

Council Package — February 6th, 2022

Prepared by: Deputy Chair of Council – Rebecca Cano

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Agenda of February 6th Council Meeting

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Council Minutes — January 16th, 2022

Prepared by: Acting Chair of Council – Rebecca Cano

Students' Union Representative Council Meeting

January 16th 2022, 3:05 pm ADT

Online via Microsoft Teams

Call to Order

Rebecca: Meeting called to order at time 3:04 pm ADT.

Roll Call

Equity Student Representative – Tiffany Bondoc

Arts Student Representative – Margaret-Anne Gillis

Science Student Representative – Mackenzie LeVernois

Business Student Representative – Hunter Park

International Student Representative – Derin Deric

Indigenous Student Representative – Sierra Julian

President – Jack Irvin

Vice President Academic – Meredith Cudmore-Keating

Vice President Finance and Operations – Brendan Roberts

Vice President Residence Affairs – Sophia Fabiano

Vice President External Affairs – Ben Fairhurst

Board of Governors Student Representative – Anna Hancin

Vice President Activities and Events – Kyra Tessier

Student's Union General Manager – Sean Ryan

Absent With Regret

Students of African Descent Representative – Atik Gailo

Board of Governors Student Representative – Dhruv Patel

Education Student Representative – Tianna Williams

First-Year Representative – Josh Kroker

Indigenous Student Representative – Molly Burke

Late With Regret

Faculty Advisor – Brandon Malloy

Mi'kmaq Land Acknowledgement

Rebecca: I would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources but in fact, recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) titles and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

Opening Remarks of the Chair

Rebecca: Hey y'all! Welcome to my first council. Thank you for being here today!

Approval of the Agenda

Jack: Motion to approve the agenda.

McKenzie: I second.

No Discussion.

Meredith: Can I ask for a friendly Ammendement for a motion in New Business to be added to the agenda for REES MoU Approval.

Naomi: The Chair of Council would look positively upon a motion to make a friendly amendment to add a REES MoU Approval to New Business.

Anna: I motion to make a friendly amendment.

No discussion.

Tiffany: I motion to call the question.

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of November 28th Council

MacKenzie: Motion to approve the minutes.

Tiffany: I second.

No Discussion.

McKenzie: I motion to call the question.

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Constituency Reports

There are no Constituency Reports.

Executive Reports

There are no Executive Reports.

General Manager Report

There is no General Manager Report.

Special Reports to Council

REES MoU Draft Presentation by VP Academic Meredith Cudmore-Keating

No Discussion.

Ad Hoc Committee Presentation by President Jack Irvin

No Discussion.

New Business

Meredith: I motion to approve the REES MoU.

Tiffany: I second.

MacKenzie: I call to question.

Motion passes unanimously.

Jack: I motion to approve the Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

McKenzie: I second.

Tiffany: I call to question.

Motion passes unanimously

Closing Remarks

Rebecca: Thank you all for coming and sorry for a bumpy council! Remember to promote voting in the General Election!!

Adjournment

Tiffany: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 pm ADT.

MacKenzie: I second.

Motion passes unanimously.

Rebecca: Meeting Adjourned.

Constituency Reports

Equity Student Representative – Tiffany Bondoc

Dean of Science Search Committee: Over the past few weeks, the committee has conducted virtual visits of the top 3 candidates, held meetings to deliberate on the candidate best suited for the position, and put forth a name to President Dr. Hakin.

Equity Committee: Nothing new to report.

Equity Advisory Committee: On Jan 19th, we had a meeting to discuss the President's Action Committee on Anti-Racism (PACAR) and the implementation of a self identification system.

External Advisory Committee: Nothing new to report.

Other business: Nothing new to report.

Arts Student Representative – Margaret-Anne Gillis

Councillor:

Governance Review – Continuing to edit and revise to Annual Giving's and Social Media policies. Met Friday Jan. 21st to review the Annual Giving's policy and Awards policy as a group and got lots of great feedback. Making revisions to policies before we meet again.

COS (Arts) – Met on Monday Jan. 24th via Teams to review a series of course proposals from the departments of English and Sociology. We will meet again on Thursday Feb. 10th to continue our discussion.

QOL Committee – Met on Monday Jan. 24th to review a summary of emerging priority items and recommendations made following the campus-wide consultation process.

JCS – nothing to report.

Performance Review Committee – nothing to report.

Senate:

- Upcoming meeting on February 8th, 2022, to approve course proposals from the Faculties of Science and Arts

Science Student Representative – Mackenzie LeVernois

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy second semester. Congrats to the election team for a successful General Election! Woohoo

Position Business:

- Org Review – Working on questions for Student Satisfaction Survey
- Office hours every Wednesday 1pm-4pm

Senate:

- Senate meeting in December to discuss return to campus dates
- Senate in January – course approvals and discussion on Earth Science proposal
- FOS COS met last week. Could not attend.
- Next Senate meeting is Tuesday February 8th

International Student Representative – Derin Deric

- Figuring out times for the equity committee meeting
- Had meeting with new international student coordinator
- Will have meeting with ISS
- Dialogue volunteer

Students of African Descent Representative – Atik Gailo

Position Business:

- Equity committee: figuring out when next to meet
- Campus affairs: N/a
- Performance review : n/a

Other Business

- Configuring collaboration with black student advising for black history month

Board of Governors Student Representative – Dhruv Patel

Hello everyone, I hope you all are doing great. Before we start I want to greet everyone a happy lunar new year. This is the year of tiger which symbolizes peace and prosperity.

Business related to position: It is important to note that because of the campaign I was on the leave until January 29th, 2022. However, there has been significant business in the last week itself. I reached out to Jack Irving and Anna Hancin for sustainable campus initiatives. I am supposed to meet with ALPCA (Antigonish League of People for Climate Actions) on Saturday February 25th, 2022 to discuss about their plans and to see if there is a possibility where we can get to understand student perspective on sustainability. Additionally, I had the meeting for Advancement and External Relations with Board of Governors on 31st January, 2022.

Furthermore, on February 1st, 2022 I met with Jack Irving to plan the way forward with our Board Of Governors Advocacy Piece. On February 1st, I reached to the new International Students Advisor Lubana Abdool Rehman, and Larissa Strong from Office Of Internationalization for discussing the advocacy piece for the support of International Students.

Other Business: I want to thank everyone especially the Returning Officers and deputy chair for an amazing elections season. I also wanted to congratulate the new elected representatives of the council and wish them all the best for a fantastic year ahead.

Education Student Representative – Tianna Williams

Executive elections are in full swing, and Exec is trying to make the transition back into in-person classes. There has been a lot of worry around faculty, staff and students with the COVID-19 campus rules and regulations. Office hours have resumed on Wednesdays from

10am-1pm in Xavier Hall 123. I have been amping up my social media communications about what my position is and how I am here for my constituents during this stressful time.

Committee Work – Nothing to Report

Panels – Nothing to Report

Senate – Nothing to Report

Other Business: No Other Business

First-Year Representative – Josh Kroker

- I attended House Hockey Committee meetings.
 - The proposed plans for House Hockey are no longer current due to the delay in having students return to campus.
- I'm connecting with relevant stakeholders to execute my Olympic agenda for campus.
 - The approach for celebrating the Olympics and your team at StFX is more of a "steering the boat" initiative. I'll be reaching out to Sodexo and other stakeholders so we can celebrate the Olympics without having it funded by the SU.
- I created a first-year consultation group of about ten members.
- I launched a survey for first-year students on whether they preferred online or in-person final exams. Over two-thirds of first-year students preferred online exams for final exams given the outbreak.
- Students contacted me about wanting reimbursement for university fees given the forced absence from campus from December 12, 2021, until January 31, 2022.
- Some students are frustrated with the new residence rules and would like a preview of what the rules will look like for the coming weeks.

Indigenous Student Representatives – Molly Burke and Sierra Julian

Position Business:

- We have been meeting with the Indigenous Society (as well as being active members of it) to plan a week long campaign to commemorate murdered and missing Indigenous women. This will include button making, a documentary and poster making that can be hung around campus.
- We have also been organizing a welcome basket for Indigenous students coming back to campus. This will include items for better mental health as well as items to help with academic success.

Other Business:

- Molly attended a meeting with librarians of the Angus L. Macdonald library to go over the document that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) presented to the Canadian Federation of Library Association (CFLA). This was in hopes of implementing these recommendations to the best of the library's ability.

Anna Hancin- Board of Governors Representative

Board of Governors Business:

Emergency Grants Committee: We continue to meet weekly to review applications.

Board of Governors: Jack and I met with Andrew Beckett and Andy Hakin to discuss board structure and size. Additionally, there is an upcoming BoG meeting on February 17th.

Executive Reports

President - Jack Irvin

Internal (to portfolio):

December/January: Throughout the end of December and January, Mer and I met a lot with Elizabeth Yeo and Tim Hynes to talk about the examination period in December and January as well as what the academic term was going to look like. We advocated for specific changes to be made or added to the plans, one example being study days at the start of the January examination period and keeping the reading week for second semester. Beyond here, we met with Elizabeth about the return to campus plan a few times before coming back and gave an idea of how students were feeling with the return. I received a lot of media requests during this time period and took a lot of interviews representing the Students' Union and the student voice.

General Election/New Positions/Open House: The general election took place during this reporting period and we officially have our newly electing incoming President, VP Academic, and Board of Governors Reps. Congratulations to all elected. We have now opened up applications for all hired executive member positions so if you are interested go apply! Feel free to reach out to any executive member or myself if you would like to learn more about what an executive member does. We are looking to host an open house early next week so keep your eyes peeled and please share if you see it on social media!

Board of Governors (BoG): BoG is meeting this next reporting period. Anna and I met with Andrew and Andy to talk about the upcoming BoG meeting to give us additional information. Anna, Dhruv and I will be meeting in the coming week to prepare any advocacy we are looking to accomplish during this next BoG meeting.

Students Nova Scotia (SNS): SNS is starting back up and Ben (Chair of SNS) and Lydia (Director of SNS) have been meeting over the last reporting period with different government officials continuing to advocate on different recommendations we made during our advocacy week. They are doing an excellent job and I am very excited to see what they will continue to accomplish.

Membership Committee: The membership committee met to talk about our annual plan and what we needed to finish before the end of our term. We are making excellent progress and are beginning our final items which we can hopefully all finish before the end of term.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA): Ben and I have begun preparation for our virtual advocacy week with CASA which is taking place February 13th-19th. During this time, we will be out of office and will be virtually being trained on a new advocacy document on student issues that we will be presenting throughout the week to Federal officials. We will share these advocacy points with council after our week of advocacy.

Membership Committee: I sit on the membership for CASA and we met during this reporting period to talk about our annual plan. We are continuing to ensure that membership is being consulted enough from the board. We are also planning virtual events to increase membership socialization and ensure people are comfortable with each other.

External (to portfolio):

StFXAUT Interview: I met with the communications officer from the StFXAUT to talk about the impact of COVID-19 on students. It went well and I spoke of the differences we have seen since the beginning of the pandemic with the first academic year compared to the current academic year.

Substances/Harms Reduction: I met with Laara (RLC) to talk about substances on campus and looking at better ways to approach harms reduction education for students. I talked about what I have seen over my 5 years at StFX; specifically in residence and specific programming I have used that worked effectively in the past.

Proactive Planning HOCO: A new group has formed to begin planning for HOCO 2022. The goal of the group is to be able to provide fun, safe programming for alumni and students to ensure a great HOCO. Small groups have been formed to tackle some ideas from our brainstorming session.

Committees:

Communications Task Force: Did not meet during this reporting period.

X-Ring Committee: Not meeting for the remainder of the semester.

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

Town and County Update: Met a couple times this reporting period. The University shared the return to campus plan with the Town and County to be transparent and take feedback. Conversation also begun around HOCO 2022 and what we could change to make it better for all parties.

Joint Occupational Health & Safety Committee: Met once during this reporting period. Talked about the new scent awareness program, fume hoods, building inspections, a Violence in the Workplace Policy, a nighttime lighting audit, and new COVID update for any concerns on campus.

Org Review: We met twice during this reporting period. We are currently going through the results of the student satisfaction survey and are developing and editing questions for this year's survey. Everybody has been given a few topics to cover.

Sub-Executive:

N/A

Outreach: During the COVID outbreak we put out a student wellness survey to hear how students were doing and what we should be advocating for moving forward. We received approximately 850 responses overnight which gave us a good idea about how the student body was doing and what they needed.

Vice President Activities and Events - Kyra Tessier

Internal (to portfolio):

- Inn Meetings
 - o Continue meeting weekly with Shawn and Inn management staff to discuss the Inn
- Marketing Meetings
 - o Meet to discuss marketing strategies and what is going out and when
 - o Took on a larger role with marketing, working with the team for the Inn marketing
- Executive Meetings
 - o Updates and agenda items to discuss as an exec team
- Frost Week
 - o Had to postpone/cancel events due to covid, looking to revisit it when things improve (hopefully)
- HOCO 2022 Meetings
 - o Meeting to discuss what HOCO 2022 will look like
 - o Working on a smaller committee to look into what other universities do who have successful student turnout on campus on homecoming
- First year events brainstorm
 - o Looking to improve event options for first years, hoping to engage them more in dry events on campus
- The Inn
 - o Meetings to brainstorm strategies for engagement on Instagram and have higher turnout from younger years
 - o A safe space for first years to hangout and participate in dry events
- Exec Meetings
 - o Reoccurring meetings with the executive team
- House Hockey
 - o Sitting in meetings with exec university admin to discuss house hockey and its potential
 - o Helping with Covid Logistics
- Societies
 - o Meeting with Anna to discuss the society ratification process and how we can improve it

External (to portfolio):

- COCA (Canadian Organization of Campus Activities):
 - o Rewriting and approving policy
 - o Meeting virtually to discuss membership outreach to different schools
 - o In-person board meeting in February
 - o Discussing the national conference and figuring out logistics of

- AVP Candidate Meet and Greet

Committees:

- SOC:
 - o Not currently meeting
- Equity Committee:
 - o Just looking for a new time to meet this semester – nothing new to report yet
- ERC :
 - o Weekly meetings to review events across campus

Sub-Executives:

- Society Coordinator:
 - o Discussing a second society fair for Frost Week – whenever that may be now
- O-Crew Co-Chairs
 - o Still being awesome

Outreach:

- o Nothing to report currently

Vice President Residence Affairs - Sophia Fabiano

Internal (to portfolio):

- I have been having meetings weekly with Elizabeth Yeo, Meredith Cudmore - Keating (VPA) and Jack Irvin (President) about updates from The U and the Student Life Office.
- I have been attending weekly Executive Meetings with the other Executives.
- I met with Jacqueline DeLeebeck to talk about updates from Student Life
 - I met with Kyra Tessier (VP Activities and Events) to chat about possible events surrounding House Hockey in March
- House Hockey:
 - We met twice in January with the House Hockey Committee but have now decided to hold on further meetings as we have been able to hear all the concerns from various campus stakeholders and are now working on addressing these concerns before returning to the committee
 - I submitted the first round of ERCs for the games themselves and are waiting on the comments from ERC committee
- Residence Renewal
 - We are still waiting to hear from the consultants on their final report from the consultation process
 - I launched the Good Xaverian Cup, a charity based house cup that promotes charity, outreach and COVID safe events
 - Brooke Petigrew has stepped down as the SUCL of Riley Hall
 - The job posting has been opened for a new Riley Hall SUCL and will close on February 16th.

External (to portfolio):

- I met with Sean Ryan, Kyra and Meredith about first year events at the Inn for this semester

Committees:

- Res Renewal Advisory: Did not meet during this period
- FSLC: Did not meet during this period
- SOC: nothing to report
- Campus Affairs: Did not meet during this reporting period. We will look to meeting during the next reporting period
- House Hockey Committee: House Hockey Committee met twice just before this reporting period

Sub-executive:

- House Council Coordinator: Broden and I have met over this period to talk about this upcoming semester
- SUCL's: SUCL check-ins are set to start next week
- Student Advocates: Advocates are taking new appointments and are prepared for this semester

Outreach:

- Nothing to report this reporting period

Vice President External - Ben Fairhurst

Internal To Portfolio

- StudentsNS Membership: Been working towards expanding the existing membership of the organization through meetings with other student associations at post-secondary institutions around the province
- Continuation of Provincial Advocacy: After successfully holding our advocacy week at the end of the fall semester, we are now reviewing the feedback and reactions we got from government. We've identified certain key advances on different issues so we will continue working with stakeholders to make our recommendations a reality.
- Meeting with the Minister of Labour, Skills and Immigration: Myself and the ED of SNS met with the Minister, her special adviser and deputy minister to take them through our recommendations for government. We focused our conversation on international MSI, work integrated learning opportunities, post-graduation jobs, and increases in financial support.
- Housing White Paper: StudentsNS recently created a paper of current concerns and recommendations to include in the creation of the student housing strategy mentioned by the provincial government last semester. This paper to government will help guide their implementation of a student housing strategy. We also collaborated with all of the university presidents on a housing paper, which demonstrates how both institutions and students want to see more affordable housing.

- Good Neighbours Committee: Met up with this committee to discuss the return to campus and how the town and university can work to make the transition comfortable for students.
- Legislature Appearance: I have been invited to appear before the standing committee on Human Resources in the Nova Scotia legislature to discuss affordability for post-secondary students post-covid. This will take a continued amount of work until Feb. 22nd.
- CASA Advocacy Week: Jack and I have been preparing for some federal advocacy going down the week after next! We have a new advocacy document built on the recommendations of schools around the country and we will be meeting with members of parliament to discuss.

External To Portfolio

- AVP Meet and Greet: Planning questions for our meet and greet with the candidates for StFX's next AVP.
- OER Grant Presentation: Working with Mere to propose a new OER grant program at StFX. We will be presenting to members of the administration.
- VP Finance and Administration Hiring Committee: I've been nominated to this hiring committee and can't wait to see what candidates are put forward for the role. I'll be trying to channel the student voice in my opinions on who to put forward in the future.

Sub-Executives

- Evan and I are working towards creating policy documents on the main student issues that we targeted this year within the External Affairs portfolio. These will go towards informing future external affairs work within The U.

Vice President Finance and Operations - Brendan Roberts

Internal (to portfolio):

Kevin's Corner Food Resource Centre:

Project Complete:

- The Food Resource Centre has officially been fully moved into the SUB and has been renamed as the Kevins Corner Food Resource Centre, after the late Kevin Fraser who was an employee of Sodexo and who had a passion for ensuring better food security for students.
- The center is now fully operational in its new space on the second floor of Bloomfield.
- Monday – Friday: 12:00PM – 6:00PM
- Thursdays: 7:00 – 10:00PM (to accommodate the shipments that are received during the daytime)

Winter Break Food Box Program

- Post covid outbreak, this service was set up to ensure that students who were in isolation had access to healthy food. The program supported over 350 people's worth of food.

McKenna Centre / Kevins Corner Collaboration

- The McKenna Centre Assistants reached out to Kali Beaton and I regarding potentially working together on an initiative this semester and after discussion, came to the conclusion that a clothing/winter wear drive would be useful.

- Especially with winters in Nova Scotia being as unpredictable as we all know they can be, we want to ensure that people have access to warm clothing.
- This event/program will likely run the week of the 14th.

GXI and Bloomfield Renovation:

- Phase One of the Bloomfield renovation is officially completed with the addition of a convenience store, and the transition of Kevins Corner into the SUB.

Convenience 4 U:

- The store is now open as of this past week and is running on new hours.
- We are always interested in adding new products to the current inventory, and if you or someone you know has any ideas, feel free to reach out to me, or use the suggestion box located at the cash.

Drive U:

- Drive U was unable to start operations along with the other services this semester due to some maintenance/damages that need to be addressed. It is currently undergoing some work and will hopefully be back up and running within the next week.

Health and Dental Plan:

- Following meetings between SU employees and representatives from Gallivan, our health services provider, we will be taking part in a trial run for one of their new services, a virtual healthcare center. This program would allow people who are registered on the plan to book online appointments with licensed practitioners who are even able to prescribe drugs (provided that they do not require an in-person consultation in order to do so).
- A couple students (some on the Health and Dental plan committee and some not) will be partaking in this trial over the course of the next few weeks/months.

External (to portfolio):

Committees:

Emergency Grants Committee:

- The recent outbreak put some stress on this program as many students were required to isolate which prevented many from working and making finances more stressful than they often already are. Thus far, the committee has reviewed nearly 120 applications, with over 50% being submitted after the outbreak occurred.
- In order to become more efficient at reviewing these requests, especially during the busiest of times which is often when students require quicker answers, our team will be reassessing our current policies and practices to ensure that we are providing the best support to those students who need it.

Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC):

- This committee has been heavily focused on the scent awareness campaign which some of you may have noticed. The second biggest topic of discussion was the current state of campus, both in terms of it being winter and the current covid situation.

Org Review:

- Until now, the Org Review committee has spent time reviewing the data collected in the past years' Student Satisfaction Survey, and what that data means. We are now in the process of dividing up the sections of the survey to the various members and

reworking/editing/clarifying any of the questions to ensure that the survey this year captures the information we need to make educated decisions on behalf of the students we represent.

Budget and Finance Committee

Society Allocations:

- We have reviewed 12 applications this year however the budget still has over half remaining.
- Updates were given regarding various budget reallocations made throughout the past couple of months to support some of our programs and services that saw some stress due to the outbreak on campus.

Sub-executive:

Senior Drive U: Sarah Ritchie

- Nothing to report

House Accounts Coordinator: Sam Delaney

- Nothing to report

Kevins Corner Food Resource Centre Coordinator: Kali Beaton

- Kali set the volunteer schedule for the year which saw an overwhelming amount of support. So much so that an "on call" group list was created.
- Kali suggested working on a clothing drive and potentially getting involved with the McKenna Centre to increase participation and support.

SFRC Garden Coordinator: Kali Beaton

- Nothing to report

Peer Support Program Coordinators: Natalina Malandrino and Hannah James

- Nothing to report.

Convenience For U Store Manager: Selena Landry

- The stores operations manual is essentially completed with various task descriptions and how to use different equipment in the store.
- She has set the hours for the upcoming semester however, given some scheduling issues we had to put out a call for resumes to fill 2 shifts, we received lots of engagement.

Appendices

Please see all appendix items below in the email thread along with this Council Package, or contact su_dc@stfx.ca to request to view an appendix item.

1. OER Proposal Draft