**4th Meeting of the 49th SRC**

**Date: October 14, 2022**

**Location: In-Person**

1. **Call to Order**

Ahmik Burneo, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on October 14, at 3:06pm.

1. **Land Acknowledgement**

St. Thomas University Students' Union recognizes and respectfully acknowledges that it carries out its work on the traditional unceded territories of the Wolastoqiyik, and Mi'kmaq peoples. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which these nations first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of territories, but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik titles and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. STUSU members and staff pay respect to the elders, past and present, and descendants of this land.

1. **Roll call**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Name | Present | Regrets | Absent |
| President | Alex Nguyen |  |  |  |
| Vice President Administration | Minahil Fatima |  |  |  |
| Vice President Education | Julia Evans |  |  |  |
| Vice President Student Life | Anahi Alvarez |  |  |  |
| Indigenous Representative | Stevie DeMerchant |  |  |  |
| International Student Representative | Khanh Hoang |  |  |  |
| At Large Representatives (2) | Lauren Hayes  Chloe York |  | • |  |
| Off campus Representatives | - |  |  |  |
| Sexuality & Gender Diversity Representative | - |  |  |  |
| First Year Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Harrington Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Vanier Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Holy Cross Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Grad Class President | Madison LeBlanc |  |  |  |

Quorum has met with 6/8.

1. **Review of the Minutes.**

**[4.1.] BIRT** the Board approves the minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the SRC as presented.

**Moved by:** Vice President Administration

**Seconded by:** Vice President Student Life

**Motion:** Carries

1. **Review of Agenda**

**[5.1] BIRT** Motion to amend the agenda as presented and add under agenda item 10.4 the Constitutional approval of Student United Way - (VP Administration)

**Moved by:** Vice President Administration

**Seconded by:** President

**Motion:** Carries

1. **Unfinished Business.**
   1. STU Gala Dinner– Alex (President)

**President:** We currently have eight people confirmed for the Student Gala meeting next Saturday, October 22, and the list has been confirmed.

1. **Executive Reports.**

*Executives provided verbal report followed by a written one.*

* 1. **President report - Alex Nguyen**

**Meetings**

**SEC Weekly meeting**

* The Executives had our weekly meeting to present reports and progress updates.

**NBSA EDI Committee meeting**

* I attended my EDI Committee to work on a policy draft and event proposal for the upcoming Advocacy Week.

**NBSA Affordability Committee meeting**

* I attended the NBSA Affordability Committee and currently taking on two policies on Housing and International student fees in preparation for the upcoming Advocacy Week.

**Senate Meeting on Reconciliation**

* The Committee discussed the planning for the upcoming Indigenous Film Festival.

**Bi-weekly meeting w/ Rei**

* Rei and I have our bi-weekly meeting to check in and review upcoming events and communication plans.

**Meeting w/ Ryan Sullivan**

* I had a meeting w/ Ryan to discuss the housing landscape both on and off campus for the policy I'm currently working on with the NBSA Affordability Committee.

**Meeting w/ Students Nova Scotia ED – More Than Tuition**

* Julia and I attended a meeting w/ Lydia (SNS ED) and Syonda (NBSA ED) to discuss the More Than Tuition campaign and the potential for collaboration and expansion of the campaign. More updates to come! The executive team has worked incredibly hard this summer, and we look forward to this campaign!

**Project/ Initiatives**

**Fall By-election**

* The Fall By-election has resulted in our newly elected Grad Class President Madison.

**More Than Tuition campaign**

* The team went over the final report with the help of the Director of Communications on the design and formatting before presented to the Council and stakeholders.

**Miscellaneous**

**AQ Interview**

* Mina and I met with AQ reporter Giuliana to discuss the Fall By-election and student engagement.

**Updates on NB Health Coalition letter**

* As communicated throughout last week, the NB Health Coalition asked us to pause the review of the letter until they can send us the revised version based on our recommendations.

**STU Gala**

* As mentioned, I booked a table of 8 for STUSU to attend the STU Gala and have received confirmation of attendance from Mina, Stevie, Khanh, Tina (General Manager), Estefania (Activities Coordinator), and Grace (Recording Secretary.
* I also send the same name list to STU.

**Presidential Advisory Committee on Environmental Issue**

* I received student interest to sit on the Committee and have communicated with VP Finance James Culligan to get the student's name on the nomination list.
  1. **Vice President Administration report - Minahil Fatima**

**Meetings**

* Interview with the AQ
* Weekly sec meeting
* Did not have my JDH Office hour as Monday was a Holiday.

**Projects and Initiatives**

**Campus Trust**

* A few students reached out to me regarding opting out of the Health and Dental plan, so I sorted that out. Otherwise, it's been quiet on the Campus Trust side of things. I also scheduled the governance Committee meeting for Campus Trust sometime in the next two weeks.

**Clubs and Societies**

* Sent out a new doodle poll for the executive training. The training will take place on Sunday the 16th. I prepped for that this week; just updating to slides ETs. The meeting will be on Zoom.
* I also received a few questions regarding events and funding applications.

**Miscellaneous**

* I confirmed the booking for this room.
* Sent the grad class president for login information
* I also communicated with Tina, our GM, regarding a few administrative tasks.
  1. **Vice President Education report - Julia Evans**

**Meetings**

**NBSA: Affordability and Health Wellness & Sustainability Meetings**

* On Thursdays, I had NBSA Affordability meetings. We are meeting weekly in preparation for advocacy week. Additionally, we are preparing policies (operating grant, COVID-19 relief, international student tuition). I also lead the Health, Wellness, and Sustainability Committee. I am currently working on a policy concerning the Provincial contribution to campus mental health resources. This time of year is busy for both research and policy development in preparation for advocacy week in November.

**National Advocacy Committee (CASA)**

* I sit on the National Advocacy Committee for CASA. We were updated on the federal plan for advocacy week, which provided us with more direction for a national advocacy campaign. Over the next few weeks, we will brainstorm a plan for a nationwide advocacy campaign, so stay tuned! It will concern a student issue and a federal policy that affects students across Canada, so I cannot wait to have everyone involved.

**Institutional Meeting with Dr. Fenwick, Jeffrey Carleton, and James Culligan**

* This meeting was intended to provide Alex and me with some insight into provincial funding through the operating grant and general institutional insight for advocacy. I brought this information back to the NBSA Board to assist our policy development for advocacy week.

**SEC Meeting**

* We had our weekly executive meeting.

**Presidential Search Committee Interviews:**

* I am the student representative on the Presidential search committee. I had a week and weekend full of interviews and deliberations.

**Projects and Initiatives**

**'More Than Tuition' Advocacy Campaign:**

* We have finalized the drafting of the "More than Tuition" Phase 1 report. Throughout the summer, we collected survey data from students to gain insight into student concerns, the best methods of communication, and how well-versed students are in STUSU services and our advocacy organizations (CASA and NBSA). Thanks to our Director of Communications Rey and his artistic additions, we are ready for our next campaign step in planning an in-person advocacy demonstration and collaboration at the provincial level. Hence, students feel immersed in the campaign at STU and beyond.

**MLA Mondays:**

* Our advocacy at all levels (institutional, provincial, and federal) is guided this year by the value of bringing advocacy closer to students. As such, we have been fostering a relationship with MLA David Coon. We have been in contact with MLA Coon. Accordingly, we brought the MLA Monday initiative to campus this year. Each session will be centered around an advocacy concern highlighted by students (for example, sustainability and affordability).
* The first MLA Monday was an AMAZING success. The number of participants far exceeded our expectations. I will be meeting with Rose (Policy Director at UNBSU) to discuss how we can further improve the event logistics for the following MLA Monday.

**Advocacy Policy:**

* I have been reviewing the STUSU Advocacy Policy. I consulted with the Indigenous Representative Stevie, and I look forward to continuing consultation before completing the changes this fall/winter.

**Advocacy and Sustainability Meetings:**

* I sent out a scheduling poll for the first meeting for internal STUSU committees.

**Prepared Senate Report:**

* I prepared and sent the Student Senator Report before Thursday's meeting.

**Miscellaneous**

**Office Hour**

* I will have my Office Hours every Tuesday from 1-2 pm in the JDH Help Desk. Come visit!

**President:** Did we ask Rei to complete a graphic with the report's highlights for the More than Tuition Advocacy Campaign?

**VP Education:**  I asked Rei to complete the report first before making a "highlights" graphic. Once it's finished, we can take the most critical aspects of the report and begin work on graphics.

* 1. **Vice President Student Life report - Anahi Alvarez**

**Meetings**

**UNBSU- VP Student wellness (Ridhi Sharma)**

* I had a meeting with Ridhi to talk about the logistics of the business entrepreneur fair happening on November 17 at the SUB

**Psychology Society:**

* I met with the Psychology society to talk more about mental health awareness on campus and future activities that I look forward to collaborating with.

**Activities Coordinator:**

* Estefania and I had our bi-weekly meeting to talk about the October events.
* We talked to Delta to book a space for the STUSU SRC retreat
* We start looking for places for the winter formal, and we also talk about the logistics of the winter formal.

**SEC**

* We had our executive meeting on Wednesday, and I gave all the executives an update on my week

**Projects and Initiatives**

* I picked up the Community food bags on Thursday for those students who joined the CFSP
* I am continuing to contact STU staff to talk more about mental health on campus
* Continue planning the logistics of the winter Formal

**Miscellaneous**

* I also have been receiving a lot of Community Food Smart Bags emails and registering the students for the program
* I also received an application for the Emergency Bursary
* I had my office hours at the Help Desk from 3:00-4:00 pm (on Thursday)

**Indigenous Student Representative:** Do we know when the retreat will begin?

**VP Student Life:** Not yet, but we will figure that out in the coming weeks to see which time works best for everyone.

**At-Large Representative** **Hayes**: I will be leaving at 6:00 am on the 7th, so I will not be able to attend unless I can do it virtually.

**International Student Representative**: What is the SRC retreat?

**President:** The SRC retreat is a way to introduce our advocacy work and what we do with the STUSU. This year is important due to the strategic documents, which will be updated this year for the next three years. Because we will be making the strategic document for the next three years, the retreat will be a place of brainstorming, ideas, and thinking about what the next three years of STUSU should look like.

1. **Employee Updates.**

No employee reports available.

1. **Representative Reports.** 
   1. **Indigenous Representative report**

* Meeting with the Students Reconciliation committee this morning. We came up with some different fundraising ideas this year. We will be having a bake sale on October 27, and if anyone is interested in donating some baked goods, please let me know. We also started discussions around an Indigenous Art exhibit and invited Indigenous artists to sell their art, beaded jewelry, and baked goods. Tiger Levy and I had a meeting with Dialogue New Brunswick as an opportunity to promote the student's Reconciliation Committee. There was a lot of discussion surrounding barriers in Indigenous education and learning.

**President:** Do you have a budget for the bake sale?

**Indigenous Student Representative:** No, we have not thought about it yet.

**VP Admin:** In that case, you can apply for funding. If you cannot find the funding application online, please feel free to contact me and let me know.

**President:** I wonder if it will be the same week as the student business fair.

**Indigenous Student Representative:** The Indigenous Art exhibit will be held on November 23th.

**VP Student Life: I** can send you a contact of mine if you require any help figuring out the location.

* 1. **International Student Executive report**
* I am keeping in contact with STUISA, and we are preparing for the Winter Warm Up. We are still looking for volunteers for Winter Warm Up if anyone is interested in helping. It is going to be held on October 26th, 2022**.**

**VP Admin:** What time will it be?

**VP Student Life:** From 10:00am until 5:00pm.

* 1. **At-Large Representative report**
* Chloe and I are excited to get started on this work with Sustainability and Accountability Committees

1. **New Business.** 
   1. **Fall By-Election de-brief – Alex (President)**

**President:** We had advertised fourteen positions, and only one was filled. It was unfortunate to have a lack of involvement. This year, we pushed a lot of communication to have the graphics ready. Mina and I hosted an Election 101 information session, and we only had one student participate. We have a meeting with the AQ representative regarding student engagement. Students are still figuring out their lives now that classes are back fully in person. There is engagement, just not specifically at this level of STUSU. Hopefully, for the spring general elections, we will be pushing for engagement even more than we did this fall.

**VP Admin:** We tried our best, and we can always improve for next time. Hopefully, we will also be able to advise next year's student union.

**At-Large Representative**: I also think that people may not necessarily understand the functions of the student union. Although communication is good, we need to help people understand what it really means to be a part of STUSU, including roles and responsibilities.

**President:** I agree.

**VP Education**: "A Day in the Life of an Executive" is something we could consider bringing back and letting people know about our jobs and what we do and making it more informal and like we are more relatable as an institution. It is a big role in taking on a student union position, so it is also important to encourage people to join the committees since it is a smaller role and less responsibility.

**International Student Representative:** I agree. Lack of information is not the problem; it is more of a problem with student engagement. We need to promote each of the committees more and let people know the roles and positions of each, as well as let students know that we are approachable.

**President:** Bringing back "A Day in the Life" would be beneficial. In the past, we had a STUSU newsletter that went out; however, we may be able to bring it back in another capacity. A monthly update from STUSU would also be a good idea.

**Indigenous Student Representative**: Perhaps Bi-Weekly would be good to keep in touch on a more regular basis.

**President**: During Sarah's year, it was bi-weekly; however, it was pretty long. Suppose we change the format and make it more accessible to students.

**VP Education:** In keeping with being more approachable to students. We should make a Tik-Tok which we should talk to Rei about.

**Indigenous Student Representative:** Keep with specific themes for the potential newsletter.

**VP Admin:** That would be good, but I am not sure how much engagement we would get.

**President:** I think it would be more important to stick with the highlights, to get the most important events advertised and prioritized.

**VP Education:** Having it student-led would be more casual and entertaining, rather than the STU Tik-Tok page, which is much more professional and corporate.

**International Student Representative:** Other universities do a great job at this, which is why I think this would be a good idea to have it be more casual.

**VP Admin:** Interviewing students sounds like it would drum up interest. If anyone has any other ideas, please feel free to contact any of the executives.

* 1. **Updated Finance Policy – Minahil (VP admin)**

VP Admin: Theatre St. Thomas is currently de-ratified as per our last meeting, meaning that they are no longer receiving funds from STUSU. However, Section 4. Part bb needs to be removed since it no longer applies, as they are de-ratified. We are still deciding where to allocate this new money, which is currently being discussed.

**[10.2] BIRT - Motion to amend the finance policy Part 9 section 4 of the finance policy to remove the line regarding Theatre St. Thomas in the operational budget**

**Moved by:** Vice President Administration

**Seconded by:** President

**Motion:** Carries

* 1. **Funding Application - Philosophy Society – Minahil (VP admin)**
* Funding application regarding their first general meeting. Since they are seeking $110 from the Finance Committee to support them. Seeing as there is currently no one on the Finance Committee, this responsibility falls to us.

**VP Student Life**: Aramark can provide coffee and tea. They are very approachable and able to help.

**VP Admin**: Are milk and cream available free of cost?

**VP Student Life**: Yes, but they are picky about what they provide.

VP Admin: Based on the information that the Vice President Student Life provided, I believe that we should approve $100.

**President:** We should approve $110 since $10 would not make much difference either way.

**[10.3] BIRT - Motion to accept the funding application for the Philosophy society for the amount of $110.**

**Moved by:** VP Admin

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion:** Carries

**10.4.** **New Business – Constitutional Approval of Student United Way – Minahil (VP Admin**)

**President:** For article 5, I would recommend that they include a section that includes UNB students as well, seeing that this club is open to both UNB students and STU students.

**VP Admin:** I recommend that we table this agenda item until next week, so everyone has time to read the constitution, and then we can bring it up again next week.

**[10.4] BIRT - Motion to table agenda item 10.4 (Constitutional approval of Student United Way) until the next SRC meeting pending questions, comments, and concerns from the student representative council.**

**Motion:** President

**Seconded:** VP Admin

**Motion:** Carries

1. **Questions, Announcements & Notices**

**VP Student Life**: This is a reminder of Winter Warm-Up, for which we are still looking for volunteers. Also, we are still looking for members for the Sexual Assault Prevention Committee, Activities Committee, and Mental Health/ Jack.org Committee.

**VP Admin:** We are also seeking members to join the Governance and Finance Committee.

**President:** Thanks for joining the first in-person SRC meeting. Please be aware of Robert's Rules as we advance, and I hope it will help people be able to understand.

**[11.1] BIRT - Motion to approve the booking of the table of 8 for the STU GALA.**

Moved by: President

Seconded by: VP Admin

Motion: Carries

**Chair:** In the next meeting, we will require people to follow Robert's Rules and ask for a point of privilege before departing.

**[11.2] BIRT - Motion to amend the previously approved motion to add that the $400 will come out from the charitable assistant line.**

**Moved by:** President

**Seconded by:** VP Admin

**Motion:** Carries

**Indigenous Student Representative:** What is the governance committee?

**VP Admin:** It is a committee that deals with the affairs of clubs and societies. It also deals with the documents of St. Thomas, including by-laws and the constitution.

**Grad Class President:** I also wanted to make every one of the October 31st Halloween grad photo session. I can contact Rey, so we can make a graphic and start getting students interested.

**President:** Before joining committees, you should look online to see each of them to understand each better.

1. **Adjournment.**

**[12.1.] BIRT** the meeting of the SRC adjourned at 4:23 pm.

**Moved by: President**

**Seconded by: VP Admin**

**Motion: Carries**

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on October 18, 2022.

**Grace Steeves**

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council