

Date: August 25th, 2019

Time: 3:00PM

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:01PM

Roll Call

In Attendance

Arts Student Representative – Marc Sgro

Business Student Representative– Johanna Gates

Students' of African Descent Representative – Kamy Carrington

Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess

Science Student Representative – Samantha Lohead

Equity Student Representative – Jasonique Moss

Board of Governors Student Representative – Tiffany MacLennan

Board of Governors Student Representative– Lucas Byl

International Student Representative – Sanjidha Ganeshan

Students' Union President – Cecil VanBuskirk

Vice President Academic Affairs – Emma Kuzmyk

Vice President Residence Affairs – Siobhan Lacey

Vice President Activities & Events – Natalie Doumkos

Vice President External Affairs – Sarah Elliot

Vice President Finance & Operations – Patrick Wallace

Students Union General Manager – Sean Ryan

Absent with Regrets

Faculty Representative – Dr. Corrine Cash

Late

Opening Remarks of the Chair

- *“Happy Sunday everyone. This is our last council meeting before we’re back together on campus. Some of us are here now, but we’ll all be back for the next council meeting. Thank you all for attending- this is actually our first council meeting with all of the voting members in attendance. And thanks for working so hard this summer on hiring panels and other projects. A couple reminders: councilors have to be recognized in order to speak, and comments should be directed to the chair. Councilors also must not use electronic devices unless they are being used to call into the meeting, or they have received permission from the chair. If members of the gallery wish to speak, they must have time yielded to them by a voting member of council. If anyone in the gallery wishes to speak, please indicate this to the chair in a silent, respectful manner. Finally, I do want to remind all members of council that their role requires them to advocate for their constituents, and are encouraged to represent their students in a positive, helpful way.”*

Approval of the Agenda

William “I move to amend the agenda with the removal of the minutes that do not need to be approved.”

Emma “I second the amendment”

William “I move to approve the agenda as amended.”

Lucas “I second the movement.”

Motion Passes 9-0-0

Constituency Reports:

Art Student Representative

- To be detailed later- have met with the BA restructuring committee.

Business Student Representative

- Getting in contact with business societies, when school starts hopes to create a Schwartz council (which has existed in the past). Business societies will be emailed and instructed to get in contact with VP Activities & Events.

Graduate Student Representative

- Nothing to report.

International Student Representative

- Have been in touch with international office and society, and have been planning international student orientation week.

Student of African Descent Representative

- Working to plan cultural integration during first semester.

Equity Student Representative

- Nothing to report.

Board of Governors Representative – Tiffany

- BOG has not met since last meeting.

Board of Governors Representative – Lucas

- BOG has not met since last meeting. Scheduling meeting for investments committee.

Executive Reports:

Student Union President

- Team is very excited for O-week and students to arrive. Have been busy with international advocacy and internal business (O-Week / event planning).
- Reviewing internal policy with CASA.
- Exec team is taking on consultation agreement along with BOG.
- Annual plan retreat happened- plan is soon to be released.
- O-Week and Mulronev event planning is happening.
- Looking at having someone involved in program that encourages students and community to reduce carbon footprint (post O-Week, free).
- Sarah and I looking to schedule meeting with government (more later).
- Moved offices to provide more space for councilors and better represent council as a whole.
- Scheduling meetings for finance committee and executive committee.

Vice President Academic

- Looking at peer support council package.
- Organizing faculty social.
- Committee meetings will start back up in September
- Meeting with library about student involvement, new librarian has been hired.

Vice President Finance and Operations

- Committee has not met in July, will meet in September
- Hiring and getting execs what they need
- Preparing training
- Helped execs create and adjust budgets (O-Week especially due to large budget)

Vice President Activities and Events

- O-Week planning has been very busy
- O-Crew arrives soon
- Have been working out small details
- Training CA's
- ERC: Events review committee – finds ways to minimize risks in events. (X-Patrol, Safety and Security, Res Life)

Vice President Residence Affairs

- House hockey news was released to students, no negative feedback yet, but a town hall will be help. Lots of interest has been expressed.
- Training for SPCL (Student Union Community Leaders) started.
- Student advocates hired on Sept 3
- Looking at what we can do to help/support off-campus students.

Vice President External Affairs

- Working with Get Out the Vote.
- Helping students pledge to vote.
- Planning upcoming voting events.
- Students NS strategic plan comes out soon.
- Working with town on projects to educate students on town waste system, and project to regulate student housing.

Committee Reports

Governance Review Committee

- Have been meeting biweekly
- Trying to coordinate with governance experts to get training for council
- Draft Act of Incorporation from lawyer has come in, once approved by council will be circulated among students for feedback.
- Considering formats for in person consultation from students
- Made list of everything concerning about policies and by-laws, will be tackling this once school starts.

Special Reports to Council

Peer Support Program Presentation:

Presentation given by Emma and Suzanna

- Both gave their personal reasons for starting this program, mainly coming from their experience during first year with the lack of support for people struggling with mental health. The idea was developed to provide support for people who need someone to talk to during hard times, when they are not comfortable approaching close friends or adults for this support. It is especially important for first years, who might not know many people on campus, and are struggling being away from home for the first time.
- Service created to provide listening service and guidance to all students by trained students. The intention is to help and direct students towards some of the many resources the school has for outreach. The idea is to be the first listening ear for students who aren't comfortable talking to somebody else, but would like to talk to someone.
- **Goal:** to increase awareness and use of resources on and off campus that assist with mental health, as well as increase knowledge of mental health around campus.
- Will exist as a service under the Student's Union, overseen by VP Finance and Operations.

- Will address general mental health, as well as more specifically support for problems caused by sexual violence or assault.
- Intended to fill the gap for people who need mental health support, but don't know how to get it.
- Trained student councilors will greatly benefit the student body, especially first years and students who do not wish to officially report any incidents that occurred.
- Benefits come from the personal service to students.

Addressing concerns:

- Confidentiality: Steps that will be taken to ensure confidentiality will include the training of volunteers, soundproofing of offices, immediate dismissal of volunteers who break confidentiality, and limited access to information.
- Crisis Situations: Councilors will be trained to know when it is legal and necessary to break confidentiality, knowledge of emergency services, and on call shift leaders.
- Support for Program: Ties to Student's Union, committed faculty support, and relationships with resources.
- Funding: Comes from StFX Strong member donations.
 - Costs: \$750 for insurance, with added operating costs. Training will be donated for free.
- Intend to work together with Student's Union, and accept continuous feedback from the council, especially during upcoming pilot phase.

Motion to suspend rules of procedure and make an informal space during question period.

Motion Passes 9-0-0

- January start for pilot (opposed to September) due to late approval and time needed to recruit volunteers and schedule training. Time will also be used for promotion and awareness of upcoming opening.
- System in place to provide support to volunteers who may feel burdened (shift leaders, faculty support, health and counselling, extra spaces, self-assessments, end of shift reports.)
- Shared experience defined as student living and getting an undergraduate degree in the same campus.
- Success = 15 visits a month

Motion to bring back roles of procedure.

Motion passes 9-0-0

Presidential Hiring Presentation:

Presentation given by Tiffany

- Survey on what students want in a new president (intended to engage people not on campus during the summer) has gone out and closed.
- In person consultations go from September 16-18.

BA Restructuring Group Presentation:

Presentation given by Marc.

- Working with Dean of Arts.
- Goal: Align with different things that other universities, (specifically Ontario schools), have been offering to BA students, such as co-ops, elimination of mandatory minors, and changing how major pairs work. Essentially want to add more flexibility to the degree.
- Looking at following a Breath model (expanding degree with more diverse mandatory electives).
- Execs and council are asked to review short survey for feedback before it goes to general students. They are looking for more students' points of view.
- Looking to add more people onto the committee (Emma, Tiffany).

Act of Incorporation:

William moves to go in-camera, as council is to discuss legal work.

Cecil seconds the motion.

Motion passes 9-0-0

Council enters an in-camera session for the duration of the presentation

Motion to go out of camera, seconded.

Motion passes 8-0-1.

New Business

Emma: Motion to approve a one-year pilot project for the 2019-2020 academic year for the Peer Support Program as presented.

William: Second.

Discussion:

Patrick: As this project falls under VP Finance and Operation office, support is expressed for this along with other student support programs.

Tiffany: Supportive of the idea and pilot but wants more discussion throughout the year on the actual progress and success of the project through the pilot.

Cecil: Wants to focus on measurable success, as well as communication between VP Finance and project.

Gallery (Clayton- Gender and Sexual Diversity Advisor for StFX): Partner with the program, and has already agreed and is eager to provide the support and training for volunteers of Peer Support. Stresses the importance of mental health services for the queer student community.

Gallery (Maureen- Professor in English Department): Expresses high admiration for the particular program proposal made for the Peer Support Program, especially compared to the programs at other universities. Suggests measuring volunteer training, as students trained in these skills will better the campus community.

Marc: Congratulations to Emma and Suzanna on a great program creation and lots of hard work.

Motion Passes: 8-0-2

Closing Remarks

“Thank you everybody for being here, can’t wait to see you all back in a week. Elections for science, first year, and education representatives will be happening right after the first week so please promote the nomination forms. A reminder that councilors are required to remain neutral during the election. Please also remember to promote X-Fest.”

Adjournment

Emma: Motion to adjourn this meeting.

William: Second.

Motion Passes 9-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:05PM.