

Council Minutes — March 27th, 2022

Prepared by: Deputy Chair of Council – Rebecca Cano

## Students' Union Representative Council Meeting

March 27th, 2022, pm ADT

StFX Students' Union Council Chambers

### Call to Order

Naomi: Meeting called to order at time 3:17 pm ADT.

### Roll Call

Equity Student Representative – Tiffany Bondoc

Arts Student Representative – Margaret-Anne Gillis

Students of African Descent Representative – Atik Gailo

Board of Governors Student Representative – Dhruv Patel

Science Student Representative – Mackenzie LeVernois

First-Year Representative – Josh Kroker

Business Student Representative – Hunter Park (online)

Board of Governors Student Representative – Anna Hancin

International Student Representative – Derin Deric

Vice President Activities and Events – Kyra Tessier

Faculty Advisor – Brandon Malloy

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

Student's Union General Manager – Sean Ryan

Deputy Chair of Council – Rebecca Cano

### **Absent With Regret**

Indigenous Student Representative – Sierra Julian

Indigenous Student Representative – Molly Burke

President – Jack Irvin

Education Student Representative – Tianna Williams

## Mi'kmaq Land Acknowledgement

Naomi: 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

Naomi: I call this meeting to order at 3:02 pm. Lets do this think I guess

## Approval of the Agenda

Josh: I motion to approve the agenda.

Margaret-Anne: I second.

*No Discussion.*

MacKenzie: I call to question.

*Motion Passes Unanimously.*

## Approval of the Minutes of March 6th Council

Josh: Motion to approve the minutes.

Anna: I second.

*No Discussion.*

MacKenzie: I call to question.

*Motion Passes Unanimously.*

## Constituency Reports

Please see the March 6th Council Package for Constituency Reports. Below is any discussion regarding Constituency Reports.

### **International Student Representative - Derin Deric**

*Discussion:*

Dhruv: Did you talk to the International Office at all?

Derin: Not yet, but I plan on talking with them soon about the problems regarding the expenses international students experience due to the late and unannounced changes to the graduation ceremony.

## Executive Reports

Please see the March 6th Council Package for Executive Reports. Below is any discussion regarding Executive Reports and also Brendan Roberts and Kyra Tessier's Executive Reports. Jack Irvin did not have a report this period.

### **Vice President Finance and Operations – Brendan Roberts**

*Internal (to portfolio):*

Kevin's Corner Food Resource Centre:

- General Operations:
  - o The Centre is operating at a normal capacity and the only ongoing project is finding an appropriate location for the breakfast program. Due to the heavy foot traffic in the morning outside the front of Mulroney, this is the current location we are thinking of setting up at.
- Stuff DriveU Fundraiser:
  - o Kali organized a fundraiser located outside Sobeys with the intent of collecting donations in order to stuff DriveU. This event yielded a large amount of food donations, as well as over \$850 in cash donations.

GXI and Bloomfield Renovation:

- A working group has been established with the hope of providing direction for the renovation in the coming months. We hope to address some minor concerns with regard to the initial plans presented by the architects. As we move into the next academic year, we will be finalizing these plans with the hopes of starting construction by May 2023.

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.
- We are currently looking at different options in terms of summer opportunities with regards to staying open and hiring individuals to work.

Drive U:

- Drive U is operating at normal capacity during normal hours.

Health and Dental Plan:

- After receiving an update from Mary-Catherine at Gallivan, our health and dental plan for the upcoming year will likely not require a fee increase which is great news. Over the next few weeks and months myself, Sam Delaney, Sean Ryan and Julieanne Mattie will coordinate

with the Health and Dental Plan Committee and Gallivan to work out if there will be any changes in terms of benefits.

**Budget:**

· The budget is nearing completion after numerous consultation meetings and adjustments. As we approach its presentation, I encourage anyone with questions or comments with regards to the budgetary process, I would be more than happy to answer them.

*External (to portfolio):*

**Transitions:**

Outside of my normal duties I have been working hard (as the rest of the team has) to ensure a smooth transition between the next executive team and the current one. Over the past few weeks and until the end of the month I have and will work to ensure that I am properly transitioned into the role of President, and that Sam Delaney is properly prepared for the role of VP-Finance and Operations.

*Committees:*

Have sat this reporting period:

**Emergency Grants Committee:**

· We received another substantial monetary donation from the university to assist our program until the end of the fiscal year. This additional donation was provided with a recommended maximum grant of \$250 per student application. This restriction is to ensure that students who need funds immediately for an emergency situation are able to do so, but that for long-term financial sustainability, prioritizing usage of the resources that the Financial Aid Office has.

**Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC):**

· Over the past few weeks, this committee has been conducting building inspections in all buildings on campus to ensure that they are deemed safe by the committee, and that certain tests/maintenance work are/is being done. Jack Irvin, Sam Delaney, and myself conducted an inspection with Laurie Reid (Manager, Occupational Health and Safety) on the Bloomfield Centre. There were no major areas of concern and any that we did make note of will be brought to the attention of risk management who will determine the appropriate steps forward.

· The forementioned names will also be conducting an external lighting audit of the premises surrounding the Bloomfield centre.

**Budget and Finance Committee**

· Society Allocations:

o We continue to review society allocations and are just over halfway through the budget, as the year comes to a close we can expect the number of applications to increase.

### University Budget Committee

· A number of these committee meetings have been held over the past reporting period. We were brought into the loop in terms of next year's budget, as well as looking at multi-year financial forecasts.

### Health and Dental Plan Committee

· We have met several times over the course of the past weeks with regard to a number of agenda items. Primarily, we discussed and are working to address concerns brought before the committee by employees of the Office of Internationalization to ensure that the international health plan is accessible and works well for our students.

· The committee also discussed the online health care support system that members were utilizing on a trial basis to evaluate whether or not this service would be something that we as a SU would like to bring onto our own health plan.

· Both of these topics are still ongoing and will be worked on over the coming weeks.

Have not sat this reporting period:

Bloomfield Centre Committee

Food Sustainability/Kevin's Corner

Org Review

### *Sub-executive:*

· Senior Drive U: Sarah Ritchie

o Nothing to report

· House Accounts Coordinator: Sam Delaney

o Nothing to report

· Kevins Corner Food Resource Centre Coordinator: Kali Beaton

o Kali took the lead on organizing the most recent fundraiser/food drive which yielded over \$850 in cash donations and more than 12 large boxes of food donations.

· SFRC Garden Coordinator: Kali Beaton

o Nothing to report

· Peer Support Program Coordinators: Natalina Malandrino and Hannah James

o Nothing to report.

· Convenience For U Store Manager: Selena Landry

o Selena has been working with the rest of the management team to determine the process for the end of the year and how we will ensure that our stock is sold off by the time we close for the academic year, while maintaining the wants of students.

o We are also working closely to determine if opening in the summer would bring in profit and if so what the best operating times would be.

### **Vice President Activities and Events - Kyra Tessier**

- Working on logistics on SU Awards committee
- Marketing meetings
- Updates on restrictions with Golden X Inn
- Meeting with SUCLs to help use up their budgets
- Meeting with COCA, the national conference is in June
- Cancelling graduation events I had planned
- In practicum right now, so my office hours have changed!

## General Manager Report

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

- Hello
- Great week for the Inn! Full capacity and no masks! Still working on how to remove the lineup in the SUB building, we are trying to figure out how to use OpenTable
- Julieanne and the full-time staff are planning our national conference
- Job applications close tomorrow for sub executive positions!
- University is asking users to pay a lot of things
- Shawn and Kyra are planning events for that
- Alex and Renee have been doing a fantastic job with Marketing
- SU Awards nominations close tomorrow at noon!
- Scholarships and Bursaries webpage is on the go and getting ready!
- We need more detail for the ERC forms!
- University budget meeting, they are in a big deficit, they want more international students.

## Faculty Advisory Report

### **Faculty Advisory Report – Brandon Malloy**

- Met with Meredith, Sean and Alex regarding webpage for scholarships and bursaries
- Got feedback from some positive program heads!
- External and Internal jobs are also going to hopefully be on that webpage.
- Our tentative goal is to have the webpage ready by the end of the semester.

*Discussion:*

Ben: Do you think we can put out a temporary webpage that can just be added onto?

Brandon: Yes, that's a good goal to have! And I think SU networking would be really effective as well. Once we met again, we will be able to unleash some stuff!

Sean: We can even do somewhat of a presentation at the next council too for a summary of our work.

## Special Reports to Council

### **Presentation of Residence Renewal Plan Response by Sophia Fabiano**

#### *MAIN RESPONSE POINTS TO THE UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE RENEWAL PLAN:*

1. The importance of hiring, training and recruitment must supersede the residence structure.
2. The reporting structure of House Councils to Residence Life would reduce its effectiveness in programming and reaching students.
  - a. Relationship building alongside the disciplinary role of CAs (and other Residence Life staff)
3. The Consultation Process
4. This structure maintains a similar role distribution for CAs and O-Crew during Orientation Week as in 2021, and this role distribution was too burdensome on those students and unfair to ask of them.

#### *ASKS FROM THEU TO THE UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE RENEWAL PLAN:*

1. Recognize Student Union Community Leaders in the renewal proposal and any future documents pertaining to the project.
2. The Student's Union would write the terms of reference and hire our representatives on the councils.
  - a. We would look to hire two reps (SUCLs) per council
  - b. We would ask that at least one of the SUCLs would sit on the council in a cochair capacity
3. We would like to see a timeline for proper implementation of your goals for staff in the buildings pertaining to the shift in attitude. This timeline plan should also include:
  - a. A formalized training plan
  - b. A formalized hiring plan
4. A plan should be presented to TheU Executive Team outlining how O-week will be supported and problems that arose this past year are avoided.
5. Create a new committee whose mandate would be to set and monitor performance markers over the next few years of project implementation
  - a. The committee must have the VPRA
  - b. The committee must have two students at large
6. Multi-House Residence buildings (MacKinnon and Bishops) must have their houses accounted for in the process (separate councils) in order to preserve the student experience in those buildings



7. The Advisory Committee (StudentLife Office) must inform students of the project and release both the StudentLife response and Student Union response to the students
8. The above asks will be amalgamated into a Memorandum of Understanding in order to ensure a commitment from StudentLife and TheU in order to ensure stability during turnover in the coming years.

*Discussion:*

MacKenzie: Was the SU ever reached out to by the consultants to ask how House Council and our Governance Structure work?

Sophia: Not directly from the consultants, no.

Brendan: One of the REsLife concerns is that there isn't enough funding for CAs to put on events, but why can't CAs just go to House Council to ask for more funding, instead of just taking away the ability for CAs to put on programming.

Sophia: We have tried to explain this and accommodate that in our proposal. House Council is a great way for CAs to communicate with SUCLs. This was brought up in our proposal, and they proposed a different body but what they explained was just campus affairs.

MacKenzie: When I was a SUCL, events ran by SUCLs and paid for by SUCLs was claimed as CA programming. CAs sometimes hop on events put on by House Council.

Anna: Is there going to be any collaboration between the SU and the new proposed Community Educators?

Sophia: There is a possibility for this yes, there would be a concept of CEs collaborating with House Councils, but we don't know how the SU will be represented on House Council.

Ben: It may be beneficial to explain how we train our SUCLs to address gaps that ResLife creates. It could bring to light how we already do this.

Naomi: Did we see any other universities similar to us with this proposed governance structure and renewal plan?

Sophia: They sort of created this proposed governance and renewal plan on their own.

Sean: However though, not many schools have the same SU involvement that we do in schools.

Brendan: The reason why StFX residence is the way it is is because of the student involvement.

Anna: Is there a possibility that the SU to collaborate with Vichelle to have some input on the hiring process with Community Educators? It would be good to collaborate with them on this.

Sophia: It would be interesting if we could sit on this hiring panel for Community Educators.

Brendan: I remember reading their report and one of their points was to "build capacity."

How are they going to make sure moving forward they will be hiring enough positions that they proposed?

Sophia: We don't know, and that's the problem. We know they have the budget to pay them, but that's it.

Tiffany: If you stay in res for three years, there is an incentive for an x ring discount, and that promotes the wrong type of people/desire to apply for these roles.

Naomi: TheU is having difficulty hiring for positions as well, so the lack of applicants is universal on campus right now.

Sophia: this is another reason why we are trying to push this plan back another few years, to ensure they have proper recruitment and applicant pools.

Sean: We need to remember that these applicants are students, we need to make sure we are targeting the decision-making and hiring process, not necessarily the students themselves.

Sophia: We are for sure trying to stay on that. We are trying to think about the stress CAs and students would face as well because they are asking them to take on a whole new structure and programming requirements. Especially if they don't hire enough staff.

Josh: Can you tell us how the consultation went?

Sophia: Jack and I were in the advisory community and were asked which students were the best to consult. We talking about first-third year students, as well as SUCLs, to see the differences COVID-19 has made. We only had three SU consultation sessions, two with current SUCLs and one with former SUCLs, within five days of each other 53 students and student employees were consulted through focus groups. They didn't totally reach out to purely students and not just student employees. This happened within two weeks. Small sample size.

Ben: How was it originally framed? It was supposed to be a big project.

Sophia: It was supposed to be from September to December 2021. In 2017, there were a lot of surveys and interviews. This one was much shorter and felt as if students were not fully included. The SU focus questions were odd. They didn't talk too much about changing the governance, they were focused on what it would look like.

MacKenzie: There was a Senior Survey that went out. They asked questions about House Council and the Student Union Fees. Were you consulted at all about this?

Sean and Sophia: No. Not at all.

Anna: A lot of 1st-year buildings do not have upper students living in residence. Has this been considered in how it would affect House Council and programming?

Sophia: We talked about that a lot with them. Having second years in CA roles and SUCL roles helps with building culture and programming. It is a fine line though. Recycling students back into their buildings when they are CAs are something we talked about as well, to encourage house spirit and programming leaders.

Anna: I think that would be interesting to look more into this.

Kyra: CAs need more role clarity too for their responsibilities during O Week.

MacKenzie: I think that the way this O Week went shows the communication flaws and the importance of taking things slower than they are moving now.

Sophia: We are definitely trying to get them to slow down.

Naomi: That is very important to highlight as well, all students got caught in the disorganization and miscommunication or lack thereof during O-Week.

Ben: In their strategic plan they described wanting to better the O-Week and orientation in general, so they should really look into this.

Sophia: Extending the orientation time as well may lead to student and employee burnout.

Derin: I remember when I was an incoming student, I couldn't make it to O-week because I was an Off-Campus student.

Sophia: This plan doesn't cover off-campus students, so we could hire SUCLs for OC as well.

Mackenzie: A big flaw of O-Week was the unpreparedness of ResLife Staff.

Josh: One thing that I want to see is an evaluation plan, we need to make sure all of their new implementations are checked and ensured that they are working. Adding training and evaluation to the first ask may be beneficial.

Tiffany: More detailed budget listing would be interesting as well.

MacKenzie: They tried to do a trial run in Cam Hall, how did that go?

Sophia: They tried to hire CEs in Cam Hall? I knew about the mentor program, but not CEs.

MacKenzie: They tried to do this right before COVID hit, so I am not sure if the project went through. I think it is beneficial to run a trial run.

Sophia: That is interesting to ask them.

Sean: I remember we proposed to them to run a trial run before.

Ben: In ask numbers three and four, maybe we can add something about role clarity. They are bringing in a lot of new roles into a grey area, so adding job responsibilities and expectations can help during O-week and throughout the year.

Meredith and Naomi: That is such an important point, to ensure certain roles aren't getting burnt out.

MacKenzie: I would love a compare and contrast document of current and proposed roles and all of their job descriptions. We can do the same with SUCLs.

*Sophia: Moving House Council until all under ResLife is concerning. SUCLs instead of ResLife on House Council is ideal. How can we explain this?*

- Empowers the community
- Builds social capital
- It is peer-led. All research shows that peer-led things are more effective.
- You need to have community
- SUCL Programming is most effective because they are student-based.
- CAs are not viewed as equal peers in residence because of their authoritative power. Having REsLife in charge creates a power imbalance at House Council, and this is detrimental to student life and community programming in residence feelings. ResLife can be collaborative and invited to House Council, but they shouldn't be deciding bodies.

## New Business

Naomi: If anyone has any names they would like to present for the nomination of the Birks Award, please say them now with a brief description of why you believe they should receive this award.

*Description of Birks Award: BIRKS AWARD Shall be awarded annually to a graduating student for outstanding contribution to student government. The Student's Union Representative Council shall nominate and then elect, by secret ballot, the recipient of the Award. There shall be a permanent trophy bearing the names of all the recipients. The trophy will be kept in the University Centre.*

Meredith: I want to nominate Sarah Elliott. She has sold her soul to this organization. She was a first-year representative, a SUCL, VP External, President and now CRO. She has dedicated countless hours to every single role she has had in this organization. I can't think of any other person deserving of this award.

Sean: I want to nominate Jack Irvin. He has been involved with theU since he has been on campus. He has done a lot of heavy lifting for students. He was a SUCL, VPRA and current President. Exceptional leader. Even if he is ugly and lonely. Watching him grow had been a great pleasure of mine.

Anna: I want to nominate Nick Murray. He has been involved for so long. He was the SUCL of Fraser, BoG representative and a student at large on the Governance Review Committee. He always brings entusiasmo to whatever he does and he is so positive.

Naomi: We will now have a secret ballot vote to decide the recipient of the award.

*Secret Ballots Cast.*

Naomi: If anyone has any names they would like to present for the nomination of the Jason Simmons Award, please say them now with a brief description of why you believe they should receive this award.

*Description of Jason Simmons Memorial Award: JASON SIMMONS MEMORIAL AWARD: Michael Jason Simmons '96 was a Business Administration student who died in a tragic car accident on February 7, 1997. He was the House President of Lane B and served two terms as Activities Commissioner of the Students' Union. The award is to recognize a member of the Council who enjoys life to the fullest both socially as well as extra-curricular. This award is not judged on academics but rather on enthusiasm, energy, and X- spirit displayed throughout the Xaverian community. This person is a true ambassador of StFX both here and away from our university. The Students' Union Representative Council will choose the award annually by secret ballot. The award is not to be given in a year if Council does not feel there is a deserving recipient.*

Sean: I am nominated Dhruv. He is incredibly active on campus, takes on issues and concerns and is heavily involved in all areas of campus this year. This isn't a BoG thing, this is a Dhruv thing! He is the most deserving on the council to receive this award.

Meredith: I will nominate Jack, he is very enthusiastic. He lives life to the fullest in every way and is always representative of the Xaverian spirit.

Josh: I will like to nominate Ben. He is always there for everyone and is positive. He ran GOTV and is always representative of the Xaverian spirit!

Naomi: We will now have a secret ballot vote to decide the recipient of the award.

*Secret Ballot Cast.*

## Closing Remarks

Naomi: We are done! That's epic. Awards Nominations close tomorrow at noon.

## Adjournment

Mackenzie: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 pm ADT.

*Motion passes unanimously.*

Naomi: Meeting Adjourned.