**Students’ Union Representative Council Minutes – January 15, 2017**

*Call to order4:03 pm*

Roll Call

Present: Nicholas Favero, Mikaela Henderson, Brandon Hamilton, Cassia Tremblay, Connor O’Brien, William Gatchell, Taylor Chase, Iain MacLellan, Chad Hasegawa, Joelle French, Annie Sirois, Bry Crabbe, Sean Ryan, Victoria Sandre, Ryley Erickson, Maddie Gillmeister, Nayo Upshaw

Absent with Regrets: Dr. Khoury, Mildred Syabeenzu (vote proxy to Cassia Tremblay)

Late: Rachel LeBlanc

Will Gatchell moves to approve the agenda; Maddie Gillmeister is the seconder (12-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Opening remarks

Brendon Hamilton (Chair): Welcome back!

*Mi’Kmaq Acknowledgement*

Approval of Minutes

Victoria Sandre moves to approve the last council meeting minutes; Ryley Erickson was the seconder (12-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Cassia Tremblay moves to approve the September 13th 2016 council meeting minutes; Taylor Chase is the seconder (12-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Constituency Reports

Equity (Cassia Tremblay): In addition to my written report Dream Week kicks off this week. Please share this around and come out to events. Mental Health Awareness Week is the week following. Red Dress Campaign will be happening soon but not on date printed on U posters.

BOG (Connor O’Brien): Did not have a report this week due to no contact with the board, however, have several meetings coming up this week so stay tuned.

BOG (Maddie Gillmeister): Last Tuesday there was a campus planning meeting. Parking and traffic circulation was discussed along with green spaces. This will be brought to the next BOG meeting.

First Year (Iain MacLellan): Will be heading into more residences this coming month to get their input on issues on campus.

Science (Victoria Sandre): Apart from written report there is interest from constituents in running for this positions so will continue outreach and education on this position. Facebook page has been going well, sharing a lot of events from this platform. If you guys could share it around please do!

Arts (Nicholas Favero): Apart from the report, at senate there was a new process to giving out gold medals at convocation. These will now be given out to all students with the highest average within their program, not just those in honours.

Education (Nayo Upshaw): Many people interested in my position for next year which is great! Have been bonding in education by going to events, such as trivia at the Inn, which has been great!

Graduate (Bry Crabbe): To highlight my report, there was an orientation for graduate students last week which was great and it will be useful in the future in both September and January welcome weeks. Graduating students are worried about not hearing back from credit audits for graduation so would like to bring this to everyone’s attention.

Question (Connor O’Brien): Is there anything we can do?

Response (Ryley Erickson): I can bring it up at Senate.

Business (Will Gatchell): Business Advisory Board is all set with first meeting this week! All positions are filled and there has been lots of interest. Very excited for the upcoming progress. The Women & Business Society had their conference this past weekend which was very successful! Lots of societies have been stepping up this year which is great.

Question (Nayo Upshaw): Are those position names public?

Response (Will Gatchell): These can be made public in the near future.

Executive Reports

President (Taylor Chase): Very cool that there are lots of people interested in running for these positions. In additions to my executive report, have been in financial planning meetings and will update on that soon. Myself, Joelle and Chad were approached by the BURMAC coaches and have started a working group. Now in the preliminary stages in submitting a proposal to the university to get BURMAC back. Will be presenting to the University on January 23rd. Will send document out to council soon for review.

Question (Victoria Sandre): In regards to BURMAC, have you guys had any meetings with town officials?

Response (Taylor Chase): There was a meeting set for last Tuesday, however, it was decided that we would first meet with university officials.

VP Academic Affairs (Ryley Erickson): Will be teaching cardio hip-hop in Lane Hall again. Committee of Arts Studies meeting, it was decided that there will no longer be a BA with Advanced Major Psychology after all those enrolled graduate. Also approved a few more English courses. Sent many courses back to English department to fix some paperwork issues. Equity Adhoc meeting and they are finally going to start searching for someone in the Equity position with the University. There will be a survey to students asking what qualities this person should have. Just gave a large Bringing in the Bystander program (130 people) with the athletes and Inn staff which was great.

VP Finance & Operations (Chad Hasegawa): Piloting an hour change with Drive U for Thursday and Saturdays. Rachel and I have been working on HUB lounge idea, meeting this week to see where this could be in the SUB. Sean and I are looking over terms of reference for fees to hopefully present with the budget at the end of the semester. I can take any questions from my report or the newly mentioned.

VP Activities & Events (Rachel LeBlanc): Adding to my report, Movember went well (raised $26000 – highest we’ve ever done!) so thank you to everyone for helping with that! Also X-Ring and Two Years Eve happened and had great feedback. Had meetings with International Student Engagement position to plan some events for the new international students. If you would like to come please let me know. Have also been working with Sean and Nayo to make some Terms of References for O-Crew positions to get some role clarity. X-Talks will be coming up January 24th.

Question (Victoria Sandre): What is happening with the online platform for student reps and students?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Still on the radar, will be getting things going soon.

Response (Nicholas Carpenter): We are ready to go.

Question (Victoria Sandre): SO where do we go from here?

Response (Nicholas Carpenter): I will do a tutorial with you guys, I will schedule this with Brandon.

Question (Sean Ryan): What is the X-Talks theme?

Response (Rachel LeBlanc): Justice. The application deadline is tonight at midnight.

VP Residence Affairs (Joelle French): Mental Health committee met and we are doing an audit on the current mental health initiatives on campus. #mydefinition campaign is going well. Will be launching January 23rd and will be getting Lee Thomas here (founder) to do a launch. The U has partnered with the Advancement Office on the inititive called Simpler Steps to a Greener X where residences will be competing for house points. There is 3 platforms Water conservations, waste streaming and knowledge. Will also be sitting on the Sustainability Advisory Board for the University. Was able to attend the Women & Business Conference and it was really well done!

VP External Affairs (Annie Sirois): Met with the Liberal caucus to discuss our pre-budget submission. Developed a STRAT plan for the External Affairs Advisory Committee which we will be discussing at our upcoming meeting. Myself and the SNS executive director are working on the budget reports. The CBU students’ union is going through with their referendum for removing themselves from SNS, this is due to financial reasons. Planning a Mental Health Summit with the other Students’ Unions as well as working on developing strategies

Question (Nicholas FAvero): Does the CBU issues not impact us due to us being part of CASA?

Response (Annie Sirois): Different for us because we are part of SNS and CASA.

Faculty Representative’s Remarks

Dr. Khoury is absent with regrets.

Students Union General Manager Report

Sean Ryan: Welcome back! This semester is going to be very fast and furious. The Executive VP applications will be opening this week and closing February 1st.

Committee Reports

Organizational Review Committee (Maddie Gillmeister): We will be giving an update later.

External Advisory Committee (Cassia Tremblay): We are working on developing goals to move forward with. Will be discussing these at our upcoming meeting.

Bylaw & Policy Committee (Connor O’Brien): Four policies being brought to the table today.

Budget & Finance Committee (Chad Hasegawa): Women & Business society received $500 for their conference.

Campus Affairs Committee (Bry Crabbe): Discussions happening regarding house charities, issues within residences and progress happening within residence this year.

Elections Committee (Nayo Upshaw): Will be presenting proposed changes to the Elections Act today.

Special Reports to Council

*Organizational Review Committee (ORC) Update (Maddie Gillmeister, Will Gatchell)*

Goals for the Year: Equity within the U, Hiring/Transition/HR, Review from last year.

Equity: Took a broad look at campus and the U. In doing so we have done some consultation and received some verbal feedback. Have developed a Terms of Reference for an Equity Advisory Committee which would bring a lot more student feedback to the table. Have been talking with SACREM and other students. Will be going into focus groups to get more varied student feedback next week. There will be 6 focus groups and looking to discuss several barriers and how we can improve life on campus and within the U. Once we receive focus group feedback we will be able to bring a proposition to council.

Hiring/Transition/HR: Reviewing the hiring process, elections timing and hiring timeline as there has been problems in the past. Also looking at hosting a Leadership Summit transition weekend that will improve the transitioning within the U as this is usually a major problem. Also developing a transition manual to keep consistency and maintaining human capital.

Reviewing Changes: This is looking at all the changes made last year as well as any issues that have come up in order to make sure the Union is working the most effective as possible.

Question (Rachel LeBlanc): Curious to know how the focus groups are structured.

Response (Maddie Gillmeister): There will be 6 and anyone who associates with those groups are welcome to attend. We will have 2 co-facilitators running the groups as well as a note taker.

Question (Annie Sirois): Did ORC ever consider differentiating between aboriginal and indigenous?

Response (Sean Ryan): Not yet, working on original asks.

Response (Nayo Upshaw): Mirroring offices that exist already.

Questions (Cassia Tremblay): How will these be advertised?

Response (Sean Ryan): Mikaela and I will be meeting with SACREM this week to get their opinions on this. Also going to reach out to the advisory positions, societies and then general promotions (i.e. posters, list serve notification). We will be advertising all the sessions so people know when they are all happening and can choose when to come. Also will be putting an advertisement in the Xav.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): For the review, who will you be reviewing?

Response (Maddie Gillmeister): Currently select positions, but will be getting in to a full analysis.

Response (Sean Ryan): Over the next few weeks will be bringing in those that are in changed positions to see how they are going.

Old Business

*House Hockey Cup Policy*

Taylor Chase: Few small changes made to the policy. Happy to take any questions or comments.

Friendly amendments Discussion:

Comment (Annie Sirois): In article 1.3 should be changed to that which was from that was. – Considered Friendly

Question (Victoria Sandre): Is article 4.1.1 the consequence for everything outlined in article 3?

Response (Joelle French): It is left broad to be able ot look at the event itself and use judgment. For example: Last year one team was banned from play for the next year due to damages. The idea behind the accountability is to be able to look at it case by case and use judgement.

Response (Taylor Chase): The community code of conduct is still in play for all players and students so that also takes into effect. But our jurisdiction lies in sanctions, etc.

Comment (Taylor Chase): One item that was deleted was in regards to body checking. This was the case as it is not the jurisdiction of a policy, it is a penalty from the referee.

Question (Gallery Member): You said the people on the roster must be in good standing within the university, so what happens if they are not?

Response (Sean Ryan): The rosters are submitted to the ERC which is then reviewed by the Student Life office and if they are not within good standing the coaches have to ensure they do not play.

Question (Gallery Member): So what happens if a team is put on sanctions, will they be allowed to play the House Hockey Cup?

Response (Joelle French): They cannot play the game, however, they have the right to appeal the sanction.

Comment (Taylor Chase): This policy has a dispute resolution is because many of the members playing in these games are not volunteers of the students union and are not subject to performance review.

Connor O’Brien moves to approve the House Hockey Cup Policy as presented; Cassia Tremblay is the seconder. Connor adds: It is really well done, great job Joelle and Evan. It is important that hockey cups are kept and kept reasonable. Cassia Tremblay has nothing to add.

Ryley Erickson calls to question; Will Gatchell is the seconder (11-0-1 – *PASSED* – Bry Crabbe abstains due to being a coach for one of the teams).

New Business

*Elections Act*

Brandon Hamilton: The Elections Act has a committee, this consisted of Mikaela Henderson, Sean Ryan, Nayo Upshaw, Erin Abbott and myself. Good job to Mikaela for doing a lot of work on this Act.

First point of change is Facebook pages. They will no longer be required to be deleted at 11:59pm the day before voting day, however, there will be no active campaigning on the voting days.

Question (Maddie Gillmeister): Does this count if anyone posts on these pages?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): Yes the candidate is responsible for everything and would have to remove this post.

Changes in regards to campaign manages, there are changes included in the Act stating that the candidate is responsible for any actions of the campaign manager as well as any campaign volunteers (as it pertains to the campaign). Also the campaign managers must be declared to the Chairs Office.

Added ‘unless otherwise publicized’ to the online voting as Education students will be voting via paper ballot.

Question (Annie Sirois): For those students will they be voting for President and Vice President via paper ballots?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): No, those will be online at the same station.

Friendly amendments discussion:

Question (Chad Hasegawa): Is it only elected members that are non-partisan?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): All elected, full time staff and executive. So sub-executives could be campaign managers unless it interferes with their position and they are not allowed to use SU resources (as stated within the policy).

Question (Nicholas Favero): So are the candidates only responsible for their campaign manager?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): They are responsible for everything, however, if they are uninvolved they can report it to the Chairs office ASAP and work to get it removed. Also everything is at the discretion of the Chair’s office (as stated at the end of the documents).

Comment (Xavarian Weekly): Should add debate moderators to the list of those who should remain impartial. – Considered friendly.

Question (Chad Hasegawa): Does being impartial mean you are ineligible to vote?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): You are eligible to vote, except for Returning Officers.

Question (Gallery member): What if people take down posters, who is responsible?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): It would be at the discretion of the Chairs Office, however, you can report that this is happening.

Question (Annie Sirois): Can people wear shirts outside of their office and office hours?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): That is correct.

Taylor Chase moves to approve the Elections Act as presented; Nayo Upshaw is the seconder. Taylor and Nayo have nothing to add.

Ryley Erickson calls to question; Maddie Gillmeister is seconder (12-0-0 – *PASSED*).

*Sick Leave Policy*

Taylor Chase: This policy was largely written by Evan Davidson-Kotler, so great job! If you have any questions or comments please make those aware.

Friendly amendments discussion:

Question (Joelle French): Curious as to how this pertains to mental health? Would those who need to take a leave of absence have to get a doctor’s note?

Response (Taylor Chase): This has been noted and will be discussed further throughout the policy and perhaps requires a broader discussion.

Question (Rachel LeBlanc): Is there a timeline involved for the note.

Response (Taylor Chase): In terms of long periods (over 3 days) there is a note required.

Question (Victoria Sandre): Should it be shall be required instead of may be as it is the stipulation that they will be gone beyond those 3 days?

Comment (Annie Sirois): Noting the serious delays that there can be to get into see a doctor in this town shall might be too strict.

Comment (Nicholas Favero): The campus clinic is good at getting people in, I would be comfortable with shall.

Comment (Connor O’Brien): If you are sick enough to be out of work for 3 days then you should be seeing a doctor, I am comfortable with shall.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): By putting shall does not stipulate when the note needs to be in so shall should be ok.

Comment (Connor O’Brien): Shall still gives flexibility.

Question (Bry Crabbe): Who is included in Union personnel?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): It would be Union volunteers.

Comment (Nicholas Favero): Can we mandate volunteers to submit doctor’s notes? What about adding in President, or the appropriate authority.

Comment (Chad Hasegawa): Should we be talking to Jamie or Julianne about this first?

Comment (Sean Ryan): This is for the Union volunteers not the part-time employees of the U.

Comment (Connor O’Brien): I believe Evan wanted to have a policy for Executive and then for others.

Comment (Taylor Chase): This is the only policy.

Comment (Ryley Erickson): What if we specify who the Union personnel are (i.e. executive, council members, etc.)?

Question (Ryley Erickson): Who does the President report to?

Response (Brandon Hamilton): Vice President Academic Affairs. This needs to be added. If we change then wording from must notify the President to the appropriate authority then this will cover everything as the people you report to is already laid out in the by-laws. – Considered friendly.

Comment (Victoria Sandre): In 1.2.2 it says 2 days not 3 days.

Comment (Sean Ryan): I think 1.1.1 is if the absence is unknown then it is 3 days where 2 days is for the known.

Comment (Annie Sirois): Can we add in an example of surgeries for known leaves for context for 1.2 – Considered Friendly.

Brandon Hamilton: By-law and Policy needs to be sending out the policies to council before they are brought to the table so there is not such lengthy discussion. I am suggesting to do this with this policy as well as the Office Use Policy and any other policies in the future. They will be sent out to everyone and you can review, they will then be brought back to the committee and approved then brought back to council to be passed.

Bry Crabbe moves to remove the Sick Leave Policy from the agenda; Victoria Sandre is the seconder. (12-0-0 – *PASSED*).

*Office Use Policy*

Connor O’Brien moves to remove the Office Use Policy from the agenda; Iain MacLellan is the seconder. (12-0-0 – *PASSED*).

Closing Remarks of Chair

Brandon Hamilton (Chair): Thank you for coming. For anyone interested the council meetings for this semester will be January 29th, February 12th, March 5th, March 19th, April 2nd, all at 4pm.

Adjournment

Will Gatchell moves to adjourn the meeting; Victoria Sandre is seconder (*UNANIMOUSLY PASSED*)

*Meeting adjourned at 5:54pm*