

Council Package — March 6th, 2022

Prepared by: Deputy Chair of Council – Rebecca Cano

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Agenda of March 6th Council Meeting

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Council Minutes — February 6th, 2022

Prepared by: Deputy Chair of Council – Rebecca Cano

Students' Union Representative Council Meeting

February 6th, 2022, 3:09 pm ADT

StFX Students' Union Council Chambers

Call to Order

Naomi: Meeting called to order at time 3:09 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

International Student Representative – Derin Deric

Indigenous Student Representative – Molly Burke

First-Year Representative – Josh Kroker

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

Vice President Activities and Events – Kyra Tessier

Student's Union General Manager – Sean Ryan

Deputy Chair of Council – Rebecca Cano

Absent With Regret

Business Student Representative – Hunter Park

Education Student Representative – Tianna Williams

Indigenous Student Representative – Sierra Julian

Board of Governors Student Representative – Anna Hancin

Faculty Advisor – Brandon Malloy

Late With Regret

Science Student Representative – Mackenzie LeVernois

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: This is my first council in a while, if may be rusty. We have a secret ballot and a presentation by Meredith!

Approval of the Agenda

Josh: Motion to approve the agenda.

Margaret-Ann: I second.

No Discussion.

Mackenzie: I call to question.

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes of January 16th Council

Mackenzie: Motion to approve the minutes.

Dhruv: I second.

No Discussion.

Josh: I call to question.

Motion Passes Unanimously.

Constituency Reports

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

Equity Representative – Tiffany Bondoc

Discussion:

Ben: Would you want more students than just yourself on the Equity Advisory Committee?

Tiffany: I would feel more comfortable with another student, and also it would be beneficial to get more perspectives on different student experiences.

Science Representative – Mackenzie LeVernois

Discussion:

Jack: What is being done about the CLEN program?

MacKenzie: They are revamping the program to increase enrollment levels, and also make it easier for geoscience interests to come out of the program as a registered geologist.

First-Year Representative – Josh Kroker

Discussion:

Atik: Can you elaborate on the 16-day reimbursement?

Josh: Many students were charged for living in residence when in reality there were two weeks where no services were used by students, so people were asking to get reimbursed for the time they didn't use any services.

Jack: This reimbursement will be applied to all student accounts.

Executive Reports

Please see the February 6th Council Package for Executive Reports, not including Vice President Academic report which is below along with any discussion regarding Executive Reports.

Vice President Academic – Meredith Cudmore-Keating:

- Super busy times after the COVID breakout. We conducted a survey after the breakout
- Senate meeting approved the second term dates
- First and Second round interviews for University VPA

- The two finalists for the role will be presenting next week, so please head to those presentations and give some feedback if you can!
- Marketing REES has been ongoing since it has been officially approved.
- Faculty surveys about OERs do have not a lot of responses, so I will focus on that again.
- Textbook Champions Campaign is on the back burner for now.
- If there is any feedback about any information regarding academic life right now, please let me or Jack know.
- Academic Leadership Committee Proposal about OERs with Ben will be going on next week.

Discussion:

Mackenzie: Can you look into how people can make up missed labs as they are mandatory for students to be in-person? There are no guidelines on how to get around this, so maybe bring that up to Tim Hynes.

Meredith: Yes, that is a great point.

Vice President External – Ben Fairhurst

Discussion:

Dhruv: The Director of the Coady Institute mentioned they did work around affordable housing, so it may be a good idea to connect with them.

Ben: For sure! I will definitely follow up on that. We want to make sure we give the government every single student concern around university housing.

Josh: Around the student strategy, what is it built around?

Ben: The government promised a student strategy in November, so we are trying to keep them to their word, by helping them create a framework to begin building this strategy. There isn't any standing committee right now, so we are going to try and help them create this framework.

General Manager Report

Students' Union General Manager – Sean Ryan

- Shout out to All the Candidates who ran in the Election, and Nick Murray for being out Referenda Representative.
- GoFundMe for Matt has been going so well, we are just under \$20 000.
- I am helping with the management of the Marketing Team, Renee and Alex and Kyra have been very helpful as well.
- 10% student discount at the convenience store starts tomorrow and is every Monday
- The Inn did not open yet because of restrictions, we have been looking at different online reservation software.
 - The Inn hopefully will be by RESERVATION ONLY.
- We are supporting more local businesses and we teamed up with a local brewery as well with Half Cock!

- There will be cool Golden X Inn Labelled cans coming our way!
- THE DEADLINE FOR EXECUTIVE APPLICATIONS CLOSES ON FRIDAY!!

Discussion:

Atik: Is the take-out option still available from the Inn?

Sean: Yes, the OpenTable tech we are using for reservations has a takeout order option as well.

Special Reports to Council

OER Presentation by VP Academic Meredith Cudmore-Keating

Discussion:

Mackenzie: Could a student summer job be created to work with professors to create these ancillary materials?

Meredith: Yes, that is hugely encouraged.

New Business

Naomi: We are going to be doing our secret ballots! So every councillor please nominate 5 councillors including one chair to create the Chair of Council Hiring Committee.

Secret Ballots Casted

Naomi: The four nominees who will be sitting are: Mackenzie, Tiffany, Margaret and Atik. Now we can vote on this!

Jack: I motion to make an Omnibus motion on the aforementioned names.

Josh: I second.

No Discussion.

Mackenzie: I call to question.

Naomi: We now vote. All those in favour of the aforementioned names to sit on the Chair of Council Hiring Committee.

The motion passes unanimously.

Closing Remarks

Naomi: Thank you for being patient!! Thanks, everyone.

Adjournment

Mackenzie: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:08 pm ADT.

Motion passes unanimously.

Naomi: Meeting Adjourned.

Constituency Reports

Equity Student Representative – Tiffany Bondoc

Dean of Science Search Committee: It was released soon after our last council date that Dr. Joe Apaloo was selected to be the new Dean of Science, and being a part of this decision-making process was very exciting.

Equity Committee: I was invited to attend the PACAR Community Consultation on March 5th, and have extended the invite to the Equity Committee members interested in participating.

Equity Advisory Committee: The EAC meeting on February 18th is to be rescheduled for a later date in March.

External Advisory Committee: Nothing new to report.

Hiring Panel: I sat on a hiring panel for the Chair of Council position on March 2nd. I also volunteered to sit on the hiring panel for the Vice President External Affairs position on March 4th.

Other business:

- Quality of Life Committee: Student Mental Health and Wellness Micro-Team:

- Bi-weekly meetings have been cancelled since the start of the semester, and I am currently waiting on updates on possible meeting times.

Student Representative Election:

- I submitted a video explaining the responsibilities of my position as Equity Representative for the Students' Union to help bring in some nominations.

- As requested by the Returning Officer Team, I am in the process of reaching out to people who may be fit for the role.

Arts Student Representative – Margaret-Anne Gillis

Councillor:

Committee on Studies (Arts) – COS (Arts) met on Thursday February 17th via Teams to approve course proposals from the English and History departments, as well as to pass a motion that would change the degree pattern of the English 100-level course requirements. COS (Arts) will meet again Friday March 11th, 2022.

Governance Review – The Gov Review committee met on February 18th and March 4th just to check in on how our policies were coming along. I've continued to work on the Annual Giving's and Social Media policies.

Joint Committee on Studies – JCS met on Thursday March 3rd to review a proposal from the Dean of Science to increase the worth of science thesis credits to six credits instead of three. The committee plans to meet again in late-March/early-April 2022.

Quality of Life Committee – QOL did not meet during this reporting period but plans to reconvene Wednesday March 16th, 2022.

Performance Review Committee – nothing to report.

Senator:

- On Tuesday February 8th, the University Senate convened via Zoom to approve course proposals from the Faculties of Science and Arts, as well as a proposal from the Faculty of Business that changed degree requirements for BBA Entrepreneurship students.

- Senate will meet again on Monday March 7th.

Other business:

- I participated in hiring panels on March 2nd and 3rd for the Chair of Council, VP Residence Affairs, and the VP Activities & Events.

- On Friday March 11th I am attending the PACAR Consultation Session.

- March 12th is a Day of Action for a Just Transition, and the ALPCA, with the help of 350.org, is planning a rally to raise awareness about a transition away from fossil fuels! The three objectives of the Just Transition movement are to align our actions with climate science; to introduce more valuable, green, union jobs for Canadians; and a commitment to begin putting people ahead of corporate profits. On March 12th, environmentalists across the nation are hosting rallies to show our MP's the incentives of a Just Transition to a greener future. If you'd like to join us, you can meet us at 11am on the corner of Convocation Blvd and West St (by Sommer's Hall). More information at: <https://350.org/just-transition-day-of-action/#faq>.

Science Student Representative – Mackenzie LeVernois

Councillor:

- Chaired the Chair of Council Hiring Committee

- Motion to appoint the next Chair of Council in our agenda!

Senate:

- Senate will meet Monday, March 7th after our special council.
- JCOS met March 3rd, could not attend due to a midterm but sent in a statement with my support of a motion to make all these 6-credits

International Student Representative – Derin Deric

- Health and Dental Plan Committee Meeting will be next week
- Dialogue trials
- Will meet with Lubna and ISS this or following week

Students of African Descent Representative – Atik Gailo

Position Business:

- Campus Affairs: N/a
- Performance review Committee: n/a
- Equity: N/a
- Chair of Council –sat on the interview panel. Interviewed candidate Molly Burke. The candidate had a strong interview. Looking forward to vote on the position during council

Other Business

- Helped set up for black history month dinner hosted by Sodexo

Board of Governors Student Representative – Dhruv Patel

Namaste (my soul greets your soul) and greeting everyone for a season that is almost Spring!!

Business related to position: I am joyous to let you know that we had Board Of Governors meetings on 17th and 18th February, 2022. Both the meetings brought various discussions surrounding strategic planning and advancements with regards to recruitment of more and more students. On the other hand, we had a couple of meetings for the Budget and Finance Committee. Furthermore, the Health and Dental Plan committee also met once where various aspects regarding addition of new services and betterment of existing services were discussed. With regards to my advocacy towards sustainable initiatives, I reached out to Murray Kyte- VP Advancements and External Affairs. I reached out to Elizabeth Yeo (VP – Students Life) to seek possible collaboration to create an effective policy as we move towards recruitment of broader

international students in the foreseeable future. I am presenting the terms of reference of the sustainability committee to the Governance Review Committee on Friday, March 4th 2022.

Other Business: I reached out to the ALPAC and helped them to connect with respective parties in university administration to address and advocate for climate change. I am in constant conversations with the group members of ALPAC. I am strongly of the opinion that this group is on to a great mission and we all should be grateful of our students' body.

Thank You!!

Education Student Representative – Tianna Williams

Education Representative Business: Education students are in their last 2 weeks of classes before practicum starts. Education Society elections for the executive team were successful and we have a potential candidate for Education Student Representative for the Students' Union.

Committee Work – Joint Committee on Studies will meet on Thursday March 3rd and other committees are setting up meetings in the next few weeks.

Panels – Nothing to Report

Senate – Senate will meet on Monday March 7th.

Other Business: Nothing to Report

First-Year Representative – Josh Kroker

Position Business:

- Attended a House Hockey Committee meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022. Vice President Sophia launched a great plan and framework that is comprehensive and realistic, given the University's safety concerns and the province lifting restrictions.
- Met with Gerard Balcolm and XREC to discuss specialized gym times for females and members of the LGBTQ2+ community. Two first-year students approached me, stating they felt sexually harassed at the XREC gym and would like safe spaces once a week to exercise specific muscles and skills that are required for their required sports as athletes, respectively. According to the two students, these necessary training exercises may be perceived as sexual to other gym patrons.
- Participated in the hiring panel for the next Vice President of Finance and Operations (VPFO). I am very pleased and endorse the choice the hiring panel came to.
- Although I was signed up, I could not participate in the hiring panel for the next Vice President Residence Affairs (VPRA) due to a conflict of interest with a candidate.
- Meeting with President Jack Irvin to discuss potential first-year events as the end of the academic year draws near, and provincial COVID-19 restrictions lift.

Other Business:

- Volunteered in the Golden X Inn's promotional video recently released on their social media.
- Attended a society conference in Saint John, NB, from March 4, until March 6. Contacted President Andy Hakin on supporting Ukraine, a sovereign state, against Russian aggression, invasion, and war crimes. I urged President Hakin to fly the Ukrainian flag on campus at Alumni Plaza to publicly display our support for the free and innocent people of Ukraine. The flag-raising ceremony means a significant amount to me because my heritage is Ukrainian Mennonite. During the early twentieth century, my family escaped the Odesa region of present-day Ukraine from Russian tyranny. They fled to Canada following my great-great-grandfather, Peter Frank Kroker, getting his ear sliced off while standing up for his people and family's livelihoods against the Russian military. My family was jubilant to see the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and had great hopes that our ancestral homeland would be free and sovereign. Today, that hope is crumbling, and despair is slowly sinking in. However, please join me in supporting the free people of Ukraine and rallying around their cause against senseless Russian aggression.

Anna Hancin- Board of Governors Representative

Board of Governors:

- Attended the Board of Governors meetings on February 17 and 18. We discussed size and composition of the board
 - Jack, Dhruv, and I are wanting to collaborate with the university to provide more funding toward increasing support for international and marginalized students
 - Met with Indigenous Advisor Terena Francis to discuss how to better support Indigenous students and the Indigenous Student Affairs Office
- Emergency Grants Committee: We continue to meet weekly to review applications.

Other Business: I am sitting on two hiring panels during the first week of March.

Executive Reports

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
- Convocation 2022
- o Looking at dates and potential bookings – restriction dependant
- o Chatting with folks to determine what the University's restrictions will look like after March 21st
- Covid Protocols
- o Waiting to see what the university wants to do about protocols after March 21st to begin planning larger events again
- HOCO 2022 Meetings
- o Meeting to discuss what HOCO 2022 will look like
- o Working on a smaller committee to investigate what other universities do who have successful student turnout on campus on homecoming
- Bishops SUCLs
- o Helping the Bishops SUCLs with Covid logistics for Bishop's ball
- The Inn
- o Meetings to brainstorm strategies for engagement on Instagram and have higher turnout from younger years
- o Meetings with society presidents to host potential 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 Sophia with Covid logistics and planning logistics
- Societies
- o Met with Anna to discuss society ratification and how to improve it – discussed many different strategies to help with the transition of society executive teams
- Bloomfield HUB
- o Helping Bethany with getting out the information regarding the Bloomfield HUB

External (to portfolio):

- COCA (Canadian Organization of Campus Activities):
- o February board meeting
 - Discussed the SLS and its locations

- o Approval of different policies
 - SU Executive Open House
- o Answered questions and chatted with those interested in applying for executive positions

Committees:

- SOC:
 - o Not currently meeting
- Equity Committee:
 - o Still waiting on some people's responses about availability for this semester – nothing new to report yet
- ERC :
 - o Weekly meetings to review events across campus

Sub-Executives:

- Society Coordinator:
 - o Doing incredibly
- O-Crew Co-Chairs
 - o Still being awesome

Outreach:

- Nothing new to report

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.
- House Hockey:
 - We met once at the end of February with Bob and Randy to talk about Eligibility
 - I prepared a committee package with all the logistical planning and work that has been done and presented it to the committee.
 - We met on Thursday with the committee and discussed the package and final requests for a sign off on the tournament. The committee has set a deadline of Tuesday for a decision
- Shawn Kieley and I met to discuss schedule reveal night at the Inn
- Residence Renewal
- We've received the report from the consultants and have started conversations regarding our concerns with StudentLife.
- We submitted a document that outlines our concerns with the proposed structure
- Elizabeth will be presenting the proposal and results of the project tomorrow for council discussion
- The hiring panel for Riley Hall SUCL was on Saturday
- Campus Affairs Committee met during this period to discuss what is happening on campus for house councils and update SUCLs on what has been going on for theU
- I helped to formulate questions for the student satisfaction survey regarding student advocates

External (to portfolio):

Over this reporting period my internal portfolio has taken up most of my time in office so I haven't had very much time to focus on many things outside of my portfolio.

Committees:

- Res Renewal Advisory: Did not meet during this period
- FSLC: Met during this period, however meeting was booked during one of my classes
- SOC: nothing to report
- Campus Affairs: Met this period on Sunday March 6th.
- House Hockey Committee: House Hockey Committee met once during this reporting period.

Sub-executive:

- House Council Coordinator: Broden and I have started SUCL check-ins again, Broden has also written up a draft for the GXC point system.
- SUCL's: SUCL check-ins are set to start next week
- Student Advocates: I did 1-on-1 check-ins with the advocates during this period to see how they felt about their training and if they needed any support from my office at this time.

Outreach:

- I participated in filming for The Golden X Inn video
- I was on Sean Ryan's radio show
- I gave a tour of theU to incoming International students

Vice President External - Ben Fairhurst

Internal To Portfolio

- Testimony to the Legislative Committee on Human Resources - The Executive Director of SNS and myself appeared before the standing committee on Human Resources addressing the topic of affordability for post-secondary students. We gave five minutes of opening remarks and answered an hour and a half worth of questions from the MLAs
- OER Presentation to Academic Leadership - Presented the new OER grant to the academic leadership with Meredith, in order to see if we could receive funding from the university.
- Shared Perspectives Paper - Gave input into the first draft of the Shared Perspectives paper on affordability in Nova Scotia post-secondary, and seeks to touch even more on the affordability factor for marginalized youth in Nova Scotia - specifically Mi'kmaq and African Nova Scotian youth.
- StudentsNS Board Meeting - Had another board meeting with the SNS delegates to discuss the election of a new vice-chair, covid restrictions on campus and plans for transition in the spring.

External To Portfolio

- Academic Vice-President Meeting - Met with Dr. Cockshutt to ask a few questions on the behalf of the Students' Union. We had a really constructive conversation about the future of academics at StFX.
- Executive Open House on Fourth - Stayed up on fourth for the evening to answer questions about all of our positions to anyone who might've been thinking about applying.
- Consultation on the new VP Finance and Administration - Had meetings with the external headhunting company, Royer Thompson, to give my view on the qualities that the next VP Finance and Administration should have in order to best represent students.
- VP Finance and Administration Hiring Committee - Had an introductory meeting with the entirety of the search committee in order to discuss the process we will be undergoing, and how the actual candidate selection is going down.
- Unconscious Bias Training - Organized through the SNS membership committee, Jack and I - along with the rest of the SNS board - underwent a few hours of unconscious bias training, which was very helpful in terms of understanding the subconscious biases we all need to work on curbing.

Sub-Executives

- Research and Policy Associate: Evan is continuing his work on several documents pertaining to the largest student issues at X. His work is compiling the concerns of students along with best practices and solutions.

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.