he sits on.
- Election coming up.

### **Science Student Representative – Bryan Fedchun**

- Health and Dental Plan Committee met up
- Participated in Kevin's Corner. Highly recommend trying it out.

### **First Year Student Representative – Mary Bailey**

- Last night was my first event, the 2000s Dance Party. It was a success.
- Had first visitor in my office.

### **Education Student Representative – David M. Lewis**

- Sent out an email to constituents about nominations forms.
- Has been talking to constituents since he's been back.

### **Equity Student Representative – Iffat Sohi**

- Not much going on the past week.
- This month is pride month and there are a lot of activities going on with X-Pride.
- Month of February is also the Red Dress Campaign. There will be events following this as well. Hopefully will still have a list about what is happening.

### **Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess**

- Since last meeting more or less nothing to say.
- Still getting a handle on this job. Going to get resources from predecessors.

### **Students' of African Descent Representative – Summer Upshaw**

- Before the break Organizational Review Committee met via email to discuss aim and focus for the upcoming semester. Took this opportunity to make suggestions and regulations on the structure of council.
- Black Student Society is scheduled to meet tonight for events for African Heritage Month.
- Hoping to get more student engagement for African Heritage Month.

## **Business Arising**

Tiffany – I would like to add to the agenda a motion to ratify the new Off Campus Leader.

Rebecca – I would like to add under Special Reports a special presentation on the position of the indigenous student representative on council.

## **Executive Reports**

### **President of the Students' Union – Rebecca Mesay**

- Trying to set up committee meetings again.

### **Vice President Academic – Tiffany MacLennan**

- Fourth meeting of senate was on Monday Jan 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Discussed fall reading week stuff in that meeting. Discussed the challenges surrounding a fall reading week.

- May or may not be hosting a few focus groups on this topic.
- Sexual Violence Prevention Committee met on Friday
  - Talked about different things that have been happening following October.
  - What can we as different groups on campus do to help combat sexual violence.

Summer – Has there been any word on the womens' equity group training?

Tiffany – Yes there are more training dates coming up.

William – When is the next Sexual Violence Prevention Committee meeting?

Tiffany – Unsure yet.

### **Vice President Finance and Operations – Tega Sefia**

- Has been out of office since the start of 2019.

### **Vice President Activities and Events – Sean Hopkins**

- December – X-ring went over really well.
- Frost Week has been going great so far. Disco skate is happening today.
- Has had questions regarding my job.
- Wellness week scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.
- Working a lot with Cody at the INN.
- Last semester Campus Affairs agreed to help sponsor a winter concert later in the semester.
- Has been sending out lots of offers to bands to perform at graduation.

### **Vice President Residence Affairs – Kallie Ross**

- Meet with the Food Service Tender Committee in December. Moving along well with the food service tender contract. The university will be moving to negotiations with the proponents soon.
- House hockey cup – met with Bob Hale to solidify some of the dates. Waiting for ERC approvals.
- Off Campus Leader hiring was this week. This position is now filled.
- Yesterday we had January start to semester training with the CAs and HPs/VPs.

### **Vice President External Affairs – Clancy McDaniel**

- December – had the opportunity to go the University of Toronto and do some networking.
- Met with the Antigonish Women's Equality project and took facilitator training. This project will conduct research with students and will hold focus groups where students will be able to share stories about the sexual violence culture on campus. These stories will be

shared via letters so students don't have to come and share their stories with a group. They will start with targeted groups and open it up further depending on how the research goes.

- Met with the Research & Policy associate.
- Attending the Contextualizing Stone Wall event which talked about Queer history in NS.
- Students' Nova Scotia – first board meeting tomorrow evening. Recorded a promotional video during advocacy week. Approved a website to improve accessibility for students.
- Canadian Alliance Student Association – doing more committee work as well.

## Students' Union General Manager Report

None.

## Committee Reports

Bryan – Health and Dental

- New health and dental provided. Discussed arising issues. Reached out with the provider to discuss potential solutions.

## Special Reports to Council

### **Presentation on the Indigenous Student Representative position by Rebecca Mesay**

Lucas – Motions for a recess.

Emma – Seconds.

Motion passes 9-0-0.

*This presentation can be obtained in the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Students' Union Representative Council Package at [www.theu.ca](http://www.theu.ca)*

- We do in fact have an Indigenous student representative on council but this year we were unable to fill the position and I feel like it would be important to discuss this position.
- TRC – Truth and Reconciliation Committee
- The AAU in cohesion with the TRC created a document for secondary schools which contain action items to foster a better environment for Indigenous students.
- I believe it is very important as an organization to be as welcoming as possible to students of African descent and Indigenous students.

Iffat – It's important to understand that Indigenous students come from a community that is holistic whereas the communities we live in and the community of St. FX is individualistic.

Emma – The reason the By-law and Policy committee didn't pass this amendment was the lack of understanding on how having two representatives in one position would work.



Clancy – I empathize with the point that was just made. We as a students' union have the duty and responsibility to represent and provide a safe place to our students. It's important for those of us who don't identify as Indigenous to listen to those members of the community as they are experts in this subject and on colonialism in Canada and at St. FX. I think it's important for us to understand that the way decision making is made in our country is very colonialist and how this practice could make people feel unsafe or unwelcome in these practices. I'm really excited and hope we have the opportunity to receive cultural competency training along with the Kairo's Blanket Exercise. I would like to thank Rebecca for this presentation and for raising these points.

Iffat – I think the strategic plan should include diversity inclusion as a goal.

William – I was curious if we have any numbers about if there are any differences in opportunities presented to Indigenous students or their experiences in these positions.

Rebecca – I don't have specific numbers but as it is stipulated in the TRC recommendations, historically there is a trend that Indigenous students aren't succeeding in roles like this or coming to universities.

Clancy – The purpose of the TRC's calls to actions were for institutions such as St. FX to adapt and become more welcoming to Indigenous students.

Iffat – One of the other issues for Indigenous students is that they don't self-identify so we cannot reach out to them.

Emma – Can you send out the PDFs for both the AAU and TRC documents?

Rebecca – Yes.

Lucas – I'm curious as to what our next step is. What will be the motions brought forward from these recommendations?

Rebecca – The proposed training for representative council and consultation with the Dalhousie University Students' Union is already in process. A motion itself would involve whether we move to approve an equity strategic plan.

Tanka – Other motions would be to have two representatives in this position and to include training for council in the by-laws.

William – Do we have a certain rule around when a certain position should or shouldn't be made to represent students?

Tiffany – Currently there are no rules. When we added the Students of African Descent and Aboriginal student representatives it went through the Organizational Review Committee. These positions come and go as need be. It could be something to look at in the future.

## Old Business

None.

## New Business

### **Motion to run the election for the position of Vice President Academic concurrently with the Student Representative Election**

Tiffany – Motions to run the election for the position of Vice President Academic concurrently with the Student Representative election.

Iffat – Seconds.

Discussion:

Emma – Can we amend that the motion says 2019 election.

Emma – Moves to amend the motion so it states 2019.

Bryan – Seconds.

Emma – Motions to run the election for the position of Vice President Academic for the 2019 election concurrently with the Student Representative Election of 2019.

Lucas – Seconds.

Discussion:

Tiffany – I have been talking with Sean Ryan about how to get more people to apply for this position. There should be multiple people running for each position.

Tanaka – Important for all of us to put in mad amounts of effort in promoting these positions. The idea of one person running is not great. Need to make people aware about what your positions are.

David M. – Is there a place on the website that says what each position does?

Tiffany – The terms of reference for each position are on the website but they are not user friendly.

David M. – I think everyone should write a blurb about their position and put it out on social media.

Iffat – I saw an idea where a college did a video with their Students' Union where each person was talking about their position.

Tiffany – Quick reminder on how little people our social media reaches.

Emma – We each all have our own social media presence where we could post on our own accounts.

Rebecca – Quick point of order we still have a motion on the floor that needs to be passed.

Tiffany – Calls to question.

David – Seconds.

Motion passes 10-0-0.

### **Motion to ratify the new Off Campus Leader**

Tiffany – Moves to ratify the new Off Campus Leader.

Tiffany – Yields time to Kallie.

Kallie – Talks about the candidate Selena Landry. Was very excited about the off campus community and was a part of the Off Campus Committee on O-Crew. She is from Antigonish as well.

Emma – Was the vote unanimous.

Kallie – Yes.

Rebecca – Calls to question.

Emma – Seconds.

Motion passes 10-0-0.

### **Closing Remarks**

- I will send out a Doodle Poll with the dates for the blanket exercise.
- We are all to remain neutral in the election.

Emma – Are we allowed to like them?

Tanaka – No stay away.

Iffat – Can we vote?

Tanka – Yes.

- Please promote the election.

Tiffany – Is the WUSC referendum still happening?

Tanaka – Yes.

David M. – Do we have the other dates for council meetings?

Tanaka – I will be sending those out this week.

### **Adjournment**

David M. – Motions to adjourn.

Bryan – Seconds.

Motion passes 10-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:24pm.

## **Business Student Representative Report - Caelan Peters**

I've been working on a couple of things lately, aside from volunteering with the election I've also been sitting on the review committee for the dean of business and we are set to meet the first Thursday of February. The librarian search committee has decided to utilize the services of a headhunter who I was in contact with recently discussing the qualities of the ideal candidate. Now that the headhunters are involved I expect to be less busy with the search committee. I am looking at some business alumni outreach ideas and plan to meet with the dean to discuss some ideas. I am also set to guide and coach a novice case competition team and have been reaching out to gain more interest in case competitions. I have spoken with a couple of business students who've expressed interest in becoming the business rep after me.

## Education Student Representative Report - David M. Lewis

Since the last council meeting, January 13<sup>th</sup>, I have been working with the Education Society to get ready for our executive election. This includes my position, sadly we had no one complete the nomination form on time. So, as this year's Education Representative I blasted the Education students to get their interest up. I often posted on Facebook, I tweeted (often replying to Tiffany's tweets about her position) and I talked to all first year Education students about my position and getting involved, maybe I became a little too annoying. I am hoping to draw a large crowd for my position. There is nothing better than some good ol' competition. Only time will tell... stay tuned.

The committees I am apart of have started to meet again, whether in person or via email. It has been so nice to catch up with them and get right back down to business. I am excited to see what we can accomplish this semester. We are doing great!

My constituents are back in class, going from pre-service teachers to students again is always a shift. I am happy to see all their beautiful faces yet again! We have a fun filled semester for us. We had our Year 1 vs. Year 2 basketball game, no I did not play and because of that Year 1s wone. I just looked cute on the sidelines, so I won that award. We are looking forward to the Year 1 vs. Year 2 Hockey game, which is my favourite and it gets pretty rowdy! If anyone is on campus over reading week feel free to come watch me play a stellar game in net (yes DML plays sports #masc). We also have our family dinner and gala quickly approaching, which is always a hoot! Year 2s are all excited to get out and start finding a job, well some. Others, like myself, are looking for what program to complete next! We have the Job Fair this weekend, reason why my beauty is not in the presence of you now!

Here watch this for some love from me!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1ouxjCrOHg>

## **International Student Representative Report - Happiness Bhoke John**

- The Chinese society is preparing a semi-formal event to celebrate the Chinese New Year
- The Office of Internationalization has an info session in their office for International Students who are about to graduate on how they can extend their study permits or acquire work permits.
- A guest speaker (Angela Simmonds) was on campus to speak about Grassroots Approach to Community Advocacy; Correcting Historical Injustices on Martin Luther King Jr. day.
- An International fashion show is in the works to celebrate diversity on campus. It is expected to happen sometime in March.

## **Arts Student Representative Report - Lucas Middleton**

These past two weeks have been interesting in the Arts department. Not a lot has happened to date, but there is a fair amount coming up. On the Union side, the bylaw and policy committee is yet to meet this semester, but we have our first meeting coming up on Tuesday. The election was also a success, congratulations to Cecil.

The University committee side of my role has seen some more action. I had the opportunity to sit on the Quality of Life committee on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and though it was rescheduled, the special committee on exam evaluations is scheduled to meet soon. Also coming up before the next council meeting, there is an academic priorities and planning committee meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and Senate is scheduled to meet on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Also coming up, I have received some student feedback about my latest initiative to make a slight change to the English department's degree requirements, and so I will be meeting with the Chair of the English department about that soon. I am still looking for more student feedback on the specifics of the idea behind this change, but so far my constituents have been overwhelmingly positive about it.

## **First Year Student Representative Report - Mary Bailey**

Since last council meeting I have not been up to a lot. I've been attending my office hours, trying to be active on my Facebook page, promote voting for the presidential election and brainstorm event ideas. I attended the Campus Affairs meeting on Tuesday January 21st where we spoke about positive rivalry house points month, house hockey cups, and more. I will continue to promote office hours and brainstorm and put into action, event ideas.



## **Students' of African Descent Representative Report - Summer Upshaw**

Activity since last council meeting has been fairly slow. Planning for African Heritage month has been at the forefront of our efforts, not only for our advisors but for our constituents as well. With that being said, a fully drafted calendar can be found in the office for Students of African Descent as it outlines all of the major events that are scheduled to take place throughout the month of February, all with the sole purpose of highlighting our unique history and celebrating our diverse roots. To kick off African Heritage month, Guest speaker Angela Simmonds came in to host a lecture on community advocacy by correcting historical injustices. The lecture provided insight to the workings of Simmonds, on behalf of African Nova Scotians, and their right to live as citizens, free from injustices.

The BLACC Students' Society held their first General Meeting of 2019 the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup>, in which we provided an overview of all of our upcoming events, as well as making sure all members were aware of the upcoming African Heritage month festivities.

As of right now, raising awareness about my position as a representative, for the 2019-2020 academic school year, has been a priority. The BLACC Students' Society meeting provided tremendous opportunity to get the word out and to offer advice to anyone who showed interest in the position.

Organizational Review committee has met twice since last council meeting. Revisions to the terms of reference for some of the representative positions were made. The reasoning behind doing so is solely to prevent any potential overlap in the roles of representatives and to clarify some of the duties associated with these positions.

Equity Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet this upcoming Wednesday, in which we will use this time to determine our course of action for this semester.

## **Graduate Student Representative Report - William Burgess**

Since the last meeting (of 2019 Jan 13) I have attempted to contact Bry Crabbe (a former holder of my position) to obtain grad student listserv information, but not heard back. I had an informal chat with Kashya Young on Jan 18 to get more educated about her experience as Aboriginal Student Representative, and on the reasons that position is now vacant. I attended a talk on Jan 21 by Angela Simmonds on the past and present of some African Nova Scotians' attempts to gain title to land. I monitored a voting station for 3 hours (8:15-11:15 am) on Jan 22. I have spoken a few times with the Chair (Tanaka) and VP Financial (Tega) to get oriented and begin my duties on the Budget and Finance Committee. Moving forward, I continue to aim at more communication with my constituency, as well as looking forward to the broader perspective I may gain from the mandatory Blanket Exercise of Jan 27.

## **Missing Reports**

- Science Student Representative Report - Bryan Fedchun
- Board of Governors Student Representative Report - Emma Crilly
- Equity Student Representative Report - Iffat Sohi

## Article 5: Special Constituencies

### 6. Gender and Sexual Diversity Representative

- a. Members of the Union who self-identify as a member of the LGBTQIA2S+community with the Gender and Sexual Diversity Office will be eligible to run for this position.
  1. Will be required to get a nomination from the Gender and Sexual Diversity Advisor and the Human Rights and Equity Officer.
- b. Students who identify with the LGBTQIA2S+community will be eligible to vote for the position.
- c. Shall organize a minimum of one (1) initiative per semester in alignment with goals of the Gender and Sexual Diversity Office. The initiative(s) should promote LGBTQIA2S+students and equity on campus.
- d. Shall hold 3 office hours and may do so in the Diversity and Engagement Center
  1. Shall maintain a positive relationship with the Director of Student Life, Manager of Residence Services, Human Rights and Equity Advisor and the Gender and Sexual Diversity Advisor.
- f. Shall sit on the Equity Advisory Committee.

### SUB SECTION 4: Board of Governors Representatives

1. There shall be three representatives from the Student Union on the Board of Governors. One representative will be the President of the Union. The remaining two will be elected by the Union membership during the Student Representative Elections and will be known as the Student Board of Governors Representatives. Their term of office is for one year beginning in May.
2. Will convene with the office of the President.
3. Shall keep the Union population informed as to all matters of importance regarding Board of Governors by presenting updates as needed at regularly scheduled council meetings
4. Responsibilities
  - a. Shall represent students' view on the Board with regard to all financial matters and policy issues, which are dealt with by the Board of Governors. Shall speak and vote on behalf of students at the Board of Governors.
  - b. Shall keep Union membership informed as to all matters of importance regarding the Board of Governors.
  - c. Shall solicit the opinions of the students regarding all issues under consideration by the Board of Governors, if these issues are not deemed confidential.
  - d. Shall maintain constant communication with the President regarding concerns of students, which need to be addressed at the Board of Governors.