

Date: November 4th, 2019

Time: 3:00PM

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:01PM.

Roll Call:

In Attendance

Science Student Representative - Daniel Winters

Business Student Representative – Johanna Gates

Students' of African Descent Representative – Kamy Roberge

Graduate Student Representative – William Burgess

Equity Student Representative – Jasonique Moss

First Year Representative – Nick Stinson

Board of Governors Student Representative – Tiffany MacLennan

Board of Governors Student Representative – Ally Hancock

International Student Representative – Sanjidha Ganeshan

Education Student Representative - Todd Boak

Arts Student Representative - Marc Sgro

President - Cecil VanBuskirk

Vice President Academic - Emma Kuzmyk

Vice President Finance and Operations - Patrick Wallace

Vice President Residence Affairs - Siobhan Lacey

Vice President External Affairs - Sarah Elliott

General Manager – Sean Ryan

Absent

Vice President Activities and Events - Natalie Doumkos

Absent with Regrets

Faculty Advisor – Dr. Corrine Cash

Opening Remarks of the Chair

“Thank you everyone for coming, let's have an efficient meeting.”

Approval of Agenda

William: Motion to amend the agenda, to add points to the agenda to allocate time for the VP external to talk about a new mental health initiative.

Daniel: Second.

Motion Passes 13-0-0.

William: Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Nick: Second.

Motion passes 13-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

William: Motion to amend the minutes so some typos are fixed.

Todd: Motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Tiffany: Second.

Motion passes 13-0-0.

Constituency Reports

Science Student Representative:

- Have been communicating with constituents through social media.

Arts Student Representative:

- Have been working on the BA restructuring initiative. A survey was sent out to councilors, and minimal feedback was provided. We are hoping to put this out to students through marketing very soon.
- Working on social media.

Business Student Representative:

- Communicating with constituents, especially with first years, working to provide them with resources and support to help with midterms and assignments.

Students of African Descent Representative:

- Have now nationally removed 9 costumes from Walmart.
- Hosted Karaoke with BLACC society.

- Planning events for African Heritage Month.
- Partnering with waves of change to work on video series on sexual violence from different perspectives.
- Working with Cecil to expand existing bursaries for students of African descent.

Graduate Student Representative:

- Continuing to draft by-laws for the Governance Review Committee.

Equity Student Representative:

- Planning a leadership seminar for next semester.
- Looking to plan an “In the Know” event for first years next year to educate them on the new sexual violence policy.

First Year Representative:

- Have given ballot boxes to residences to get feedback from students on what the councilors can do to improve student life.
- Councilors will also be going around campus to get feedback from students who do not live in residence.

Board of Governors Student Representative Tiffany:

- Talked to the chair of the board about the board doing more to connect with the student community. He asked for a student agenda item to be brought to meeting, and will be working more to connect the board with the campus.

Board of Governors Student Representative Ally:

- Nothing to report.

International Student Representative:

- External affairs advisory committee discussed questions for applications for students at large.
- Working on options for international students to stay on campus over the winter break.

Education Student Representative:

- Held a lunch hour for first year Education students to help them with their teacher portfolios.
- Discussed training activities to possibly do with council, many which are mandatory for Education students to do that are very beneficial.

Business Arising

None

Executive Reports

President:

- Last week attended a very engaging Board of Governors meeting.
- It is the start of the “Movember” campaign: movember.com
- Talked to house councils to address transparency, and this has led to more student consultation.
- Met to discuss a tax reform initiative to teach students about taxes and fiscal responsibility.
- Met at the sexual violence prevention open forum.
- Prepared for upcoming conference in British Columbia.
- Attended the Halloween Super-sub and Cameron Hall Haunted House, the haunted house was very impressive because all proceeds were donations to the student food resource center.
- The consultation agreement is now in the hands of the University.
- Found and met with X-Ring speaker, and started planning the X-Ring ceremony.

Vice President Academic:

- Sexual Violence Prevention Committee has been looking at the new policy, and had a great turnout at the open forum.
- In the media there has been chatter about the case that caused the ‘STFX Strong’ campaign, so we printed off more stickers to get this initiative out to first and second year students who were not around at the time of this event.
- Outstanding Teaching Awards needed students at large, so individuals have been appointed to that committee.
- Spent the weekend in Quebec for a Maple League conference, also for a student leadership retreat, where I was a TedX speaker.
- Preparation for upcoming senate committee meeting.
- Attending Advancing Women’s Equality meeting.
- Looking into budgeting for student-teacher dinners.

Vice President Finance and Operations

- Also attended student leadership retreat, discussed Maple League.
- 17 new computers are on the way.
- Introducing new initiative with Superstore where students are taken by bus to the Superstore and taught to cook by a dietitian.
- Trick-or-Eat went well, every residence had a team, and now the Food Student Resource center is heavily overstocked.

Vice President Residence Affairs

- Meeting with ResLife.
- Meeting about the carol-off that happens outside Xavier hall, considering having TheU singing a song.
- House hockey planning, getting over some roadblocks but are still on schedule.
- Working with Visible at X to bring Positive Space and Waves of Change to residences.
- Finally have a full sub-exec, and finished all training.

Vice President External Affairs

- Finished up consultation agreement.
- Have 3 upcoming external advocacy conferences to attend. Looking for student input on what to advocate for.
- Attending reducing single-use plastics seminar.
- Went to house council training to talk to house councils about intramurals.

Genral Manager Report

- Had a great presentation on governance.
- Movember:
 - PLEASE sign up for the StFX team!
 - Polar bear dip coming up.
 - Radio takeover planned.
- AMICCUS (Association of Managers in Canadian University and Student Centers) will be having its regional conference here this week.
- Met the new Art Gallery manager.
- X-Ring ticket information will be coming out soon.

Committee Reports

Society Review Committee

- Had about 40 applications, a huge majority were societies that have already been running smoothly.
- The only reasons some are not being brought forward for ratification are incomplete applications, or not enough information provided on applications.
- Some will need to be discussed later in the meeting.

Budget and Finance Committee

- X-Pride, sex-toy bingo, we are in the middle of approving. They reach most of the requirements, so we are looking for some more information.

- We were under the impression that societies could not function at a surplus, but we checked the by-laws and they can, so we were not allocating properly in the past.
- Also looked at ringette society.

Emergency Grants Review Committee

- Looked at 2 requests, one was non-emergent, so it was not approved.
- Applicant was informed of other available bursaries and available funds.

External Affairs Advisory Committee

- Created new questions for student-at-large applications.

Campus Affairs Committee

- Discussed ways to reduce drug use around campus.

Special Reports to Council

University Financial Update: Andrew Beckett

Last Year (2018/2019):

- Fiscal year ends March 31
- Budget was in deficit of 3.2million, then ended the year in a surplus thanks to approval for additional funding from the province.
- Student fees came in over budget.
- Additional revenue brought in from Shwartz.
- Scholarships have been significantly over-budget, due to more students qualifying for academic scholarships, and more students maintaining their scholarships.
- Infrastructure has become very expensive to maintain, but that money needs to be spent.
- Not enough students interested in residence, so we are promoting residence for second year.
- Coady lost \$5.2 million, due to the ending of program with federal government.

This Year (2019/2020):

- 'Break-even budget', one with a small surplus.
- Projecting to end in a small deficit, due to government grant with a lower raise than expecting.
- Exceeding expectations for student enrollment.
- University has signed agreement with province for a minimum 1% increase in funding annually.
- Working towards international recruiting.

- Sitting on large accumulated deficits.

General Updates

- Mulroney Hall is open but will not be finished for several months.
- Nicolson Tower is nearly finished.
- Alumni Plaza is not yet finished.
- Have improved varsity locker rooms, as well as the installation of visiting team locker rooms.
- Changes over the summer with food contract, Bloomfield Café has been renovated and the campus Starbucks is up and running.
- Twelve in Mulroney hall has opened.
- The roof has been replaced on the Physical Science Building, and leaks have been taken care of.
- Working on IT security and security awareness for users.
- Working on risk management and occupational health and safety, especially in labs. Audits have been done of lab spaces and there is a program in place to increase safety.
- Working on emergency preparedness, especially after hurricane Dorian.
- A new VP of students will start January 6, 2020.
- Hoping to have new sexual violence policy in place January 1st, 2020.
- Created a new space for Indigenous students on campus, an official opening will be coming soon.
- Getting new furniture for the Diversity Engagement Center.
- Discussion about campus culture and student experience.

A question arose from the gallery about the problem of mold and unclean water found in Bishops residence. The gallery member also mentioned problems a victim of sexual assault had with Safety and Security not enforcing the ban of the assaulter from the residence. Concerns were expressed about the extended length of time it took to ban the assaulter from the building, as well as the actual practices the University was following to handle situations like these. Beckett expressed concerns and ensured this situation will be investigated. As this conversation was not scheduled in the agenda, it had to be paused to be continued at another time.

Students NS Overview: Clancy McDaniel, Sarah Elliott

- **Students Nova Scotia:** A registered non-profit organization, which partakes in student advocacy to the provincial government.
- They do not take ideological stances. Founded in 2003, the organization is democratic, and member driven. Cecil and Sarah vote in this organization on behalf of St.FX students.
- They raise awareness, sit on internal committees, find solutions for student issues, host conferences, and much more.

- Each student association has 2 voting members, representing about 20 000 students across the province.
- Works to implement different initiatives through the provincial government. The most recent one is an initiative to regulate funding to post-secondary education.
- Identify student issues at conferences and develop annual plans and strategic plans.
- Do research to ensure solutions brought to government are thorough and complete, so they lead to more success.
- Engage in advocacy and lobbying. They provide a public face to student issues and advocacy.
- Student issues vary, and focus on affordability, accessibility, and equality. Each year a few issues are chosen to specifically focus on.
- Advocacy is public support for certain issues.
- Lobbying is an attempt to influence the government.
- Meet with many government figures who hold the power to improve student life.
- In 2018 the government took direct recommendation to invest money into post-secondary mental health and co-op education.
- In 2017 we were mentioned by name in the budget address, having lots invested into student financial aid.
- In 2019 annualized investments were made into mental-health and sexual violence prevention.
- More recently have been advocating for free healthcare for international students.

It was noted that this information is also all accessible on the Students Nova Scotia website.

Mental Health Initiative: Sarah Elliott

- Attended a conference with the Mental Health Commission of Canada.
- Introduced a new standard of how much help is given for student mental health need, that will hopefully soon be implemented nationally.
- Looking for student consultation on this new initiative, done through Mental Health Commission website.

New Business

Tiffany: Motion to approve the proposed amendments to the StFX Students' Union Act of Incorporation.

Nick: Second.

Discussion was had about the lack of mention of Coady students in the Act, and it was clarified that Coady students could be included in the by-laws.

Johanna: Motion to change the phrase 'him or herself' to the phrase themselves.

Amendment was friendly.

William: Motion to change article 11 to reflect our constitution, and motion to replace the word ‘proposed’, found in section 8, with the word ‘propose’.

Both amendments were friendly.

Emma: Call to question.

Motion Passes 13-0-0.

Jasonique: Motion to ratify Emma Waller as Student Advocate 2019-2020.

Emma: Second.

Discussion was had to express that Emma was a great pick for the job. She was not the only applicant, and was very prepared.

Motion Passes 12-0-1.

Jasonique: Motion to ratify Societies omnibus.

Nick: Second.

Discussion was had in reference to some societies having unrealistic numbers in their applications. This is usually an unrealistic amendment percentage.

Tiffany: Motion to amend the society list to remove 4 societies for the reason of unrealistic numbers, including the International Student Society, the St.FX Vegan Society, the St.FX Dance Team, and the Math, Stats and Computer Science Society.

Todd: Second.

It was clarified that these societies can be amended in the future, as long as they amend their constitution to include more realistic numbers.

Motion Passes

It was brought to councils' attention that X-Pride society has a conflict of interest included in their application.

William: Motion to remove X-Pride from the current list to be ratified.

Kamy: Second.

More discussion was had about the ratification of X-Pride. Councilors discussed the reasons that may have been behind this apparent conflict of interest, as they had given good reason for their process being outlined as such. The constitution under article 5 reads: “Any officer of the executive of the society may be impeached as long as over half of the executive supports the motion for impeachment. The motion needs to first be discussed with the GSDA (Gender and Sexual Diversity Advisor).”

The option was discussed to have a member of X-Pride attend the next council meeting to clarify this section of the constitution.

It was noted that X-Pride is a longstanding society, and that it could be in the councils best interest to realize that their constitution was very well written and included this form of impeachment for a reason, being they have the necessary supports to follow through in a proper way.

It was noted that this is the first year X-Pride has its own written constitution.

It was noted that if the X-Pride society is not ratified this meeting, the group will not be able to qualify to apply for the funds needed to host their very positive annual upcoming event: 'Sex Toy Bingo'.

Discussion was had about letting judgment as individuals reflect on the decisions of council and official council actions.

Discussions were had about possible changes that could be made to this constitution, such as lowering the percentage of execs needed to impeach someone or adding a few students at large.

Cecil: Motion to conduct this vote by secret ballot.

Motion to vote by secret ballot fails 4-8-1.

Tiffany: Call to question on amendment.

Motion to amend to remove X-Pride fails 3-6-4.

Tiffany: Call to question.

Jasonique: Motion to ratify the list of societies omnibus as amended.

Nick: Second.

Motion passes 12-0-1.

Closing Remarks

"Thank you all for coming. Great meeting and thank you all for participate"

Adjournment

Nick: Motion to Adjourn the meeting.

Jasonique: Second.

Motion Passes 13-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:49PM.