

# Council Package

April 5th, 2020

Prepared by Will Fraser, Chair of Council

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Agenda  
Students' Union Representative Council  
March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, 3pm  
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 of March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, and March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
7. Constituency Reports
8. Business Arising
9. Executive Reports:
  - President – Cecil VanBuskirk
  - Vice President Academic Affairs – 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
10. Students' Union General Manager Report
11. Faculty Advisor Report
12. Committee Reports
13. Special Reports to Council
  - Presentation of the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget
14. Old Business
15. New Business
  - Motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget as presented
  - Motion to reallocate \$6500 from the Awards Budget Line to Emergency Grants
  - Motion to ratify Laura Small as Student Food Resource Centre Coordinator 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Samuel Delaney as House Accounts Coordinator 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify William McMann as Deputy Chair 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Lauryn Reeves and Emma Waller as O-Crew Co-Chairs 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Liam Aitken as House Council Coordinator 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Sophia Fabiano as MSB House President 2020-2021
  - Motion to ratify Ellen Coffin as MSB House Vice President 2020-2021
  - Motion to award Honorary Membership of the Union
16. Closing Remarks of the Chair
17. Adjournment

# Council Minutes – March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Prepared By: Deputy Chair - Veronica Curry

Date: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Time: 3:00PM

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:00PM.

### Roll Call:

#### **In Attendance**

Board of Governors Student Representative – Tiffany MacLennan

Education Student Representative - Todd Boak

First Year Representative – Nick Stinson

Students of African Descent Representative – Kamy Carrington

International Student Representative – Sanjidha Ganeshan

Arts Student Representative - Marc Sgro

President - Cecil VanBuskirk

Vice President Academic - Emma Kuzmyk

Vice President External Affairs - Sarah Elliott

Vice President Activities and Events - Natalie Doumkos

General Manager – Sean Ryan

#### **Absent with Regrets**

Board of Governors Student Representative – Allison Hancock

Science Student Representative - Daniel Winters

Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess

Equity Student Representative – Jasonique Moss

Business Student Representative – Johanna Gates

Vice President Finance and Operations - Patrick Wallace

Vice President Residence Affairs - Siobhan Lacey

Faculty Advisor – Dr. Corrine Cash

## Opening Remarks of the Chair

*“Thank you all for coming. House hockey is going on, and I would like to say go MSB! The student representative election happens tomorrow, remember to vote.”*

## Approval of Agenda

Tiffany: Motion to approve the agenda.

Todd: Second.

Discussion:

Tiffany: Motion to amend the agenda so the chair election occurs at the start of New Business, and to remove the Governance Review Committee presentation, and add a special report to council from Cecil on his appointment of the VP Finance and Operations. I also move to have the election of the chair of council occur at the start of the meeting.

Kamy: Second

*Motion Passes 8-0-0.*

## Approval of the Minutes

Nick: Motion to approve council minutes of February 9, 2020

Cecil: Second.

Discussion:

Tiffany: Motion to amend to strike a section of my report that was captured incorrectly, as discussed in pre-council.

*Motion Passes 8-0-0.*

## Constituency Reports

Board of Governors Student Representative Tiffany:

- On February 13 we unanimously voted in Dr. Andrew Hankin as the 19<sup>th</sup> president of St.F.X. I hope you all get the opportunity to meet him.

Arts Student Representative:

- Have been working with dean about BA restructuring, looking at next steps to roll out the degree.

International Student Representative:

- Having an international night at the Inn, with international music. I encourage everyone to come. This event is 19+, with no cover.
- Attended the closing ceremony for the African Heritage Art gallery. It was a great time featuring lots of talent.
- Applications are open for Black society collective. Please spread the word about this.

#### Education Student Representative:

- Education banquet was last night, and lots of fun. The social representatives did really well hosting it.

#### First Year Student Representative:

- Have been working on the first-year event at the Inn. There was not a great turnout. This was probably not the best weekend to do this, as there was house hockey going on. It was still fun even without the great turnout.

#### Students of African Decent Representative:

- A conference got cancelled due to weather.
- Black society is hiring. We are considering adding an athletic outreach coordinator.
- Attended the Art Gallery Closing Ceremony. There was a great turnout, with lots of different talent being showcased.
- Equity committee sent out an email looking for student athlete leaders.

### Business Arising

*None.*

### Executive Reports

#### **President:**

- Consultation agreement was approved by the Board of Governors last week. We are looking forward to council's feedback.
- Sarah Elliott and I recently came back from advocating for students in Ottawa. 3 of CASA's asks were approved.
- X-Ring committee is undergoing policy changes.
- Attended welcome for Dr. Hankin, he seems like he will fit in very well here. We are lucky to have him.
- Still making advancements in promoting the Nimbus app.
- Sustainability committee is still being structured.

#### **Vice Academic Affairs**

- Have been working with a national body of student leaders to address sexual violence. Attended conference with them.
- McKenna Energy Transition school had a great turnout with great education.

- Addressing student concerns that have come up, especially with regarding practicums and the financial impact they have on students.

### **Vice President Activities and Events**

- Planning spring convocation events.
- Working on House Hockey event.
- Nominations for society of the year and other awards are now open on the website.

### **Vice President External Affairs**

- To be partisan, Happy House Hockey and go MacKinnon Hall.
- Some CASA wins from Ottawa are:
  - Increased the Canadian Student Grant by 40%. This is the first increase since 2016.
  - Extended the loan repayment interest deadlines to two years.
- Discussed partnership with Quebec Student Union.
- Working with Healthy Minds Nova Scotia.

### **Genral Manager Report**

- Thank you to Sodexo and their stop hunger program for raising \$1500 for the Student Food Resource Center.
- Some great hockey went on yesterday, and it is a very exciting week. Shout-out to Siobhan Lacy for organizing this and watching all the games with a smile.
- The first round of jobs to apply for have been posted on TheU page, more are to open soon.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Governance Review Committee**

- Meetings centered around what a new council structure might look like in the future. We will have proposals to you shortly.

#### **Organizational Review Committee**

- Discussed some of the questions that will be on the survey we will be putting out. Meeting next week to finalize these questions so we can move forward with this.

#### **Emergency Grant Committee**

- Gave out two grants successfully. Haven't been receiving as many applications lately, but are quick to work on the ones we do receive.
- We have allotted well.

#### **Performance Review Committee**

Tiffany: Motion to go into camera for this report.



Todd: Second.

*Motion Passes 8-0-0.*

*Council moves into camera for the remainder of this discussion.*

### **Chair Nomination Committee**

- We have interviewed some people and will be electing someone soon.

### **Campus Affairs Committee**

- Meeting comprised around house hockey, motivation, safety, and thinking about possible improvements for next year.

## **Special Reports to Council**

### **Vice President Finance and Operations Appointment**

Cecil: As president, I am choosing to appoint, in accordance with the Act of Incorporation, Patrick Wallace as Vice President Finance and operations for the 2020-2021 term.

## **New Business**

### **Chair Election**

Tiffany: Motion to elect the chair of council.

Nick: Second.

Discussion:

*Both candidates for upcoming chair were given a minute to speak to council about why they believe they should be the 2020-21 Chair of Council.*

Tiffany: The chair nomination committee has met quite a few times. In the next few minutes, I will ask both the candidates for chair to give a quick talk on why they should be chair of council, then we will move to an in-camera session where we will discuss their interviews more in-depth. As they present, please refrain from questions until we move in-camera. We will discuss the candidates, and deliberate between the two.

Meredith (Gallery): I am in my second year, studying math. I am currently the Vice President at McKinnon Hall. Since starting at X, the Union has had a huge impact on me. The services of the Union has helped me grow as a person, and for this reason I want to be a part of it. As a current sub0executive of the Union, I know the positive impact of positive individuals. As chair, I would hope to be someone people can come to for support and resources. I would also prioritize increasing the awareness of the Union on campus. I believe that this will increase involvement in the Union and increase election turnout. I am also very excited for the opportunity to participate in governance review. I have experience chairing my house council meetings. I have the skills to

be chair, and lots of willingness to learn more. I care about the success of the union, and want to ensure its success.

Will Fraser (Gallery): I am a good chair and will continue to be a good chair. I have experience in the work of the chair and experienced the hiccups a chair encounters, so they won't affect me going forward. I know how the chair operates and I understand the bylaws and the innerworkings of the Union. I have done lots of work on the governance review committee drafting bylaws. I have been effective in getting committees to meet, we've seen the equity committee meet multiple times when in the past they have met once a year. This is due to being proactive and assigning councilors to these. I have been a good chair. To finish on a procedural note, there are three individuals at this table who should recuse themselves from discussion, due to their attempts to remove me from office earlier today. They should also abstain from voting on this motion.

Tiffany: Motion to move to an in-camera session.

Todd: Second.

Motion Passes 8-0-0.

Nick: Motion to table the discussion regarding the chair hiring.

Todd: Second

Discussion:

Nick: We don't believe that we have the amount of council present that we would like to have to make this decision.

Tiffany: During the in-camera session we went through the interviews, and discussed potential bias, and decided we should take some more time to make this decision. We didn't want to have a few voting members abstain, then have the chair voted in by only a couple members. This isn't fair to the organization or the students. We hope to have a special council meeting this week where we will elect the chair. In the meantime, council has given me permission to discuss what we did in camera with the voting members who are not here.

*Motion Passes 8-0-0.*

#### Selection of the Jason Simmons Memorial Award Winner

Cecil: I would like to nominate Sarah Elliot for the Jason Simmons Memorial Award.

Sean: I would like to nominate Sanjidha for this award. She has been incredibly supportive of International students and is always helping out and looking for ways to connect students. She is enthusiastic and filled with spirit in many ways.

Natalie: I would like to nominate Kamy. To me the Xavierian spirit is always welcoming everyone with a smile, and she does this to me every day.

Will Fraser: I would like to nominate Veronica Curry for this award. As a first-year student she has been actively involved in both her house and the STFX community. Despite being a first-year engineering student, the deputy chair of council and a member of her house council, she still finds time to socialize and make friends. I think she is going to be a leader of the social scene.

*The vote occurred by secret ballot.*

#### Selection of the Birks Award Winner

Will Fraser: I would like to nominate Tiffany. In her 5 years at X she has made amazing contributions to student government, serving in a variety of roles, including society coordinator, deputy chair, Vice President Academic, BOG representative. She has really improved the Union, and fostered a wonderful relationship between herself and administration of the Union. She is more than deserving of this award.

Marc: I would like to nominate Tiffany again. I believe without her, there is no Union. She can handle a million things at once and is involved with everything in the U.

Tiffany: I would like to nominate Cecil. He has done a lot of very interesting work, and his ways of collaboration has made the Union better.

Cecil: I would like to again nominate Tiffany. She is a pillar of the U. Nobody has embodied sustainability and the values of the U as much as Tiffany has. She is very wise and able to solve any problem that is presented to her.

Emma: I would like to nominate Todd. He has done a great job as education rep, and he has gotten involved and made a difference in his short time here. He's done a great job involving his constituents, who can be a bit difficult to get involved sometimes.

Emma: I would also like to nominate Natalie. She has been involved with the U for a very long time, on O-crew and with the marketing team. She has brought awesome creativity and artistic talent to the U that has been very valuable.

Kamy: I also would like to nominate Natalie. She worked hard to create an inclusive environment around campus and was always lots of help when I was putting on events for my constituents. She also is a very positive and supportive person.

*The vote occurred by secret ballot.*

#### Consultation Agreement

Tiffany: Motion to approve the proposed Consultation agreement.

Emma: Second.

Discussion:

Tiffany: This was passed unanimously through the Board of Governors, they did not have any critiques so I would recommend we pass it as well.

Cecil: The chair and I presented it to the Board of Governors as Tiffany mentioned. The main change was delegating more power to the Quality of Life committee. It also ensured there was student representation of the Sexual Violence Prevention committee.

Tiffany: I amend the motion to approve the proposed Consultation agreement and authorize the President of the Union and the Vice President Finance and Operations of the Union to sign the document.

Nick: Second.

*Motion Passes 8-0-0.*

### Closing Remarks

*“Thank you everybody for coming. Remember the representative councilor election is tomorrow!”*

### Adjournment

Tiffany: Motion to Adjourn the meeting.

Sanjidha: Second.

*Motion Passes 8-0-0.*

Meeting Adjourned at 5:03PM.

# Council Minutes: Special Meeting – March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Prepared By: Deputy Chair - Veronica Curry

Date: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Time: 5:15PM

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:17PM.

### Roll Call:

#### **In Attendance**

Board of Governors Student Representative – Tiffany MacLennan

Board of Governors Student Representative – Allison Hancock

Education Student Representative - Todd Boak

First Year Representative – Nick Stinson

Students of African Descent Representative – Kamy Carrington

International Student Representative – Sanjidha Ganesan

Science Student Representative - Daniel Winters

Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess

Business Student Representative – Johanna Gates

Equity Student Representative – Jasonique Moss

Vice President Academic - Emma Kuzmyk

Vice President Finance and Operations - Patrick Wallace

Vice President Residence Affairs - Siobhan Lacey

Vice President Activities and Events - Natalie Doumkos

#### **Absent with Regrets**

Arts Student Representative - Marc Sgro

President - Cecil VanBuskirk

Vice President External Affairs - Sarah Elliott

Faculty Advisor – Dr. Corrine Cash

General Manager – Sean Ryan

## Opening Remarks of the Chair

*“Thank you all for coming.”*

## Approval of Agenda

Will: Motion to approve the agenda so that it is amended for the Chair election to occur before the Governance Review Presentation.

Tiffany: Second.

*Motion Passes 11-0-0.*

## Special Reports to Council

### **Presentation from Governance Review**

*Presentation given by William Fraser and Emma Kuzmyk.*

Tiffany: Motion to go into camera for this presentation.

Todd: Second.

Discussion:

Will: I do not feel that what we will discuss is so secret that we need to go into camera.

*Motion Fails 7-4-0.*

Will F: We first discussed council structure in July and have since had pretty much one meeting a month discussing what council structure should look like. We’ve narrowed it down to two proposals, and now are presenting them to council.

Will B: The reason I didn’t think this should be in camera, was because I think the students should be consulted on both proposals.

*Since one proposal was written by Will F, and the other by Emma, they each present their proposal for council’s discussion.*

Will F: Mine proposes a council with a chair, deputy chair, and 8 representative councilors elected into staggered two-year terms. Four councilors would be elected each year. The following would exist for two years, with the option to have their existence extended by council: Queer student at large, African Descent student at large, International student at large, and Indigenous student at large. This proposal removes all executive members from council, following the advice of our governance specialist. Certain members will always be required to report to council, these being the President, the General Manager, all the executives, the Board of

Governors Representative, and the student senators. These members will be non-voting. There will be a committee to review reports and decide if these individuals will need to report to council. This committee will include the chair and some students at large. This proposal has a chair hired in April. According to our governance specialist, boards function best when there are no constituencies, and every voting member is elected by the entire student body.

Emma: My proposed council structure has 8 voting members, including a students of African descent representative, two Indigenous student representatives having one collective vote, an LGBTQ+ representative, an International student representative, an Accessibility student representative, and three open councilor representatives. The non-voting members would be the chair of council, deputy chair, general manager, president and vice president academic. Faculty representatives will be removed from council and only serve terms on senate. More special constituencies have been added to dismantle existing barriers for these students. Some boards that I sit on, which work really well, do have certain voices on them that are represented like this. The president and vice president are no longer members, but will still be required to attend and report to council. Hired executives will no longer attend council. There is no longer a faculty representative.

*Questions:*

Johanna: When would this be implemented?

Will F: After council passes it, hopefully during the 2021-22 academic year.

Cecil: Why are the president and vice president not voting?

Will B: We settled on this because we felt that the function of council is to oversee the president and giving them a vote in this body would present a conflict.

Ally: Would the elected councilors give reports at council?

Will F: No, councils only job is to oversee big picture things, not day-to-day. These were also made in hopes that we could increase the number of students-at-large within the Union. Once this process is done, the Union will look much different and there will be more students in these student-at-large positions.

Siobhan: If the governance advise was to have no special constituencies, why are there some included in the proposals?

Emma: I personally don't agree with that advice, as I believe that there are barriers in place for people who would fill these special constituencies and having them will make for a more accessible and representative council.

Will F: Mine has some temporary special constituencies because this was a direct suggestion from the governance advice. The idea that making these positions available specifically for these constituencies for a short amount of time will make them more accessible and common to exist without the constituencies being there in the future.



Tiffany: What would be the terms of review for these special constituencies? How will we know when we are ready to remove them? How do we make council so inclusive that we do not need these constituencies?

Kamy: This is a really good point, and it is important to consider that, in my opinion, our campus is very far from not needing these constituencies.

Emma: My proposal was made in attempts to have as much representation as possible on the board. I don't believe we should make decisions for groups of people without them making the decisions with them.

Natalie: In my opinion, our goal as an organization should be to be equitable. I don't think we are at a point as an organization to remove special constituencies and still be equitable. I think Will's proposal should be an ending point, but we are not ready for it yet.

Kamy: I agree that Wills could be the final point, and Emma's could be the next step. At STFX I would see taking away constituencies to be taking away diversity from council. To take away this representation is to take away voices.

Tiffany: I think Emma's proposal should be changed so that there is an odd number of voting members on council.

Will F: Thank you all for your opinions. The next step will be to bring this feedback back to our committee, where we will use it to create a proposal to present to students, then eventually bring a final proposal back to council to be voted on.

Tiffany: I am more interested in Emma's proposal with the addition of another voting member, and some mandatory review after a few years.

Kamy: I am also interested in Emma's proposal. I don't think our campus is ready to lose constituencies, and it would be kind of offensive.

### Chair of Council

Tiffany: Motion to elect the chair of council.

Nick: Second.

Discussion:

*Both candidates for the incoming chair of council position were given a minute to speak to council about why they believe they should be made the next chair.*

Meredith (Gallery): I am in my second year studying math, I am the vice president of my house, and I work security at the Inn. I believe in the good that the Union does for students, so I would like to contribute to its success. I believe I have the skills needed to be chair. I chaired my house council this year and was the health and wellness representative before that. I recognize that house council is different from this council, but lots of my skills and experience will transfer over. I have effectively guided and motivated my council for the past year and have overseen 8 individuals and all the events in our house. I have strong leadership skills and work well with

others. My experience as vice president has required me to work on and be productive with a team. I have been able to effectively resolve conflict respectfully and professionally without jeopardizing the integrity of the team. As chair, I would always be available to the councilors and focus on supporting them in this role. I would like to increase awareness of the Union around campus, in order to increase voter turnout at elections. I care about the success of the Union, and would be excited to serve this council.

Will Fraser (Gallery): I think you know I can do this job. When I first decided to apply for chair, it was because I had already held man positions in the Union, and I realized what could happen when the Union doesn't function properly. I realized how much of a mess elections could be, and I realized that when procedures are not followed, the Union does not work. When this happens, students are not adequately represented, they do not get value for their dollar, and that's why I wanted to be chair in the first place. I know, based on the looks on some of your faces, that you don't think I've done a great job this year. What I can tell you, is that I am willing to improve. I have already sought out the additional training that was required for me. I always continue to try to do better. I am always working with governance specialists to improve in my role as chair. I think I have shown you why I am a good chair. We've increased voter turnout, we've seen the election system become more precise and accurate, and we see students being enfranchised in ways they have not been enfranchised before. We see people returning to council.

Tiffany: After this, we will go into camera to deliberate, narrow it down to one person, then come out of camera to amend the motion to a name, to follow Roberts Rules of Order.

Emma: Motion to enter an in-camera session for the remainder of this discussion.

Johanna: Second.

*Motion Passes 11-0-0.*

*Council enters an in-camera session.*

Debrief:

Will: We discussed the pros and cons about the candidates for chair. We also discussed the role of chair, and the ideal case that would be best for our organization.

Will: Motion to amend the past motion to elect Merideth Cudmore-Keating as the 2020-2021 Chair of Council.

Todd: Second.

*The vote proceeds by secret ballot.*

*Motion Passes 9-0-5.*

## Closing Remarks of the Chair

*"Thank you for coming."*

## Adjournment

Tiffany: Motion to Adjourn the meeting.

Ally: Second.

*Motion Passes 10-0-1*

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59PM.

# Council Minutes – March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Prepared By: Deputy Chair - Veronica Curry

Date: March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Time: 3:00PM

### Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:00PM.

### Roll Call:

#### **In Attendance**

Board of Governors Student Representative – Tiffany MacLennan

Board of Governors Student Representative – Allison Hancock

Education Student Representative - Todd Boak

First Year Representative – Nick Stinson

Students of African Descent Representative – Kamy Carrington

International Student Representative – Sanjidha Ganeshan

Science Student Representative - Daniel Winters

Business Student Representative – Johanna Gates

Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess

Equity Student Representative – Jasonique Moss

President - Cecil VanBuskirk

Vice President Academic - Emma Kuzmyk

Vice President Finance and Operations - Patrick Wallace

Vice President Residence Affairs - Siobhan Lacey

Vice President Activities and Events - Natalie Doumkos

Vice President External Affairs - Sarah Elliott

General Manager – Sean Ryan

Faculty Advisor – Dr. Corrine Cash

## **Absent with Regrets**

Arts Student Representative - Marc Sgro

## Opening Remarks of the Chair

*“Thank you everyone for joining the call today! I hope everyone has been safe and practicing social distancing as much as possible.”*

## Approval of Agenda

Todd: Motion to approve the agenda.

Emma: Second.

*Motion Passes 12-0-0.*

## Constituency Reports

Board of Governors Student Representative Tiffany:

- Had a general update meeting.
- Have been working with MAPLE league, will be hosting student support office hours to help students transition to the online learning situation. Lots of meetings regarding student readiness to learn online.
- Working with the university to ensure communication to students is kept up and done well.
- Working to develop McKenna center micro grants for students, to help them keep up online connections during the summer.

Board of Governors Student Representative Ally:

- Had an informal meeting just informing the Board what was going on with the school with COVID-19.

International Student Representative:

- Last week the international society executive team was elected.
- International night at the Inn was a success.
- Had to cancel all upcoming international student events.

First Year Student Representative:

- Not much new since report, have been self-isolating and spreading awareness about social distancing.

Education Student Representative:

- We are staying calm and doing as much as we can right now.

#### Science Student Representative:

- Have been practicing social distancing and have nothing new to report.

#### Students of African Decent Representative:

- Waiting to hear back about International students staying over winter break next year.
- Held cultural competency training in Bishops Hall.

#### Business Student Representative:

- Have been social distancing and have nothing new to report.

#### Graduate Student Representative:

- Apologies for lack of constituency report.
- Communicating with graduate students and doing committee work.

#### Equity Student Representative

- Nothing new to report.

### Business Arising

*None.*

### Executive Reports

#### **President:**

- It's been a busy past few weeks, we are trying to continue operations as best as we can, and help students through this uncertain transition period.
- All services are shut down, but executive is still working hard.
- Still offering marketing services.
- Special shout-out to Patrick Wallace for helping keep the Student Food Resource center during this time.
- The Chairs idea was to use the app "Goose Chase" to help connect students online through a scavenger hunt.
- Still continuing with transition efforts, Sarah and I have been working to transition her into this role.
- Have been heavily involved with the Corona Virus committee, primarily around the operations of the Union.
- Need help spreading word that health and counselling resources are still available online.
- The university is doing a great job at communicating with students who are unable to travel home, and are accommodating as many students as they can.

#### **Vice President Academic Affairs**

- Had a meeting with the Dean of Arts about different ways to represent students in the classroom, and how to deal with sensitive matters in an appropriate way.
- Most committee meetings have been cancelled or moved to an email-based chain (except gov review)
- The parts of Mental Health March that could be went well, especially flower Fridays.

#### **Vice President Finance and Operations**

- Working on the budget.
- The food resource center is open!

#### **Vice President Activities and Events**

- Was planning graduation until it got cancelled.

#### **Vice President Residence Affairs**

- Been focus grouping about house hockey to see what can improve for next year.
- Working on transition for next year's executive.
- Looking at how we can support students during the pandemic.

#### **Vice President External Affairs**

- Stresses the importance of the mental health resources available to students, especially those from Healthy Minds Nova Scotia.
- Working with new executive team for transition, and how the transition will be different this year.
- Getting ready for Student Nova Scotia transition.

#### **Genral Manager Report**

- A lot of meetings still took place online.
- About 85% of the behind the scenes resources of the Union are still operating, including the maritime bus and the marketing team.

#### **Faculty Advisor Report**

- Everyone is getting ready to go online with classes.
- Moodle might be slow tomorrow because of all the courses moving online.
- There have been questions about students who may need financial help, we want to know about them so we can do everything we can to help.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Governance Review Committee**

- Have been meeting to consider feedback from council, most of which was in favor of keeping constituencies.



- Reached conclusion on the proposed structure of council, which was to have half general councilors, half constituencies which will be determined on a rotating basis.
- Have been making progress in drafting bylaws and have sent those into our lawyer for review.

### **Organizational Review Committee**

- Decided to go ahead and release survey, even though it will be delayed due to students being relocated and moving to online school.

### **External Affairs Advisory Committee**

- Unable to do open forum like we had hoped.

### **Award Planning Committee**

- Banquet will be cancelled, but we are still giving out awards.
- These announcements will come out later this week.

### **Student Union Awards Committee**

- Chose winners for all awards.
- Announcements will come out in the future.

## Special Reports to Council

### **Draft Budget Presentation**

*Presentation given by Patrick Wallace- VP Finance and Operations*

- Council was shown the process of the budget, and questions were welcomed.

*It was expressed that it would probably be in councils best interest to wait to approve the budget until it can be looked at in another meeting, as it was not yet completely ready for review.*

### **Peer Support Project Renewal Presentation**

*Presentation given by Addy Strickland and Riley Wolfe.*

Questions:

Q: For the office supply fee, is that reoccurring every month?

A: This is a \$100 fee for the whole year.

Q: \$100 sounds a bit low, especially for printing and distributing information. It should be more.

A: If we can, we could do that, but this cost was based on the amount we spent this year.

Q: Does the student union not have money pre-existing for printing for services? If you can access this, what else would the money be for?

A: We would use it for general supplies, pens, pencils, tea.

Q: Why does the PSP need 2 coordinators? Most other services only have one.

A: We had 2 so they could bear the work of starting the new program, and as one of our coordinators is graduating, it will make the transition period of running the program much easier.

Q: Would cutting down to one coordinator be an option in the future? Will 2 coordinators be an absolute necessity?

A: Figuring out the future is something we would discuss with the union, but for now, as the project is so new, yes, it is essential, especially for sustainability purposes. It is also important so the coordinators can keep their own mental health in check.

Q: What is the justification of one program coordinator appointing the next, opposed to them being hired by councilors and the union, like the other services of the union do.

A: This is open to change in the future, but for now experience is the most important.

Q: It seems like the program had a lot of value, especially with the volunteer training. Is there any way to get the volunteer training to more students on campus?

A: This is definitely something that is possible, as lots of the training is offered throughout the year.

Q: Would you be willing to follow the hiring policy that the operations of the Union follow?

A: Yes.

Q: What goals have you met this year?

A: To help students, and to have a positive impact on campus. The general goal was a visit every few days, which we definitely met. We are proud of what we did, and hope to have more visits next year with a better advertising strategy. People have been using the office for many more reasons than we anticipated.

Q: Do you have feedback from people who did use the service?

A: Got some emotional messages stating that a student felt it was the only safe place on campus for them. Many people are very happy the service exists.

Q: Do you see an opportunity or recommend to have another pilot term to gain more data, since your term was cut short.

A: We do think we are ready to become a permanent service, but would be open to another pilot year if council deems it necessary.

## New Business

Emma: Motion to create the Peer Support Program.

Sanjidha: Second

Discussion:

Will: In my judgement, this is walking the knives edge of worthwhile. In my opinion, the demand for it was low, and the expected criteria of success was pretty low. It's hard to judge how much success there was. Also, I do not think the proposed terms of reference for them are unreasonable. The pay for the program coordinators was too high, and they do not seem to follow many of the rules of services of the Union.

Emma: I think a lot of students did reach out to me saying they used the service and that it was useful to them. I agree that the terms of reference should be changed, and they did mention that they are willing to do this. It is also notable to remember that they have applied to grants, which would help on the monetary side.

Patrick: Remember that the amount of money the PSP is asking for is pretty insignificant, in my opinion, in comparison to what the program is about. My office takes some of the blame for the hiring situation, which can easily be fixed.

Cecil: It is hard to base a decision on the limited information we have, as we didn't make it through the whole pilot program. I would propose to extend the pilot program, so we can have more tangible data and make a more informed decision.

Jasonique: I feel as if the program isn't necessary, it seems like it could be a website. The funding could be better focused on some existing resources.

Daniel: I agree with Cecil's proposal regarding the lack of data making it too difficult to make an informed decision. We could come up with more detailed ways to document measures of success.

Sean: I can understand the direction of extending the pilot program, but it is important to remember we would still be responsible to fund it.

Siobhan: It seems to be a very separate operation from the Union, and I would like to see more collaboration between the program and the Union. I like the idea of extending the pilot program.

Tiffany: I do not like the idea of extending the pilot program for 4 months. We're going to be paying the price for a full year, so it would be a waste of student dollars. Just looking at the low usage of the program, I do not think it is necessary to have.

Natalie: Even though the numbers do not look great, but to me success is just helping one person alone. I think we should re-evaluate some numbers and then try again next year, while continuously evaluating its success.

Emma: I agree that a 4-month pilot extension would not be a good use of time, and if we are looking to do another pilot it should be a whole year, start to end. I think the point of the program was the ability to have in-person discussions, which you can't get from a website. As an organization, I feel as if we haven't done enough to help them integrate into the Union. I do believe that the program was used quite a bit, even though the amount who filled out official documentation was low.

Nick: I feel like we should table this motion for now. I do not think the program should be cancelled completely, at least without any further discussion.

Emma: I am in favor of creating the program, as long as we fix the terms of reference. These could include that the program should be evaluated on a yearly basis.

*Motion Passes 7-5-0.*

Cecil: Motion to suspend all office hours for the remainder of the academic year.

Johanna: Second.

*Discussion:*

Cecil: Given the current circumstances, and the current government declared state of emergency, this is only fair. We will still be working, just not in the office.

*Motion Passes 12-0-0.*

Todd: Motion to suspend the requirement to hold a Special Council Meeting at least 72 hours after receipt of a request for the remainder of the academic year.

Cecil: Second.

*Discussion:*

Todd: Due to the current situation, this makes sense in case there is something urgent council needs to decide.

*Motion Passes 12-0-0.*

Cecil: Motion to reallocate \$6000 from the Society Allocations budget line to the Emergency Grants fund.

Daniel: Second

*Discussion:*

Patrick: Societies have pretty much stopped operating, and we haven't given out all the money we could have. This money would help cover the emergent applications coming in from the COVID-19 situation.

Todd: Has there been an increase of requests due to COVID-19?

Patrick: There hasn't been, too many, since we have run out of funds, but we are expecting more to come in as people have shown interest.

Sean: There has been a few international students looking for information on the emergency grants. If we do pass this motion, we should make it well known to students that this money is available.

*Motion Passes 12-0-0.*

## Closing Remarks

*“Thank you everybody for coming. Remember to fill out your hiring panel availability. Please be safe and practice social distancing, and model good and safe behavior!”*

## Adjournment

Tiffany: Motion to Adjourn the meeting.

Sanjita: Second.

*Motion Passes 12-0-0*

Meeting Adjourned at 5:28PM.

I've been social distancing, and there is not a whole lot to report on since my last report as not much has changed. I'm participating in the meetings that come up, and I've been on 2 hiring panels -- Bishops SUCLs and Deputy Chair of Council for next year.

Best,  
Ally Hancock  
Board of Governors' Student Representative

Constituency Report- 04/01/2020

Sat in on the Quality of life committee and spent time listening to the measures taking place to see where some students concerns lie.

**Board of Governors Representative**

**Tiffany MacLennan**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Board of Governor's:

- There have been no meetings of the Board of the Board sub-committees I am on since the last meeting.

Other:

- Volunteered as a student facilitator for Maple League Office Hours for students of the four ML universities. The office hours were made as a spot for students to ask questions or seek help on the transition to alternative class delivery. Students from three of the schools attended. The first office hour (Monday) was primarily used to discuss challenges with alternative delivery. The second office hour (Wednesday) was primarily people hanging out.
- Went to both Budget meetings.
- Sat on hiring for Riley SUCLs.
- Sat on the hiring for House Accounts Coordinator.
- Attended the Quality of Life meeting.
- Attended the Health Insurance Plan meeting.

**Education Representative**

**Todd Boak**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Hello everyone, this will be a short report as not has been happening on the Education side. My constituents and myself have received the 'new' practicum course we are taking to get our credit as we are no longer going into schools as they are closed till May 1<sup>st</sup> (and most likely will close for rest of the year). My constituents have been busy working on this new course and hitting each of the three outcomes. I've reached out to a few, and some have reached out to myself as well, but everyone seems to be adjusting to the new social distancing lifestyles and bunkering down to complete these assignments! As always, I am keeping my communications open for my constituents.

## **International Student Representative**

**Sanjidha S Ganeshan**

**April 5<sup>th</sup> 2020**

First off, I hope everyone is safe and healthy as well as your families. The past week since our last council meeting has been pretty busy mostly with school work.

The BLACC society applications to join the collective for next year closed this past Wednesday. I hope there were a lot of great applicants.

The Office of Internationalisation held two online info sessions through Facebook live and Zoom meeting to talk to international students about the whole Covid- 19 situation. Students have asked their questions about study permit, permanent residency, employment insurance, meal plan and meal hall, residence accommodation on campus etc. Larissa and Donald are hoping to have another online meeting via Zoom next week as a check in with everyone.

Some of our Asian students have experienced situations of discrimination in town. The Office of Internationalisation and Dr. Kevin Wamsley have been working together trying to find ways to tackle the issue. I also have been in touch with Larissa to see what can be done on our part as Students Union.

On my part, I have been doing some check ins with friends and international students via FB messaging. Basically, just making sure everything is good with them and their families, asking them about their online classes and the whole situation. Also making sure they know I am here if ever they need help with anything.

There is a virtual meeting scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> by Larissa from the Office of Internationalisation about the International Student Barometer. Recall that this survey was going around among international students last semester, asking their feedback about everything on campus and the Antigonish community as a whole. A bunch of people are invited to attend this meeting, including myself, Cecil, Elizabeth Yeo and a lot of other people from the administration and recruitment office

Finally, since this is the last constituency report that we have to write and submit, I would like to thank all of you for a great year spent at Council. Thanks to all of you I have been able to accomplish a lot this past year, I have been able to befriend you, and have fun. Wishing all of you good luck for your final exams and your future. Congratulations to those who were supposed to graduate this May. I hope you do get a graduation ceremony later in the year.

## **First Year Representative**

**Nicholas Stinson**

**2 April 2020**

Since my last constituency report, I have been working to spread awareness of social distancing and what to do during this difficult time. This includes taking the concerns of my constituents to the council and appropriate bodies, especially in relation to grades, online classes, and the financial strains students are going through.

Kamy Roberge Carrington

### Constituency Report

My goal during this time has been to make myself available for constituents through social media.

I have sat on three hiring panels from distance using zoom; these include hiring for house accounts coordinator, O'Regan HP and VP positions, and O-crew co-chair positions.

BLACC society will be completing hiring for the collective this upcoming week. We will be conducting interviews through zoom.

### **Science Representative**

**Daniel Winters**

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Hey everyone, hope everyone is doing okay and is safe. I have been at home in Halifax as of recently. I've had a couple important Emergency Grants Committee meetings where we have been helping out many different students. Within my constituency there have been quite a lot of problems moving to an online format of classes. If anyone needs to contact me for whatever reason necessary, or just wants someone to talk to, my cell number is 9022097409 and my email is [danielwinters90@gmail.com](mailto:danielwinters90@gmail.com).





# STFX STUDENTS' UNION FOR STUDENTS, BY STUDENTS

BLOOMFIELD CENTER  
5555 UNION PLACE  
ANTIGONISH, NS  
B2G 2W5

Name: Cecil VanBuskirk - President

To: STFX Student Union Members

Re: Report: March, 2020

## Committees:

**Finance Committee:** On March 19<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, the University's budget committee met to discuss the repayment of residence and meal hall fees, and other issues that the Covid 19 pandemic has caused the University. After discussing options, the Finance Committee has made a recommendation to the Executive Committee of the Board for their approval.

**Executive Committee:** Due to the recent events of Covid 19, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors met on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the University's plans to adapt, and approved the refund of residence fees and meal hall fees.

**Covid 19 Steering Committee:** Beginning on March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Covid 19 steering committee has met 3 times weekly. This committee was created to help advise the University administration on how each department on campus are adapting to the crisis. Through this committee Emma Kuzmyk and I have brought up concerns of academics, residence and meal along with all other issues students are facing due to Covid 19. The work of this committee has been fast, and effective but much more work is to be done!

**CASA Governance and Internal Review Committee:** In preparation for the last plenary of the year, the GIRC committee met on March 17, to further our conversations about comments and changes on the Operations and Procedures manual. These changes were brought to the board for their acceptance and implementation. If you are interested in seeing the current governance documents or policies of CASA, or have any questions or comments please email them to [su\\_pres@stfx.ca](mailto:su_pres@stfx.ca)!

**Students NS Governance Committee:** On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Students' NS governance committee met to finalize our progress on our delegated policies for the Board meeting in late March. The committee also met to review the Executive Directors review process and adapt it according to the most recent needs on the Board.

### **Internal:**

**Nimbus Peer Tutoring App:** Over the month of March, the Student Success Centre, Nimbus and I have been meeting regularly to discuss how to adapt the delivery of Nimbus Peer Tutoring because of the effects of Covid 19. Nimbus has chosen to deliver the same services but virtually, offering tutors and students the opportunity to connect via their devices. Though these developments are being released throughout April, it will be just in time for students to get the help they need before their exams.

**Consultation Agreement:** Due to the recent events of Covid 19, the signing of the consultation agreement was unable to happen in person. In the early weeks of April, Mr. Beckett, Dr. Wamsley and Patrick Wallace will be signing the Consultation agreement over email. If you have any questions around the consultation agreement please send them to [su\\_pres@stfx.ca](mailto:su_pres@stfx.ca).

**Women in Business Conference:** On the weekend of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> I had the opportunity to represent the U by being a delegate at the Schwartz Women in Business conference. I had the opportunity to meet different delegates in the Schwartz Business school, and understand the issues they face on campus, but also attend informative lessons on how to create an increasingly positive environment in the workplace that Women can thrive in.

**Covid 19:** Since March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Students' Union executives and I have been hard at work meeting 3 times a week to adapt to the quickly changing developments of Covid 19. With the goal of keeping our students safe on campus and off, we have adapted our business model to keep the Student Food Resource Centre open but all other business facets closed. Where possible, we have asked the executives and full time staff to respect the province's requirement of social distancing and work from home. If you would like more details around all of our efforts due to Covid 19 and how we are supporting students please reach out at [su\\_pres@stfx.ca](mailto:su_pres@stfx.ca).

### **External:**

**Students NS:** Due to the events of Covid 19, Students Nova Scotia has to postpone their Transition's conference on March 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> to adhere to social distancing protocols by the province. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Board of SNS met to discuss the work of the Governance committee and Executive Director Performance. In April we will be finishing this work, and concluding the term with our transitions conference over Zoom.

**CASA:** CASA's last plenary occurred over Zoom on March 31<sup>st</sup> to approve the new Aboriginal Student's advisory board and other governance documents. Because it was our last meeting as a board we discussed transitioning our incoming executives to CASA and where to direct questions. I have been very thankful to work with CASA and all the other schools this year. I know Sarah and I benefitted greatly from being able to reach out to other schools that we met through CASA to discuss what they are doing especially in light of Covid 19. What a great organization! Thank you CASA!

What do you think about our efforts to this point? What would you do differently?

I would love to hear your feedback! Please send me an email, text, or give me a call!

Sincerely,

Cecil VanBuskirk



StFX Students' Union  
For Students, By Students.

BLOOMFIELD CENTER  
5555 UNION PLACE  
ANTIGONISH, NS  
B2G 2W5

## *Office of the* **Vice President of Academic Affairs**

**Name:** Emma Kuzmyk  
**To:** StFX Student Council  
**Re:** Report to Council (March)

### **Committees**

**Governance Review Committee:** The Governance Review Committee has been meeting every Wednesday of the month, and has been focussed on the draft of the By-laws, and the new council and executive structures.

**Senate:** The University Senate met on March 2nd. During this meeting there were reports from multiple Senate committees, and motions from the Dean of Arts and the Dean of Science.

**Advancing Women's Equality Committee:** This committee met virtually on March 26th and discussed the end of the AWE project. Time was spent reflecting on the 3 year project's beginnings and how far it has come.


**COVID-19 Steering Committee:** This committee has been meeting frequently to discuss the University's response to Covid-19. The President of the Union sits on this committee regularly, and I joined the meetings on March 13th and 27th.

**Senate Steering Committee:** This committee met virtually on March 18th and discussed the best way for Senate to proceed during the current crisis.

**McKenna Centre Advisory Committee:** This committee has been communicating steadily via email and has recently made the decision to award micro-grants for student projects.



StFX Students' Union  
For Students, By Students.



### **Internal Affairs**

Prior to this month's Senate meeting I organized a facilitated a Pre-Senate meeting with the Student Senators, where we were able to discuss the agenda and any of our concerns and expectations in advance, which allowed us to be better prepared for the meeting.

On March 3rd I met with Dean of Arts, Karen Brebner, to discuss best practices and ideas when dealing with sensitive matters in the classroom.

For the month of March the VP Activities and Events and I had plans for "Mental Health March". We had plans for events to occur throughout the entirety of the month but due to the current global pandemic the majority of these events had to be cancelled. We were able to move forwards with "Flower Fridays" for the first two weeks of the month but those had to be cancelled as well.

On March 3rd the executive team met with Gallivan, our Health Providers, over lunch to discuss our partnership.

On March 9th I was asked to speak at the International Women's Day March, which went quite well and had a great turnout from the community.

Since March 13th the executive team has been meeting frequently to discuss updates in regards to the Covid-19 crisis and how The U will be responding.

There have been multiple Budget and Finance Meetings to discuss the Budget for the upcoming year.

### **External Affairs**

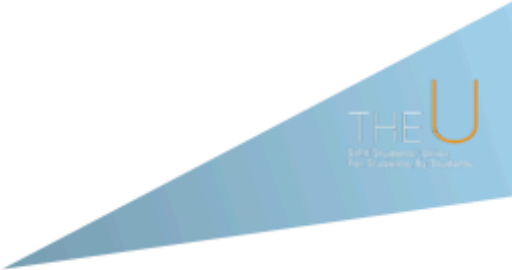
I have been participating in video calls related to the national Courage to Act project, and discussing with people across the province best practices when it comes to transferring in-person services to ones that can be done virtually.

More information about this project can be found at [courage.toact.ca](https://courage.toact.ca)



If you have any questions or concerns about my report please don't hesitate to reach out,

Emma Kuzmyk  
VP Academic Affairs  
E: [su\\_academic@stfx.ca](mailto:su_academic@stfx.ca)  
P: (902) 867-2411



THEU  
Trinity University  
of the  
United States

## **Missing Reports**

**Patrick Wallace Vice President Finance and Operations**

**Natalie Doumkos Vice President Activities and Events**

**Siobhan Lacey Vice President Residence Affairs**

**Sarah Elliott Vice President External Affairs**

**Johanna Gates Business Representative**

**William Burgess Graduate Representative**

**Marc Sgro Arts Representative**