

# Council Package

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Prepared by Meredith Cudmore-Keating, Chair of Council

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Agenda  
Students' Union Representative Council  
May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, 3:00 PM  
Online Zoom Call

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 of the April 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
7. Constituency Reports
8. Business Arising
9. Executive Reports:
  - President – Sarah Elliott
  - Vice President Academic – Siobhan Lacey
  - Vice President Finance and Operations – Patrick Wallace
  - Vice President Activities and Events – Kielan Pilgrim
  - Vice President Residence Affairs – Jack Irvin
  - Vice President External Affairs – Bradley Van Dam
10. Faculty Representative's Report
11. Students' Union General Manager Report
12. Committee Reports
  - Governance Review Committee
  - Organizational Review Committee
13. Special Reports
14. Old Business
15. New Business
  - Motion to ratify House Presidents 2020-2021 omnibus (Appendix B)
  - Motion to ratify House Vice Presidents omnibus 2020-2021 (Appendix C)
  - Motion to ratify Sanjidha Ganeshen for the position of Chief Returning Officer 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Rebecca Cano for the position of Returning Officer 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Chloe Walker for the position of Research and Policy Associate 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify William Fraser for the position of Student Advocate 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Alex Daly for the position of Student Advocate 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Sarah Shaw for the position of Student Advocate 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify the MacIsaac House President 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify the MacIsaac House Co-Vice-President 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify the MacIsaac House Co-Vice President 2020-2021
  - Motion to approve the Peer Support Program's terms of reference (Appendix A)
  - Motion to Ratify Dr Corrine Cash for the position of Students' Union Representative Council Faculty Advisor 2020-2021
  - Motion to approve the proposed council dates for the fall semester (Appendix D)
16. Closing remarks of the Chair
17. Adjournment

## Council Minutes – April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Prepared By: Deputy Chair – William Aidan McMann

Students' Union Representative Council Meeting

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 3:00PM

Online Zoom Call

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:01 PM.

### Roll Call

Science Student Representative - Daniel Winters

Students of African Descent Representative – Kamy Carrington

Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess

Equity Student Representative – Jasonique Moss

First Year Representative – Nick Stinson

Board of Governors Student Representative – Tiffany MacLennan

Board of Governors Student Representative - Ally Hancock

International Student Representative – Sanjidha Ganeshan

Education Student Representative - Todd Boak

Arts Student Representative - Marc Sgro

President - Cecil VanBuskirk

Vice President Academic - Emma Kuzmyk

Vice President Finance and Operations - Patrick Wallace

Vice President Activities and Events - Natalie Doumkos

Vice President Residence Affairs - Siobhan Lacey

Vice President External Affairs - Sarah Elliott

Students' Union General Manager – Sean Ryan

### **Absent with Regrets**

Business Student Representative – Johanna Gates

Arts Student Representative - Marc Sgro

Faculty Advisor – Dr. Corrine Cash

## Opening Remarks of the Chair

*“Thank you everyone for coming. Acknowledging that despite the distance between us many of us are located on the unseeded lands of a variety of indigenous people, including Mi'kmaq and Malakiki people in Nova Scotia. The Mohawk people of Montreal and the Wendat and Anishinaabe, Metis people of Toronto and the Lucant people in the Bahamas.”*

*“Thank you everyone for coming”*

## Approval of the Agenda

Todd: I would like to make an amendment to the agenda.

Will: Go Ahead.

Todd: I would like to amend the date that it states March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to change it to April 5<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 3:00pm.

Will: Is that amendment friendly? I'll take an absence of no's to mean yes. The amendment is friendly. The agenda is so amended. Are there any further amendments to the agenda?

Tiffany: I would like to amend the agenda to have the ratification of the Fraser house president and vice president, the Burke house president and vice president, the Plessis house president and vice president, the O'Regan house president and vice president and the Riley house president and vice president.

Will: Is that amendment friendly. Yes, the amendment is friendly, the agenda is so amended. Are there any further amendments to the agenda?

Tiffany: I would like to amend the agenda to allow summer hiring to begin immediately.

Will: Is that amendment friendly. The amendment is friendly the agenda is so amended. Are there any further amendments?

Will B: I would like to approve the agenda as amended.

Daniel: Second

Will: It has been moved consecutive to approve the agenda as accepted. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Hearing none. Would anyone like to abstain from voting on the motion? Not hearing any.

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

## Approval of the Minutes of March 4-5 and March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Annual General Meeting

Will B: Motion to approve the minutes of March 4-5 and March 22<sup>nd</sup>. I wish to amend the minutes of March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Will: What is the amendment?

Will B: On page 22<sup>nd</sup> I am marked down as saying to run the peer support program. I am written down as the purposed terms of reference are not unreasonable, but I oppose them. If a change could be made to replace the word unreasonable with reasonable it will be correct.

Will: Is that amendment friendly? The amendment is friendly. Are there any further amendments to those minutes?

Ally: I so move to approve the amended minutes.

Cecil: Second

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

## Constituency Reports

### Arts Student Representative - Marc Sgro

- Focused time on different comity meetings
  - Participated in emergency grants meetings. Working through incoming requests and meeting students needs.
  - Sat on quality of life committee looking at progressing quality of life of students.
  - BA restriction committee.
    - Working through online meeting difficulties that has slowed processes down.
  - Sitting on the Xav's Editor and chief panel.
- Responding to student concerns, with more information being released by the university regarding grading and online school.
- Keeping close contact with students, prioritizing committee meeting times.

### Science Student Representative - Daniel Winters

- Sat on hiring panels.
- Participated in emergency grants meetings.

### Students of African Descent Representative – Kamy Carrington

- Sat on three hiring panels:
  - O'regan HP and VP
  - O crew co-chairs.
  - House council CO-Ordinator

### First Year Representative – Nick Stinson

- Sat on hiring panels for student food resource center CO-Ordinator.
- Spreading awareness regarding social distancing.
- Taking input from students regarding how the university can improve moving forward with the COVID crisis.

### Education Student Representative - Todd Boak

- Sat on hiring panel for house council CO-Ordinator.

### International Student Representative – Sanjidha Ganeshan

- Sat on a few hiring panels.

- Began to work on shared document about international student representative for the incoming representative Dhruv Patel. Included in the document are outlined goals that have been achieved in the previous year and goals that will be strived to achieve in the following year.
- Will send email regarding a COVID discrimination case with a returning student.

#### Board of Governors Student Representative – Tiffany MacLennan

- Many students are reaching out regarding the emergency funding of the federal government. In response Students Nova Scotia is responding.

#### Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess

- No Consistency report given.
- Has been trying to keep up with multiple committees.
- Sat on hiring panels.

#### Equity Student Representative – Jasonique Moss

- Sat on 2 hiring panels.
  - Riley HP and VP
  - MSB HP and VP
- Sat on student quality of life committee.

#### Board of Governors Student Representative - Ally Hancock

- Sat on 2 hiring panels
  - Bishops HP and VP
  - Deputy chair

#### Business Arising

*None.*

#### Executive Reports

#### **President - Cecil VanBuskirk**

- Focused time on COVID steering committing (meeting 3 times a week) in effort to updating students, providing a connection to properly answer their questions.
- Has been involved in meeting regarding emergency relief fund to offer support to students and adding on to the federal programs in place.
- Transition talks with future President Sarah Elliott have been occurring to prepare for the next year.
- Consultation agreement has been postponed but talks with Andrew Beckett and Dr. Walmsley to be signed before April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended casa eat plannery with future president Sarah Elliott.
- Student NS ran the final board meeting. Conference meeting over the phone will occur at future date.

#### **Vice President Academic - Emma Kuzmyk**

- Attended quality of life meeting.

- Spoke at Women's Day March, with great turnout.
- Meeting frequently with executive team in light of COVID.
- Participated in Courage to act project video calls.

#### **Vice President Finance and Operations - Patrick Wallace**

- Sat on food bank hiring panel.
- Participated in emergency grants meetings.

#### **Vice President Activities and Events - Natalie Doumkos**

- Did not submit report in council package.

#### **Vice President Residence Affairs - Siobhan Lacey**

- Collecting feedback from House Hockey cup through surveys.
- Providing support for SUCLs and their want to support their residence after they have already left the building.
- Very thorough preparation and training for incoming VP Residence affairs.

#### **Vice President External Affairs - Sarah Elliot**

- Advocating for students to be a part of the CERB benefit, reaching out to
- Participated in meetings regarding student NS that have been advocating for CERB for NS students.
- Pushing the continuation of planning small events to build moral with students. Ex. Instagram posts.

### General Manager's Report

#### **Students' Union General Manager – Sean Ryan**

- Marketing manager position is available.
- Moving forward with Student Union awards via internet.
- Working on transition to next year.
- Helping VP Finance
- Working on policy and checking on full time staff.

### Faculty Advisor Report

*None.*

### Committee Reports

#### **Organizational Review Committee**

- Finalizing student surveys on the year of review.

#### **Emergency Grants Review Committee**



- Extra Funding approved from last council meeting.
- Approved many requests for grants and are hoping to be able to give out more as time proceeds and more money is available.

### **Health and Insurance Claim Committee**

- Had a meeting discussing the changes within the pricing of the health plan (Yearly)
- Discussed the changing of international students' health plan from the switching of old provider.
- Increased available money for psychiatric care (5,000\$ to 25,000\$)
- Emergency language will be removed from the international health plan for it to be simplified for international students.
- Discussed contract with Health care company to see discuss what the future will look like.

### **Budget and Financing Committee**

- Discussed budget.

### **Governance Review Committee**

- Consolidating the bylaw language and are waiting for a reply from the governance expert and lawyers.
- Discussed executive structure moving forward for a new position.
- Finishing final bylaws to finish before the end of the term.

## Special Reports to Council

### **2020-2021 Budget Proposal**

- Vice President Finance and Operations Patrick Wallace presented the 2020-2021 budget.

Questions:

Cecil: Have we considered implementing any controls on the budget for next year to assure: 1. That we follow them next year and 2. To adjust if anything goes unpredicted (are there parameters to allow for unexpected loss)?

Patrick: The effort is always there to follow it to a T. Things in our control will be matched the best we can.

Cecil: Companies recommend controls, are we following those controls and what are they?

Patrick: Yes, we are following controls—follows by giving examples of a control that is on the budget.

Cecil: In difficult times should there be more controls?

Will F: I think Cecil asks good questions but, I think they may be outside the discussion of what is in the budget but should be directed to the larger discussion of financial control.

Cecil: I know that in previous discussions you referenced there would be more actuals. As this is the final draft did, we receive more of those actuals and are these numbers more up to date with those actuals?

Patrick: Yes.

## Old Business

*None.*

## New Business

### **Motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget as Presented**

Tiffany: I so move.

Todd: Second.

#### **Discussion on the motion:**

Tiffany: The cover has been fixed.

Cecil: I would like to encourage my point be considered when implementing the budget next year, is there a way that we can create the end of this motion passes.

Will F: That is procedural question. Yes, it is possible to amend the motion to include any language we would like to include as long as the general idea of the motion is maintained.

Sean: I would not recommend including that in the budget. You are trying to pass a very significant document to the student's union. I would suggest some language around it is to create another motion, but if you do not have a specific definition of the controls it should not be added.

Patrick: To agree with Sean this is the budget presentation and we talk about controls and it is a separate conversation to be had. We have controls in place and to add more wed have to sit down and look at extra controls to present to council at a further date.

Cecil: I think we can reach of to the auditors and maybe we consult with them to seek more controls. It is very important when thinking about the uncertainty coming up in the next few months. I would like to ensure that we are all doing our absolute best to make sure our budget is followed, and we are not losing track of any student dollars. In my eyes further controls having given further reaffirmation to the students that we are keeping track of every cent that is there's. Maybe making a notion to the budget and finance committee to explore further implementation and controls.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion?

Tiffany: For the sake of the minutes because it didn't get touched on too much, the entire council has already taken part in 2 meetings regarding the budget and that's why there are limited questions at this time.

Will F: Thank you, further discussion? Thank you, none. Would somebody like to call the question?

Daniel: I would like to call the question.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to approve the 2020-2021 budget as presented.

*Voted as roll call*

*Motion passes 10-0-2.*

### **Motion to Reallocate 6,500\$ from the Awards Budget Line to Emergency Grants**

Tiffany: Tiffany moves.

Cecil: Cecil seconds.

**Discussion on the motion:**

Tiffany: Makes sense to me as we are not using money for the budget, there are places that could need it more.

Will F: Further discussion? Any more information Patrick?

Patrick: Yes, for more information for council. The emergency grant committee tends to use this money for the last few meeting we've discussed changing the mandate for more of what we are doing. How we've been seeing our committee is we are allocating funds to students who are need right now for the most in need. Since the last time, the funds have been allocated to this fund it has run out and more is in need. We plan on giving out this money now until students are no longer on campus and at the point where there is no need. When the committee is dissolved on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we can look into creating a new committee, but before that deadline we plan to donate the money back to the university at the request of Mary Fisher.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Being none. Would someone like to call the question.

Cecil: I can.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to reallocate 6,500\$ from the awards budget line to emergency grants. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain from voting on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

**Motion to ratify Laura Small as Student Food Resource Center Coordinator 2020-2021**

Sanjidha: I motion to move.

Todd: I second.

**Discussion on the motion:**

Sanjidha: There were 3 applicants for the position. All 3 candidates showed eagerness, but Laura had the most experience and has been involved for 2 years and has lots of experience. The vote was unanimous. We believe she will do a great job as the student food resource center coordinator.

Will F: Thank you. They are asking for the meeting just in case there was any bias were declared. Could you comment on that?

Sanjidha: I do not believe there were any bias.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Being none would someone like to call the question?

Todd: I call the question.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify Laura Small as the student food resource center coordinator 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote oppose to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

### **Motion to Ratify Samuel Delaney as House Accounts Coordinator 2020-2021**

Tiffany: Tiffany moves.

Todd: I second.

#### **Discussion on the motion:**

Tiffany: I sat on the panel, we interviewed 2 or 3 candidates. Samuel Delaney's interview was really great, every answer that he gave was an expected good answer. He was articulate and smart as he seems to be. I believe he will be a great asset to the team and the vote was unanimous. No bias from anyone. He does have a co-op second semester, but between the panel we deemed it would not be a great issue moving forward.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Being none would someone like to call the question?

Sanjidha: I call the question.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify Samuel Delaney as House accounts Coordinator 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

### **Motion to Ratify William McMann as Deputy Chair 2020-2021**

Ally: I move.

Todd: I second.

#### **Discussion on the motion:**

Ally: There were 4 applicants, but 2 withdrew before the interview. William showed a lot of traits that would make a good Deputy Chair. In addition, we only had myself as a councilor due to scheduling conflicts. The decision was unanimous 4-0. Yes, William McMann for Deputy Chair. There were bias declared except from knowing him from living in the same residence building.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Being none would someone like to call the question?

Daniel: I will call the question.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify William McMann as Deputy Chair 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

### **Motion to Ratify Emma Waller and Lauren Reeves as Ocrew Co-Chairs 2020-2021**

Will B: I move.

Kamy: Second.

#### **Discussion on the motion:**

Will B: For these 2 positions there were 6 applicants. They were gone through very thoroughly. There were some bias, but nobody declared any conflicts of interest in that the current co-chairs were on this panel sharing one vote and knew all the applicants to various levels, therefore I am confident in the integrity of the panel. We were able to narrow down to 3 candidates and the board took the advice of the current co-chairs for who would work better together as a pair and making its decision. It was unanimous for Lauren and a split for Emma.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Being none would someone like to call the question?

Will B: I would call to question.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify Emma Waller and Lauren Reeves as Ocrew co-chairs 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

### **Motion to Ratify Liam Aitken as House Council Co-Ordinator 2020-2021**

Daniel: I so move.

Sanjidha: I second.

#### **Discussion on the motion:**

Siobhan: As sat on this council as outing VP RA, the deliberation took about 30 minutes and it was a unanimous vote. 3 candidates were interviewed. We feel very good about Liam. He was very innovative, he brings a lot of new ideas, he has a very good understanding of the position and worked as an SUCL this past year. I believe the panel felt very good about the decision.

Todd: We completed 3 interviews and biases were declared for each one. We decided unanimously for Liam to get the position.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Seeing none would someone like to call the question?

Todd: I call it.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify Liam Aitken as House Council Co-Ordinator 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

### **Motion to Ratify Sophia Fabiano as MSB House President 2020-2021**

Tiffany: To move.

Sanjidha: I second.

**Discussion on the motion:**

Sanjidha: There were 3 or 4 candidates for the position, we chose Sophia due to her enthusiasm towards the position of House President of MSB for next year and we are very confident that she will excel in the role. The vote was unanimous and there were no biases except the current HP and VP knew her before.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Being none would someone like to call the question?

Kamy: I call the question.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify Sophia Fabiano as MSB House President 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

**Motion to Ratify Ellen Coffin as MSB House Vice-President 2020-2021**

Tiffany: So, move.

Daniel: I second.

**Discussion on the motion:**

Sanjidha: She showed a lot of enthusiasm and excitement to be Vice president of MSB. We think she is going to be a great candidate. The vote was unanimous and there were no biases except the current HP and VP knew her before. For the pair of HP and VP we believe that the duo will do very well.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Being none would someone like to call the question?

Sanjidha: I call the question.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify Ellen Coffin as MSB House Vice-President 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

**Motion to Award Honorary Membership of the Student Union to Kevin Wamsley.**

Tiffany: I move.

Marc: I second.

**Discussion on the motion:**

Tiffany: This is something that was discussed at the awards banquet committee for full time staff awards because Kevin Wamsley has been doing a great job with helping students. We did decide to award the award at the banquet to someone else, because there are people who help the student union more directly, who deserve more recognition. We wanted to do something to recognize Kevin's work.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion. Before I ask if someone would like to call the question, I would ask that this information is kept to ourselves so we can properly tell him without informal means. Would someone like to call the question?

Todd: I call it.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to award honorary membership of the Student Union to Kevin Wamsley. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

### **Motion to Ratify the House Presidents of Fraser, Burke, Plessis, O'regan and Riley 2020-2021.**

Tiffany: I move.

Will B: I second.

Will F: For the record these are the names of the incoming House Presidents: Fraser- Matthew Penner, Burke- Broden DeCoff, Plessis- Alistair Cameron, O'regan- Kiara Campbell and Riley – Jaydon Seymour.

#### **Discussion on the motion:**

Tiffany: For Riley Hall we suggested Jaydon to be the House president. Her view was great, she showed a lot of enthusiasm towards the role and demonstrated a lot of knowledge of what she would like to see in her role. The decision was unanimous, and nobody had conflict of interest.

Kamy: I sat on the panel for O'Regan, the decision was unanimous, there were biases due to the fact some of the applicants knew each other from around campus. It was decided that the panel believed she would be a great fit for the position.

Ally: I sat on the panel for Plessis, Burke and Fraser, all 3 of the house presidents chosen were a 4-0 unanimous vote. There were 4 candidates for Fraser, 3 for Plessis and 5 for burke.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion? Would someone like to call the question?

Daniel: I will call it.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify the House Presidents of Fraser, Burke, Plessis, O'regan and Riley 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

### **Motion to Ratify the House Vice Presidents of Fraser, Burke, Plessis, O'regan and Riley 2020-2021.**

Sanjidha: I move.

Todd: I second.

Will F: For the record these are the names of the incoming House Vice-Presidents: Fraser- Megan Ball, Burke- Julia Wiseman, Plessis-Amy Lewis, O'Regan - Naomi Stobart and Riley – Muhammed Codabux.

**Discussion on the motion:**

Ally: For Plessis Amy was very warm and welcoming and we believe she will do a great job in her position. It was a unanimous vote. For Fraser, the candidate exemplified great enthusiasm and initiative. For Burke, it was a unanimous decision. Julia was very organized and exemplified this in the interview. She demonstrated great house spirit. The Biases were declared and there was no conflict of interests.

Kamy: For Naomi, it was a unanimous vote. She demonstrated lots of enthusiasm and was shown to be a great for for the position. Biases were declared and there was no conflict of interests.

Tiffany: Moose was knowledgeable on what he wanted to do moving forward and was very confident. Vote was unanimous and there were no declarations of bias from the panel.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion? Would someone like to call the question?

Daniel: I will call it.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to ratify the House Vice-Presidents of Fraser, Burke, Plessis, O'regan and Riley 2020-2021. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

**Motion to Implement the Summer Hiring Policy for the Remainder of the Term**

Daniel: I so move.

Cecil: I second.

**Discussion on the motion:**

Daniel: As a lot of hiring has been canceled this would make it a lot easier to get people next year in their positions sooner.

Will F: Further discussion on the motion? Would someone like to call the question?

Daniel: I will call it.

Will F: Objection to call the question? Being none, it has been moved and seconded to Implement the summer hiring policy for the remainder of the term. Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

**Closing Remarks**

*“Thank you all for coming. I said at the beginning this would be our last. Thank you everyone for attending these regularly scheduled meetings. You have all done a fantastic job this year, some of you will be continuing with council, I wish you all the best of luck. Some of you are graduating and I wish you the*



*best of luck as you become a real adult and do not have to sit on council. And to the other who are moving positions around the Union or University congratulations and good luck to you. It has been a great year.*

## Adjournment

William: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tiffany: I so move.

Marc: I second.

Will F: Would anyone like to vote no to the motion? Would anyone like to abstain on the motion?

*Motion passes 12-0-0.*

*Meeting adjourned at 4:37PM.*

# Constituency Reports

## Board of Governors Representative

Nick Murray

May 28th, 2020

Business relating to position:

Very strong first month as a member of the Board! Alongside the other Reps, I attended the annual Board budget meeting on the 7th via video conference (arguably the most important meeting of the year, within my first week, very exciting). Our main goal of this meeting, and when discussing budgeting in general, is to ensure that students are not being cheated out during these dynamic times. Filling the huge shoes of the previous team is a challenge in and of itself, however they've consistently provided much needed advice & support to ensure that we keep up the strong work. I am very grateful for the work that was already put in, and the work that we will continue to do, advancing student interests on the Board.

Last week I also attended my first Board subcommittee meeting (Building & Grounds) on the 22nd. During the meeting I was able to get up to speed on many of the current physical projects being undertaken and the projects that are in the works for the years ahead. While the timeline for the university is quite concrete, my primary goal for this committee is to ensure that the work being done never negatively impacts the studies and life of students on campus. On-campus life can be stressful enough, and I will ensure that we build a campus that will help our students, not hinder them.

My other subcommittee spot, Advancement and External Relations, will be meeting on June 1st. I will get a better feel for the committee after attending my first meeting. Regardless, I

am excited and eager to ensure that the development of our university retains a strong student focus.

Other Business:

This month I have begun my term as a Student Councillor, and have begun to learn the ropes and responsibilities of the position. Like everyone else, I have been trained up and ready to start working to benefit the student body alongside the rest of the group! I have also begun working with the Governance Review Committee and continued the phenomenal work that the committee started last year. As a new member, it was very beneficial to have returning students take charge in not only forwarding new ideas, but also helping us new members succeed and learn. I am prepared to ensure that the newly adjusted bylaws are some of the best this school has ever seen. I have not yet received word from the Budget and Finance committee that I sit on this year, but I am optimistic about the work that we will accomplish there nonetheless!

Overall, certainly a productive first month in the position. Moving forward my major goal will be reaching out to all of the students and to hear what they have to say. A goal that is admittedly difficult during the Summer months, but something I will work towards. I will use much more social media in the coming months, update my BoG Facebook page from January, I might make a new Instagram account, the possibilities are endless!

All the best,

Nick

**Kamy Roberge Carrington**  
**May 28th, 2020**  
**Constituency Report #1**

Since the beginning of May, most of the work I have done has been in preparation for council this year. I have sat on numerous committees and hiring panels. All of the meetings I have participated in have occurred on zoom.

Throughout the past month, I have sat on the Chillis, MacNeil, and Cameron Hall hiring panels. The interviews went very well. There were many strong candidates and I look forward to seeing how the hired House Presidents and Vice Presidents transition into their new roles.

For the Board of Governors, I have been assigned to two committees, the Investment Committee and the Governance and Nominating Committee. I have met with the Governance and Nominating Committee twice, on May 13th and May 27th, and with the Investment Committee once on May 28th. Additionally, I have had one meeting with the Board of Governors on April 29th. This is a very uncertain time for the student body and I look forward to the following discussions with the board; hopefully we will be able to offer the student body with more clarity. One of my goals this year is to find a way to report back to council without breaking confidentiality. I would definitely like to use social media because I think that this is very effective form of communication. I plan to discuss with Andrew Beckett and other members of the Board on ways to do this. Additionally, I have been in communication with Sarah Elliot, the president of the Student's Union and Nick Murray, the other student representative on the board. I have also met with Ally and Tiffany, the former board of Governor Representatives as well as Andrew Beckett, alongside Sarah Elliot and Nick Murray, to discuss the position and expectations.

For the Student's Union, I have been assigned to the Organizational Review Committee and the Performance Review Committee. For the Organizational Review Committee, we have met once via zoom and will be meeting again on June 4th. We are currently reviewing the data from the student satisfaction survey. We are working towards finalizing a strategic plan by October. Every member of the committee has been assigned a section of the Student Satisfaction Survey to review and condense. Additionally, I have participated in training, mock council to review Robert's rules and a brainstorming session with returning councilors in preparation for this upcoming academic year on the Union.

**Equity Representative**  
**Jasonique Moss**  
**May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Thus far I have emailed Megan Fogarty, the Human Rights & Equity Advisor here at StFX to discuss any upcoming projects that can be looked into given the direction that the upcoming school year takes. Additionally, I have started looking at the past annual reports of the Equity Advisory Committee that were posted from 2010 and stopped in 2014 with the intention to put one together for the school year that has just ended. Also, members of the equity Advisory Committee will be reached out to shortly, in order to brainstorm ideas for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Student of African Descent Representative**  
**Henderson Cartwright**  
**May 28th, 2020**

Not much has happened for the community since the school shut down in March. Many constituents have arrived at their homes either in Canada or internationally with few staying in Antigonish. Most are settled and a handful are taking online summer courses. BLACC Society has met a couple times to go over events, budgets, and what the next school semester is going to look like. Summer-Joy Upshaw and Marcus Wilmott were hired as African Nova Scotian Student Assistants for the summer which works under the African Descent Student Affairs office that primarily ensures that African Nova Scotian students are supported throughout the summer and into the upcoming school year.

**Arts Representative**  
**Alexander Clow**  
**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

Business relating to position: In the past month I have attended various training in my role as a councillor of theU, and as a member of the StFX Senate. While there was a meeting of Senate since I took office, none of the faculty representatives attended at the recommendation of VPA Siobhan Lacy. I have also begun my work with the Governance Review Committee and sat on a hiring panel for the Research and Policy assistant to the VP External.

Other business: I created a StFX, Arts Representative Instagram account.

**Education Representative**  
**Michael Adetola**  
**May 27, 2020**

Business relating to position: In wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, education students are consistently and eagerly waiting for information pertaining to the beginning of classes, first year orientation, class presentation strategy (online, in-person, mixed, etc.) Despite what is not known, students, specifically the Education Student Executive are still making plans for events such as first year orientation and integration of first year students into the Education Facebook group. Otherwise, education students are keeping in touch via the Facebook page and seem to be in good spirits.

Other business: Still awaiting communication regarding Campus Affairs and Emergency Grant committees.

**Graduate Student Representative**  
**Lauren Viana**  
**May 28, 2020**

Graduate Student Representative Business: The first meeting of the 2020-2021 Organizational Review Committee took place on Thursday, May 21. At this meeting we went over the Student Satisfaction Survey data, decided how to divide data analysis duties among the committee members, and created a timeline for drafting the new strategic plan.

A committee meeting for the Quality of Life Committee occurred this morning (May 28, 2020) to introduce us to Kognito, a health simulation software, and the committee gave a brief assessment of the tool.

I will also be sitting on two hiring panels for the Society Coordinator position: one tomorrow, May 29, 2020 and again on Monday, June 1, 2020.

Other business: I have reached out the graduate student constituency to introduce myself and described my role as the Graduate Student Representative will entail. I have also formally introduced myself to Dr. Richard Isnor and have touched base with him about the Graduate Studies Committee. We will be meeting in the near future about my role on this committee.

**International Students Representative**  
**Dhruv D. Patel**  
**Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup>**

In initial stage of term, it is important for me to understand aspirations of the previous representative. So, I have referred to the work done by previous representative carefully along with some fruitful discussion with her.

I understand the privilege of social media. As a matter of fact, I have tried my level best to engage as much as students, societies I can and I have been quite successful this month. In May 2020, the range of social media handle has increased by 71 new users joining the Instagram handle of @su\_internationalrep. There has been ongoing discussion with Office of internationalization in regards to what can be done and how can be costs lower downed for international students if things unfortunately go online for September. On May 23rd, a lot of international students celebrated Ramadan Eid. On the holy occasion of Ramadan Eid, I have texted Tareq Hadhad ( CEO of Peace by Chocolate) to greet him EID. I believe that having such wonderful personality in town is an advantage for our community. Being a Syrian Canadian he is an ideal example for international students who aspire to stay and work in Canada after finishing their education.

The office of internationalization has displayed true devotion to students by uploading genuine information on appropriate times.

Happy summer to everyone...

**Science Representative**  
**Daniel Winters**  
**May 31st, 2020**

Hey everyone! Hope all is well in these challenging times. I am very excited to be back this year to once again represent Science students in many ways! I will have more updates related to the position once some meetings and other events occur soon.

Recently I have been at home in Halifax, doing summer research under the supervision of one of the Mathematics professors, Dr. Robert van den Hoogen. I have not been up to much else since the previous semester ended. I am excited to get going again and participating in council meetings, senate meetings, and committees! Like many other students I know, I am really hoping that this upcoming semester will be in-person! I am certain we'll know soon enough.

Stay safe everyone

**Business Representative**  
**Johanna Gates**  
**May 28, 2020**

First constituency report of the new term, woohoo! So far in May I have attended multiple meetings for training, getting-in-the know (returning councillors, senators), and tried to stay in touch with my constituents via social medias. Not a whole lot to report as it has only been a few weeks and we are all still adjusting to the new term, moving more online, and starting our summer jobs!

## Executive Reports

**Executive Report:** Sarah Elliott, President & CEO

**Date:** May 27<sup>th</sup>

**Reporting Period:** May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>

### Internal (to portfolio):

It has been absolute crazy first month! When I ran to be President, I do not think I could have even imagined something like this happening, nonetheless, it has still been incredible. My executive, the full-time staff, Meredith, Alex and everyone else, thank you for working so hard and being the most amazing team of people, the SU has ever seen. Okay now to the executive report:

- Training the new executive team: The SU is welcoming Jack, Kielan, and Brad to the executive team and then requires training, the first month was filled with a variety of presentations and activities regarding the new job. *Who's who at the University, Expectations, Annual & Strat Plan, Professionalism*; as well as setting the direction of large parts of the union, *the Golden X Inn, Marketing, and X-Fest*.
- Nimbus: We have begun bi-weekly meetings with Ben and Will from Nimbus, we are starting to plan both the marketing and operational strategic direction that we will be taking Nimbus in this year. We have discussed a *branding relaunch* and *emphasis on Nimbus during X-Fest*.
- Annual Giving's: I sat down with Julieanne and Paddy and we looked at the request for the "Annual Giving's Fund" a \$20,000 fund on behalf of the Students' Union, to be given to any student or group with a new or innovated event/idea. We had a plethora of worthy candidates, so it was many very hard decisions.
- Board of Governors: BoG met for the first time, it was not our first official board meeting, however due to COVID-19, there had to be an updated budget that was presented to the board adapting the original. We have our next meeting in June where we will approve or not approve the updated COVID-19 budget. I will update when the agenda is approved.

### External (affairs):

- SNS: We had our first Students' Nova Scotia transition meeting! We learned lots about what SNS is, our budget, our relationship with Labour & Advanced Education, and all of the committees that are a part of Students' NS. We elected our Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee chairs. I was elected as the Chair of Membership for the second year in a row, and Brad is the chair of the ad-hoc COVID-19 Committee. We also had our first bi-weekly board meeting where we discussed campus updates and appointments to each committee, Brad and I are both sitting on the policy committee.
- CASA: Brad and I are in the middle of CASA foundations! Usually we would be off in Ottawa with delegates from across the country, however because of COVID-19, it is being delivered online. Yesterday we discussed what CASA is, each of the different *committees*, a *political climate update*, and the *full-time staff*. There are still 2 more days of the conference that I will talk about at council this weekend and in my next report!

### External (to portfolio):

- LSI: Each year the executive team does an "LSI" Leadership Evaluation, this is to highlight our strengths and weakness in teamwork, work ethic, and conflict resolution. As well as working through each strength and weakness, and how you can approve in all these aspects. A few members on the executive were fortunate enough this year to do the "LSI 360" in this we picked 5 colleagues to fill out of leadership evaluation and what they think our strengths and weakness are, this has been an amazing opportunity and I am looking forward on working on myself, as well as the whole team!

- Annual Plan: The Executive team has been working on our yearly annual plan, in the annual plan we outline what every office of the Vice-Presidents and President are planning on doing in their portfolio for 2020-2021 year. We are in our third step of brainstorming and planning a brief timeline/basic steps to how these goals are going to be achieved throughout the year. I am really excited about the collaborative approach we are taking this year to the plan, and I am looking forward to releasing this to students.
- Research & Policy Associate Hiring: Our Vice-President External Affairs, Brad Van Dam, hired his Research and Policy Associate, there were fantastic applicants, and it was a hard decision, but ultimately, we picked Chloe Walker, and I think she is going to do an amazing job!

### **Committees:**

- X-Ring Committee: Currently in the X-Ring committee we are looking at updating the X-Ring policy, this is looking at who is eligible, what the appeal process looks like, and the contingency of the X-Ring ceremony/honorary X-Ring. The policy is a majority of the committees work but we are also looking at new post-grad and master's programs offered at StFX that need to be looked at in terms of eligibility.
- Organizational Review Committee: The Org review is off to a great start! We received over 1200 responses to our student's union survey! This is so exciting; we have a lot of work to be done but I am looking forward to listening to students concerns and adapting our new 2021-2024 Strategic Plan! We have our timeline mapped out to be hopefully done our strategic plan by the end of the summer, but we are currently just looking at the data and condensing it to make it easier for the general public to read.
- StFX Respectful Community Module Working Group: I am collaborating with a group of people within the University to create Respectful Community Module to inform incoming and returning students on the importance of consent and what sexualized violence is. We are working under the province who is delivering a general module, and then each campus in Nova Scotia has the option to adjust the given information to better fit their campus. This is a platform point that I ran on and I am very excited about the work done with the committee thus far.
- Communications Task Force: The Comms task force just started, we are meeting all together to discuss the best way to be in constant communication with students, parents, and all those in the StFX community. My specific job on this committee is to create a student focus group to talk to students, listen to their concerns, and work with them to develop how students best want to be communicated to, and what new policies they are hoping to see in the upcoming year; to stay safe but stay connected.
- Golden X Inn Strategic Planning Committee: This is also a new committee that I am incredibly excited about, this committee consists of Cody (the bar manager), Patrick (VPFO), and Kielan (VP AE), and in this committee we are looking at rebranding the Inn, making a mission and vision of how the next few years will look, and taking a hard look of what we do well, and what we can improve on.
- Board of Governors Finance Committee: We had a very brief committee meeting to look at the final unaudited financial statements from this past financial year. We discussed the statement and how it was altered because of COVID-19 and will bring the statement (once it is Audited) forward. As well as which streams of expenses the University is trying to cut to make sure students are still able to get their education. All of this will be brought to the entirety of the Board of Governors in our June meeting.
- Virtual Student Service and Support: This committee has been meeting bi-weekly and essentially has a representative from every stream in the University and what they have been doing to support students during this time. Many students go to whoever they are most comfortable with and will ask them questions, so we wanted to make sure that we are all updated on each other's offices to ensure we are sending students the right information, and to the correct sources!



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If anyone has any questions, please feel free to email me or schedule a meeting!

Sarah Elliott, President & CEO

[su\\_pres@stfx.ca](mailto:su_pres@stfx.ca)

C: 905-767-0592

## **Glossary**

StudentsNS/SNS: Students Nova Scotia is the STFXSU's Provincial Lobbying Group. It is an alliance of Nova Scotia post-secondary student associations, including StFX, Acadia, Saint Mary's, and NSCC Campuses. The organization gives students in Nova Scotia a united voice, helping set the direction of post-secondary education by researching challenges, identifying solutions, and creating the political space needed for these solutions to happen. For more information: <http://studentsns.ca/> or contact the Executive Director, Clancy McDaniel at [director@studentsns.ca](mailto:director@studentsns.ca)

CASA: Canadian Alliance of Student Associations is the STFXSU's Federal Lobbying Group and a national voice for Canada's post-secondary students. Established in 1995, CASA is a non-partisan, not-for-profit student organization composed of student associations from across Canada. For more information: <http://casa-acae.com/>

**Executive Report:** Siobhan Lacey, *Vice President Academic*

**Date:** May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Reporting Period:** May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup>

**Internal (to portfolio):**

While this month was very team focused and we were all fairly occupied with transition, I was still fairly busy within my own portfolio.

At the beginning of May, I met with the Student Senators to give them a presentation on transitioning into their role, as well we spent time discussing and appointing the Student Senators to various Senate committees. The majority of these committees have not yet met, and we are yet to have a Senate meeting with the new term Senators, however I am eager to work with this group during this academic year.

Appointing students to committees outside of Senate also occupied some of my time during the month of May. I met with the Chairs of several committees to discuss Student at Large appointments. Thus far I have appointed students to Quality of Life, some to the McKenna Centre Advisory Board, and am in the process of appointing to the Sexualized Violence Prevention Committee.

Along with Student at Large applications and appointments, I have been reviewing the various committees that I sit on and familiarizing myself with each committee. Many are starting in the upcoming weeks and I am eager to attend my first initial meetings.

Senate met this month (which I will later discuss in “Committees”) and I provided a report on Student experience and feedback since the outbreak of COVID-19.

I also had several meetings with NIMBUS this month, to discuss logistics, operations, and well as marketing for the upcoming year. I am very eager to work with NIMBUS this year.

I also met with the Vice President Academics from each university within the Maple League. This was the first meeting of the Maple League VP Academics since the beginning of our terms. We spent time on introductions, discussed communal objectives, and brainstormed ways in which we could collaborate this year. We have several more meetings set up for the upcoming months.

Within my own portfolio I am also starting to organize my objectives for the year. I am reflecting on my platform and considering how I can adopt this to still support students. I have spent time considering how I can best support students as VPA from a distance, and I have had the opportunity to discuss this on the Remote Learning and Teaching Taskforce, as well as the Continued Student Academic Support (Outside of the Classroom) working group that I sit on (discuss more in “Committees” section).

Sarah and I have weekly meetings with Elizabeth Yeo to discuss ways we can collaborate this year. Additionally, I met with Margie and Ivan from the Health and Counselling Centre to discuss areas for collaboration.

**External (to portfolio):**

The Executive team was very busy this month with transition. Although we were fortunate enough to be able to have some transition sessions before the COVID-19 outbreak, we also had several sessions over the month of May to ensure that we were fully prepared. This month, we had sessions on defining team expectations, discussed the success and challenges of the 2019-2020 team, received professionalism

training from the ED of Students Nova Scotia, Clancy McDaniel, and several more sessions focused on developing our team.

Along with transition meetings, we have started initial brainstorming sessions as well. These meetings have been dedicated to brainstorming for our marketing plan, X-Fest, the Inn, and the Marketing department.

The Executive team has also been working with Frank Gallant from Peak Experiences to develop our leadership styles and learn how to work together as a team. These sessions have been very helpful, and have furthered confirmed my confidence in our Executive team!

Lastly, the Executive team has had several sessions dedicated to developing our annual plan. Currently we are in the process of identify priorities and organizing the working document.

### **Committees:**

#### **Senate Steering Committee** (May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020):

I attended my first Senate Steering Committee meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. During this meeting, I had the opportunity to meet the current officers on Senate. In terms of agenda items, we discussed the agenda for the Senate meeting that took place on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020. As well, we received a report from the Academic Vice President of the university, Dr. Tim Hynes, regarding the changes/adjustments made to academic regulations for the upcoming academic year.

#### **Senate** (May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020):

On May 11<sup>th</sup> I had the opportunity to attend my first Senate meeting as VP Academic. This meeting lasted approximately 2.5 hours. Within this time we received reports from the university President, the Academic Vice President, the Vice President Students, as well as a report from Enrollment. Additionally, gave a report to senate regarding student concerns and experiences that resulted from COVID-19 (I am attaching my senate report to my executive report to council).

During this Senate meeting, we also received a report from the Economic and Physics departments.

Lastly, there were several course proposals that were on the agenda that senate voted on.

#### **Student Orientation Committee** (May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

This was the first Student Orientation Committee of the year. We spent time on introductions, as not everybody on the committee was familiar with one another. Other than the introductions, we discussed the role of SOC before COVID-19, and what SOC will look like within these circumstances. We started an initial brainstorm for what Orientation Week may look like come September, and discussed ways that we can reach out to incoming students before the academic year begins.

At the end of this meeting we decided our next meeting time and then concluded.

#### **Remote Learning and Teaching Taskforce** (May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>)

Jack and I sit on the Remote Learning and Teaching Preparedness Taskforce as the two student representatives. This taskforce was developed in response to COVID-19. As outlined by the Terms of Reference, the objective of this taskforce is to “bring together stakeholders from across the University including faculty, other teaching staff, support staff and students, to explore the challenges of moving to

an online teaching and learning format, and to advise the Academic Vice-President with respect to the necessary steps required to be able to do so.”

During these 4 meetings, the taskforce discussed ways to support faculty and staff, students, and student supports if we have to go online in the fall. We identified concerns that may come up, including maintaining academic quality, maintaining and supporting an online infrastructure, and ways to help students perform well with online schooling. We also discussed which is the best platform to use if we have to go online. In the last meeting, the taskforce divided into working groups so that we can start working on the broad array of concerns that this taskforce is facing. I am sitting on the “Ongoing Student Academic Support: Outside of the Classroom”.

### **Quality of Life Committee and Sexualized Violence Prevention Committee:**

These committees did not meet in the month of May, however I did want to note that during this month I did meet with the chairs and members of these committees to transition myself into serving as a committee member, and learning about the Terms of Reference for both of these committees.

### **Sub-Executive:**

I don't have any sub-executives.

### **Outreach:**

I consulted students this month when writing my report to Senate. To reach students, I consulted with last year's representative council, last year's executive team, as well as this year's executive team. Additionally, I engaged with students over social media and asked them “How has COVID-19 impacted you as a student”.

After writing my Senate report, I continued to engage with students over social media. I asked students if they would like to see the Students' Union Executive do virtual office hours over the summer (the majority of them said yes) and I also asked “what would you like to see the Students' Union advocate for this year?”.

Along with social media I have been keeping touch with students via email. Additionally, we are currently in the process of organizing virtual office hours so I am hoping to have a degree of face-to-face communication soon, albeit over a screen.

### **Vice-President, Academic – Senate Report**

The outbreak of COVID-19 has provided new and complex challenges to StFX students. Since the campus has closed and students have moved home, the Students' Union has been trying to adapt to these new circumstance to continue to support students and their academic success.

Based on the conversations I have had with students since the outbreak of COVID-19, I have been able to highlight numerous wins for students, as well as areas of concern.

In good news, students seem to be very grateful for the accommodations made by faculty members. I have had many conversations with students in which they voiced their appreciation for the patience of their professors. Many have said they received additional support while transitioning to online learning, which helped to reduce the stress associated with the sudden changes. Students have also praised the faculty's ability to quickly adapt to the new circumstances, and efficiently organize online classes and resources for students. Another example of the positive feedback I have received is that students are quite

impressed with the university's communication on mental health resources, as well as they feel that many of their professors were accommodating of mental health concerns at this time.

While students are appreciative to the faculty for the accommodations made, these uncertain times have also introduced academic challenges. Many student representatives, including myself, received feedback from students about the challenges of working from home. Students found it difficult to study and work from home, as many parents didn't fully comprehend that their children were in fact still expected to attend classes online and meet deadlines. Additionally, study space was a hard topic to navigate for students working from home, as many students did not have a desk, lived in a house with several younger siblings, or struggled with finding a quiet place to focus.

It is also important to mention that there is a group of students who do not have access to a laptop or desktop computer from their homes. These students obviously struggled with online learning more than others, and had to deal with the additional stress of finding a location outside of their homes where they could work, that was still open in the middle of the pandemic. Additionally, while there is only a small percentage of students who have no access to laptops or desktop computers, there is a significant number of students who have limited internet access. For students who live in rural and remote areas, it can be very difficult to access internet connect that they need to meet academic expectations. The Students' Union is working with our provincial and federal advocacy groups – Students Nova Scotia and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations – to advocate for investments in reliable internet access during this time.

Mental wellness also seemed to diminish for students as a result of COVID-19. Social isolation has proved to be quite challenging for students, and a lot of them feel especially alone and stressed at this time. During the past month I have spoken to students who are children of essential workers, and they particularly find this time challenging, as their only housemates and partners for social interaction are typically not home. The Students' Union has been organizing ways that we can continue to support students and their mental wellness. We are continuing to share resources and services that are designed to help students maintain mental wellness, and also organizing small online events that still give students the ability to interact with one another. It is important to mention that some students are more vulnerable to poor mental health during the COVID-19 outbreak. Specifically, students who come from harder backgrounds, who may have very unsupportive homes and families, or students who were already suffering from mental illness are struggling, as they are expected to stay at home, and now have limited access to external supports and resources.

There are also several anxiety inducing unknowns that students are expressing to my fellow Students' Union executive and I. Numerous students have expressed concern over financial insecurity as a result of COVID-19. Since the outbreak, the Students' Union has had over 70 students applying to our emergency grant fund, for a collective ask of approximately \$100,000. I have talked with many students who are no longer employed for the summer, either because they could no longer find work or because their co-op or work-term was cancelled as a result of COVID-19. This makes the task of collecting enough money to return to school in the fall quite daunting for students. We have received many inquiries from students asking about the federal government's recent commitment to helping students stabilize their finances to return to university. There seems to be a lot of confusion over who is eligible and who isn't, as well as general confusion over how to apply for said funds.

The financial insecurity that has resulted due to COVID-19 speaks to the higher and more general anxiety that the uncertainty of September is bringing to students. The most popular concern that I am currently receiving from students is the general confusion over what the next academic year will look like. Many students are concerned about living (ie: concerned residence will not open), they are concerned that they will struggle academically if they have to learn online from their own homes, and they worry that their learning and academic performance will ultimately falter. Specifically, incoming first year students are

beginning to reach out to gain answers, although we unfortunately do not know what the coming semester will look like.

The new executive team entered office May 1st, and they are very eager to consider how we can creatively adapt to the current situation, to still provide value to students. We are also quite excited to work with the university throughout the summer, to come up with collaborative ways to continue to support our student body.

In summary, my asks to Senate in response to COVID-19 would be:

- For the University Financial Aid Office and Marketing & Communications department to release visual information on how students can apply for government grants and aid during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For faculty who have remaining research funding to consider hiring a student over the summer months; creating employment opportunities for students facing a diminished job market while still abiding by social distancing protocols.
- For increased collaboration between the University and the Students' Union on communication with first year students so they are prepared for their transition to university no matter what the next academic year may look like.

**Executive Report:** Patrick Wallace, Vice President of Finance and Operations

**Date:** May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Reporting Period:** May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>

**Internal (to portfolio):**

- ❖ **SFRC:** Staying open, Wednesdays 11am-7pm. Have two volunteers that split the shift, social distancing measures are in place with only 3 people in at a time and no use of clipboards. Groceries runs every two weeks instead of weekly, and FEED NS comes bi-weekly as well.
  - The Garden has commenced operation with Tiffany MacLellan and Ty Kingston leading it up.
- ❖ **Budget:** Starting another copy of an operating budget. This is to make a budget that is more accurate to the scenarios caused by Covid-19.
  - Meetings with all the executive board, the team is now aware of their budget and how to spend.
- ❖ **Annual Giving's:** All applications have been reviewed and funds have been disbursed. Just under 30 organizations applied, not all received funding but were instead guided to other sources.
- ❖ **PSP:** TOR is being designed and drafted by the Program Coordinators. Should be completed before the start of the year.

**External (to portfolio):**

- ❖ **Sponsorship:** A new “corporate” advertising list has been created with the help of the marketing office. It is now more flexible and more accurate for O-week and the entire school year.
- ❖ **Nimbus:** Gained access the admin portal of Nimbus. Hoping to use some data to help Siobhan in creating a successful marketing plan for it. New contract is being drafted by the Nimbus Party.
- ❖ **Gallivan:** In contract negotiations. No large changes, looking to extend another 3 years. They are providing us with a Covid-19 relief amount to help students in need.
- ❖ **Maritime Bus:** No longer affiliated with the Students Union or Bloomfield, has moved the KMC.
- ❖ **Inn:** Met with Cody and Sean to discuss safety measures with opening the Inn. Hoping it can at least open with restrictions.
- ❖ **LSI:** Frank grilled me for being late. LSI meetings have been very informative and useful.
- ❖ **New Role:** With the job just starting, there have been many information sessions and training meetings with the full team. Many FUME's have been held about numerous topics. As well many Annual plan meetings where the team is setting their goals for the year.

**Committees:**

- ❖ **Emergency Grant:** Did not meet
- ❖ **Budget and Finance:** Did not meet
- ❖ **Health and Dental:** Did not meet
- ❖ **University Budget:** Did not meet
- ❖ **JOHSC:** Did not meet
- ❖ **GXI:** First meeting of the year. Defined roles and responsibilities, my office will be responsible for all financial reviews of the GXI.

**Sub-Executive:**

- ❖ **Senior Driver:** Luckily, we were able to hire in person, before Covid-19. Whole team is hired, and Sarah is Feeling confident about next year. Her main goal is to the have the team closer and hopes to plan some bonding events.
- ❖ **SFRC Coordinator:** Laura is in St John for the summer, but still helping coordinate and plan for next year. Katelyn has taken her under her wing and is still very much involved as she passes on her duties. Laura would like to use the data from this year to make the SFRC even better next year.
- ❖ **HAC:** Sam is very excited to meet all the SUCL's and eager to start the job. He has read up on previous years documents and is still receiving some training from Nicole.

- ❖ **Program Coordinators:** Addy and Hannah are working on the TOR and hiring and screening all their volunteers. Since Addy is a returner, she is also training Hannah in the new role, while Riley helps where he can.

**Outreach:**

- ❖ **Drastic Scholastic:** Thermo plastic. Two students; Max Gauthier and Adam Starr have teamed up with a Swedish enviro company to help promote reducing reusing and recycling on campus. They have applied for multiple areas of funding and are asking for a space. The U is doing what they can to help.
- ❖ **Food Distribution App:** Student Amanika Saxena applied for a micro grant from the McKenna Centre. Unsuccessful she has brought forward her idea to The U.



**Executive Report:** Kielan Pilgrim, Vice-President, Activities & Events

**Date:** Tuesday, May 26, 2020

**Reporting Period:** Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to Tuesday, May 26, 2020

**Internal (to portfolio):**

The beginning of my time in office has been electric. Internally, we have had several FUMEs (Fired Up Meetings of the Executive), which have served as rapid fire brainstorming sessions for both X-Fest and the Golden-X INN. We focused on how we could adapt events to a variety of contingencies, and I am excited to see what we are able to execute from these discussions!

I have had meetings with multiple companies who specialize in Orientation Week kit ‘swag,’ and have been learning about how these companies are trying to innovate through COVID-19. It looks like we are leaning towards Bigtree being the company of choice, as have historically been dependable, and that will go a long way during these times. An example of an object that would not have been found in a traditional X-Fest Kit is a res branded neck/tube/scarf thing (very formal, yes) that we would have designed with residence logos. This gives us the chance to bring the Xaverian campus culture to students as soon as they open the kits (which we are hoping is on time in September, on campus). I will be emailing these companies for quotes, and my ears are open to any suggestions for items to include!

We were lucky enough to have the chance to help fund the online concert that was put on by COCA (Canadian Organization of Campus Activities). This was nice to be a part of, as it is looking like this type of delivery may be what the beginning of next year holds for us. I have also taken part in a set of Webinars and roundtables hosted by COCA. The insights from how other campus groups are navigating this time have been super beneficial, and it looks like this sort of collaboration is what is ahead!

**External (to portfolio):**

Outside of my own portfolio, I have participated in the LSI leadership training with my Exec teammates. We have been learning how to become the best version of our team, and I could only describe the training as being invaluable.

I have been working closely with the President on what would become a sort of fundraiser and wellness initiative for students during the Summer, that would raise money for the U’s Emergency Fund. We believe that we will be able to partner with other bodies across campus (i.e. The McKenna Centre, Alumni Affairs) and have this really take off. We are still trying to figure out the logistics, but are optimistic that this will take off, and give us a chance to engage the Xaverian community, come June/July!

**Committees:**

**Student Orientation Committee (SOC):** Prior to the conclusion of this reporting period, I have we have met just the one time as the full SOC. Myself, Jacqueline De Leedbeck (Director of Student Life, StFX), and Sean Ryan held a pre SOC meeting just to lay the groundwork for how this first meeting would run. We ended up dedicating a large amount of the session to discussing how both The U and the university will adapt to the situation to still provide an orientation experience. Our goal is going to be somehow provide StFX’s unique campus culture regardless of when it opens!

**Golden-X INN Strategic Planning Committee:** We had a preliminary meeting to outline what the goal of the committee is. We have the goal of improving the INN as a space, on how we may have to adapt to the year, and generally how to maximize revenue, regardless of the situation.

**Sub-Executive:**

**O-Crew:** The process for selecting O-Crew was a lot different, however we managed to get the full crew selected at the beginning of May. Although a traditional Orientation Week remains in the air, myself and the Co-Chairs believe that O-Crew will remain an asset throughout any opening situation, as they can server as facilitators on behalf of the U in both a digital and in person setting.

**Society Coordinator:** The interviews are on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>!

**Outreach:**

I have been in touch with other universities, both from COCA and the Maple League, to discuss potentially collaborating on any Orientation initiatives!

**Executive Report:** Jack Irvin, Vice-President Residence Affairs

**Date:** Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Reporting Period:** May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Internal (to portfolio):** This month my position has involved completing transition sessions to prepare for the summer and the year ahead. The hiring is being completed for the rest of the Student Union Community Leaders (SUCLs) and Student Advocates. We will be starting to communicate to brainstorm ideas on how to best approach a way of building a sense of community with incoming students this summer. Meetings have taken place with Student Life and Administration to start preparing programming for the fall and see what direction we want to take this year. I have begun to look at the formatting for House Hockey and how it can be improved for next year. We have reached out to students with a survey about House Hockey and will be analyzing the results to see what students would like to see for next year. Current work includes partnering with marketing to revamp the Residence Affairs page on *theu.ca* in order to give more information to students on House Hockey, residence, house points and student advocate information. I am presently on the Student Orientation Committee, Wellness Working Group and Remote Learning Task Force. These are all great groups it is exciting to plan how we can benefit students the most for the upcoming year.

**External (to portfolio):** External to my portfolio, I have been involved in brainstorming sessions for X-Fest and the Golden X Inn. In these sessions, we are producing as many innovative ideas for the upcoming year as possible. Being faced with COVID-19 we have been working through many scenarios we might be facing in the fall and are working to be prepared for all of them. We have been busy as a team this month working on our leadership development and how to work well as a team with Peak Experience. I personally have been working on improving my leadership qualities to best support others as well as the team. It has been a great experience so far and am excited to continue working on my personal development. The executive team has also been quite busy working on our annual goals to get a vision of the upcoming year and what we want to get out of it. These should be solidified soon, and we will start working interdependently on these goals this summer.

#### **Committees:**

*Remote Learning Task Force:* This past month I have been a part of the Remote Learning Task Force looking at the possibility of online courses this fall and how we can be fully prepared. We have split off into five separate working groups to tackle the main issues we would face with remote learning. The two working groups I am involved with are; Academic Integrity/Assessments and Student Readiness for the fall. While still being hopeful for being in person this fall, we must be prepared for a scenario in which we might be faced with online classes.

*Wellness Working Group:* The Wellness Group is looking into different types of programming across campus that can be used to benefit students. Different areas are being looked at such as; recreation, health and wellness and residence specific programming. Looking forward to creating unique, fun and engaging programming for students this year!

*Student Orientation Committee:* The Student Orientation Committee is looking at numerous scenarios for Orientation Week and the best system for each one. It is exciting to help this committee to produce a fun, inclusive and exciting O-Week to give all incoming students the true St.FX spirit. Once we are given more direction from the University on what the fall will look like, we will be able to plan much more accordingly.

**Sub-Executive:** The hiring all of the sub-executives is almost complete with just the MacIsaac SUCLs and the Off-Campus Leaders left. All of the SUCLs are being tasked with some work in the upcoming weeks such as; collaborating with their partner to create goals for the upcoming year, designing house shirts for Orientation Week and creating house groups on Facebook. With my House Council Coordinator Liam Aitken, we have begun to use the feedback from the House Hockey Survey to develop new ideas for the tournaments this year. It is very exciting to begin to work together with the sub-executives and see what they have to offer students this year.

**Outreach:** This past month has included reaching out to students to hear their feedback on House Hockey from this past year. This feedback will be used to help to continue and improve the Father Gary and Sister Jovita Cups this upcoming year. I have reached out to many students to apply for any job openings with the Students' Union. Enhancing students' awareness of positions can help them develop as an individual and get their foot in the door leading to more leadership opportunities. I have also reached out to students to see what their biggest concerns for the fall are. These concerns will be shared at future committee meetings with faculty and administration to see how we can address them.

**Executive Report:** Bradley Van Dam, Vice-President External Affairs

**Date:** Date report submitted

**Reporting Period:** Date of start of reporting period to Date of end of reporting period

**Internal (to portfolio):**

- I. Hiring for the Research and Policy Associate has moved forward.
  - A. Secured panel for hiring of the sub-executive Research and Policy Associate.
  - B. Applicants chosen and offered interviews, unsuccessful applicants thanked and declined for interview.
  - C. Interviews to proceed on May 19<sup>th</sup> for 2-5pm ADT.
  - D. Candidate chosen to be put forward for ratification by council
  
- II. President and VP External met with SNS Director to discuss and start development of an Indigenization and institutional accountability strategy plan.
  - A. Positive Outlook: I believe this is a step in the right direction, addressing an issue much over do. StFX leads in many areas in the post-secondary sphere but lacks greatly in Indigenous relations. With our rich history of Indigenous peoples and lands within Nova Scotia we have a responsibility to change the current direction of institutions. Forming a trusting and lasting relationship between students, university and First Nations would benefit all parties and lead to increased representation of every and all students.
  - B. Contact made with positive result. Meetings will proceed at a later date.
  
- III. Meeting with VP Externals from Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA) and Acadia Students' Union (ASU) to discuss upcoming SNS election—expectations and reality.
  
- IV. Attended StudentsNS transition conference where the new Chair and Vice-Chair were elected. VP External was appointed Chair of the Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Committee and a member of the health and wellness working group.
  - A. While at the conference SNS board members met with public servants in a round table to discuss student issues related to Covid-19.
  
- V. Executive team began the process of planning our annual goals for the year.
  
- VI. At the bi-weekly SNS board meeting VP External was appointed to the Policy Committee.
  
- VII. Canadian Alliance of Student Associations foundation conference May 26-May28

**External (to portfolio):**

- I. Attended the first Organizational Review Committee meeting where the members reviewed data from the student satisfaction survey and discussed the action plan going forward.
- II. **Committees:**
  - I. Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Committee: Appointed Members
  - II. SNS Policy Committee: Nothing to report

III. Organizational Review Committee: Attended first meeting

**Sub-Executive:**

- I. Candidates interviewed and Chloe Walker was chosen unanimously by panel to be put forward for ratification by council.

**Outreach:**

- I. Reached out to begin conversations with the Coordinator, Indigenous Student Affairs, Terena Francis.
- II. Asked students about concerns for the upcoming year related to Covid-19 via social media.

## **Appendix A – House Presidents**

Chloe Samson – MacNeil House President  
Curtis Kuzmyk – Chillis House President  
Veronica Curry – Cameron House President

## **Appendix B – House Vice-Presidents**

Jenna James – MacNeil Vice-President

Madison Mulrooney – Chillis Vice President

Alexandra Avard – Cameron Vice-President



## **Appendix C – Proposed Fall Semester Council Dates**

- September 13<sup>th</sup>
- October 4<sup>th</sup>
- October 25<sup>th</sup>
- November 15<sup>th</sup>
- December 6<sup>th</sup>

## **Appendix D – Peer Support Program terms of reference**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

##### **SUB-SECTION 1: PROGRAM COORDINATORS**

###### **Article 1: General**

1. The Peer Support Coordinator(s) shall be hired during the spring of each year. Applicants apply individually and will be selected based on the experience and skills displayed in their completed application and interview. The interview panel shall consist of the Incoming Vice President Finance and Operations, the outgoing Peer Support Coordinators and two (2) Councillors from the Students' Union Representative Council.
2. Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) shall hold a term of office for a period of one year, from May 1st to April 30th
3. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the Peer Support Program Coordinator, it shall be filled by a qualified student within thirty (30) days of vacancy.
4. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) will be responsible for a mid-year and final report, to be submitted to the Chair of Council at the end of each academic term.
5. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) must commit to completing the training set out for volunteers, plus an additional debrief training, and must complete said training prior to formally stepping into the role.

###### **Article 2: Responsibilities**

1. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) will coordinate and schedule a team of volunteers and shift leaders.
2. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) will schedule, oversee, and help facilitate volunteer and shift leader training.
3. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) shall represent the Peer Support Program organization in any relevant administrative meetings where representation is required or called upon.
4. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) shall be the main liaisons between the Peer Support Program and the Students' Union.
5. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) shall fulfill the appropriate training requirements as set out in the Peer Support Program Overview. Peer Program Coordinator(s) shall additionally be required to complete debrief training.
6. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) shall ensure that all documentation is being properly fulfilled and stored and shall debrief Peer Support Volunteers and Peer Support Shift-Leaders as necessary.
7. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) shall maintain confidentiality unless required by law to do otherwise.
8. The Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) shall act in the best interest of the peer they are supporting.

###### **Article 3: Limitations**

1. Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) are subject to performance review if they are found to be acting outside of their terms of reference, are acting outside of their training, or breach

confidentiality. Peer Support Program Coordinators will be held responsible for their actions as volunteers and if significant problems arise they will no longer be allowed to volunteer for the program. If they are unable to fulfill the additional requirements assigned to them as a Peer Support Program Coordinator they will be removed from their role and asked to remain with the program as a Peer Support Shift-Leader or Volunteer.

2. Peer Support Program Coordinator(s) are responsible to uphold the terms of the Students' Union lease agreement for the space in which the Peer Support Program operates. They must also ensure adherence to any terms provided by the Students' Union legal counsel and/or insurance provider.

## **SUB-SECTION 2: PEER SUPPORT SHIFT-LEADER**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Article 1: General**

1. The Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall be selected by the Peer Support Program Coordinator(s), the incoming Vice President Finance and Operations, and two (2) representative councilors.
2. The Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall be volunteers who have already completed a minimum of one year with the program, or who have demonstrated significant experience in other mental health related organizations or leadership roles.
3. The Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall hold a term of office for a period of 8 months, from the first day of scheduled classes to their last exam in April.
4. The Peer Support Shift-Leaders may resign with two weeks notice submitted to the Peer Support Coordinator(s).
5. The Peer Support Program Shift Leaders must complete the following training:
  - Mental Health First Aid
  - Waves of Change modules 1-4
  - Positive Space Training
  - Disclosures training
  - Resources round table
  - Cultural Competency
  - Kairos Blanket Exercise
  - Proper documentation training and on-site orientation
  - Debrief training
  - Break the Silence NS, online

#### **Article 2: Responsibilities**

1. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall meet with students accessing the Peer Support Program on a case-by-case basis, and then refer to both University and community resources for additional support.
2. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall fulfill the appropriate training requirements as set out in the Peer Support Program Overview, and shall complete Disclosures, Break the Silence, and On-Site Orientation before they begin their first shift as a volunteer. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall additionally be required to complete debrief training.
3. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall help to schedule, facilitate and provide ongoing training for Peer Support Volunteers.
4. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall ensure that all documentation is being properly stored and shall debrief Peer Support Volunteers as necessary.
5. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall maintain confidentiality unless required by law to do otherwise.

6. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall report to Peer Support Program Coordinators following each shift.
7. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall act in the best interest of the peer they are supporting.
8. Peer Support Shift-Leaders shall be required to work a minimum of 1 on-call shift per week.

### **Article 3: Limitations**

1. Peer Support Shift-Leaders are subject to performance review if they are found to be acting outside of their terms of reference, are acting outside of their training, or breach confidentiality. Peer Support Shift-Leaders will be held responsible for their actions as volunteers and if significant problems arise they will no longer be allowed to volunteer for the program. If they are unable to fulfill the additional requirements assigned to them as a Peer Support Shift-Leader they will be removed from their role and asked to remain with the program as a Peer Support Volunteer.

## **SUB-SECTION 1: PEER SUPPORT VOLUNTEER**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Article 1: General**

1. Peer Support Volunteers shall be chosen through an interview process.
  - a. The interview panel will consist of the Program Coordinator(s)
2. Peer Support Volunteers shall hold a term of office for a period of 8 months, from the first day of scheduled classes to their last exam in April.
3. Peer Support Volunteers may resign with two weeks notice, submitted to the Peer Support Coordinators.
4. Peer Support Volunteers must complete the following training:
  - Mental Health First Aid
  - Waves of Change Basic Bystander modules 1-4
  - Positive Space Training
  - Disclosures training
  - Resources round table
  - Cultural Competency
  - Kairos Blanket Exercise
  - Proper documentation training and on-site orientation
  - Debrief training (for shift leaders and faculty supports)
  - Break the Silence NS, online

#### **Article 2: Responsibilities**

1. Peer Support Volunteers shall meet with students accessing the Peer Support Program on a case-by-case basis and refer to the proper resources as required.
2. Peer Support Volunteers shall fulfill the appropriate training requirements as set out in the Peer Support Program Overview, and shall complete Disclosures, Break the Silence, and On-Site Orientation before they begin their first shift as a volunteer.
3. Peer Support Volunteers shall be responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and organization of the Peer Support Program space.
4. Peer Support Volunteers shall properly document all visits to the Peer Support Program and store these documents in an appropriate, secure location.
5. Peer Support Volunteers shall maintain confidentiality unless required by law to do otherwise.

6. Peer Support Volunteers shall report to Peer Support Program Shift-Leaders following each shift.
7. Peer Support Volunteers shall act in the best interest of the peer they are supporting

**Article 3: Limitations**

1. Peer Support Volunteers are subject to performance review if they are found to be acting outside of their terms of reference, are acting outside of their training, or breach confidentiality. Peer Support Volunteers will be held responsible for their actions as volunteers and if significant problems arise they will no longer be allowed to volunteer for the program.