**6th Meeting of the 49th SRC**

**Date: October 28th, 2022**

**Location: In-Person**

1. **Call to Order**

Ahmik Burneo, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on October 28th, at 3:05pm.

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 | Jakob Didychuk |  |  |  |
| Holy Cross Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Grad Class President | Madison LeBlanc |  | · |  |

Quorum has been met with 7/9.

1. **Review of the Minutes.**

**[4.1.] BIRT** the Board approve the minutes of the 5th Meeting of the SRC as presented.

**Moved by:** Vice President Administration

**Seconded by:** Vice President Education

**Motion:** Carries

1. **Review of Agenda**

**[5.1] BIRT** the Board adopt the agenda as presented.

**Moved by: V**ice President Administration

**Seconded by:** Vice President Student Life

**Motion:** Carries

1. **Unfinished Business.**

No unfinished business.

1. **Executive Reports.**

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

**7.1. President report - Alex Nguyen**

**Meetings**

SEC Weekly meeting

* This week meeting is being moved to Friday due to my conference travel.
* The Executives continued to present reports and progress updates on key events and action items we need to prepare for the upcoming weeks, as November is one of our key months for events.

NBSA Board Meeting

* Julia and I attended our Board meeting to discuss the upcoming Advocacy Week and finalized the Advocacy document.
* I provided Vice Chair report to the Board.

Advocacy Committee

* This week I attended the first Advocacy Committee meeting led by Julia as Chair. It was really nice to see our Councillors getting involved with advocacy work, and I hope more will join.
* As ex-officio member of all Committees, I hope to attend all Committees meeting whenever possible.

Meeting w/ Director of Communications

* Rei and I had our bi-weekly meeting which has been rescheduled Thursday due to my conference travel.
* We went through promotional plan for next week and the rest of November as key events are coming up.
* We also discussed the SRC’s suggestion for social media improvement for better student engagement.

Meeting w/ More Than Tuition Working Committee

* I attended the final meeting of the Committee to review the timeline and the rest of preparation before the campaign launch next week.
* It was a pleasure working w/ SNS and member institutions on this campaign.

FutureNB Conference, Saint John

* The NBSA Executive Director, Board member from UNBSRC and myself attended the two-day conference under the invitation PETL. This year conference centered around Retention, Workforce and Experiential learning.
* We then attended the RBC Future Gala with community stakeholders in post-secondary sector.

**Miscellaneous**

Office hours @JDH

* I had my weekly office hours, Monday from 11-12pm at JDH Help Desk and now is picking additional shift same day from 10-11am.

NBSA Advocacy Week

* I sent out invitation to join NBSA Advocacy to government and community stakeholders.
* We continue to call for volunteers.

Indigenous Film Festival

* I help out with getting refreshment and snacks for the film festival today and tomorrow.

**President:** Please also be aware that the Indigenous film festival is currently taking place, and I encourage everyone to attend.

**7.2. Vice President Administration report - Minahil Fatima**

**Meetings**

**JDH Office Hours**

* This week, I held my weekly office hours at the help desk, and I want to encourage people to stop by to chat and say hello.

**Weekly SEC Meeting**

* Due to time constraints and the Saint John conference this week, our weekly SEC meeting was held a half hour before this SRC meeting.

**Finance Committee Meeting**

* On Thursday, we held our first meeting for the finance committee, which went very well.

**Employee Check-In**

* I also had a weekly check-in with the Recording Secretary.

**Projects and Initatives**

**Campus Trust**

* Quite a few students reached out to me about opting out after the deadline had passed. I also got in touch with Crystal Baker to sort that out.

**Clubs & Societies**

* VPSL sent me the link to the SVNB training which I distributed to clubs & societies. A few people reached out to me with questions, so I either directed them to the VPSL or sorted their questions out myself.
* I sent out the recommendations to Student United Way and reviewed the updated constitution with the Governance Committee via email.
* I emailed the gerontology society again, so that they could sent me their e-transfer information.
* The Director of Communications reached out to me to obtain the official list of active clubs & societies on campus, so that the website could be updated.

**Miscellaneous**

**Academic Assistance Applications**

* The Finance Committee met to discuss the applications.
* The report was sent to Alex and Tina.
* I will be reaching out to the students with the decisions soon.

**Budget Update**

* I reached out to Tina about the budget update which will be presented at the next meeting.

**Reference Letter**

* A STU alumnus and a former SRC member reached out to me regarding obtaining a reference from STUSU.
* So, Tina and I exchanged a few emails regarding how best to assist the student.
* Thankfully, it was handled quickly and the information was relayed to the person.

**Graphics**

* The Women’s Centre reached out to me about their hours so we could put those up on our own social media, so students are aware of the resources available.

**VP Admin:** My email is having some technical difficulties. If anyone has sent me an email and I have not answered yet, please reach out to me via Facebook messenger.

**7.3. Vice President Education report - Julia Evans**

**Meetings**

**Meet with Alex re: NBSA policy**

* Alex and I finalized policy drafts for the NBSA advocacy document.

**Meet with Ryan, VP Enrolment Management**

* First point of discussion surrounded Edunova (higher marketing platform that showcases Nova Scotia as the place to stay and live). Looking at how our advocacy work can fit into a similar proposal for NB. We also discussed trends in student engagement and how student services can support engagement efforts moving forward.

**Presidential EL Committee Meeting:**

* As the student representative on the Experiential Learning Committee, I discussed the student value in experiential learning and how new initiatives and opportunities for experiential learning could be developed in a way attractive and accessible to students.

**NBSA Board Meeting**

* We had our NBSA Board Meeting, we passed policies for Advocacy Week and continued to plan for Advocacy Week.

**Advocacy Committee Meeting**

* We had the meeting for Academic and University Affairs and External Affairs (Advocacy Committee). As VP Education, I chair this committee. We discussed advocacy initiatives, including the More Than Tuition campaign. Each committee member is volunteering at the in-person demonstration and gathering student testimony on the financial burdens on top of tuition.

**Campaign Touchbase More Than Tuition**

* At this meeting, we finalized plans for the Maritime-wide campaign. This included working on the press release, graphics, and in-person Wall of Costs plan.

**Sustainability Committee STUSU**

* We discussed the details and mandate for the committee and our goals as a group. Our first order of business is reviewing provincial policy on Divestment to support STU Divest initiatives.

**SEC Meeting**

* We had our weekly executive meeting.

**Projects and Initiatives**

**‘More Than Tuition’ Advocacy Campaign:**

* Next week, we have the in-person demonstration next week: **Wall of Costs.** Alex has a sign-up sheet for volunteers. Gives students a chance to show the multitude of costs.

(This campaign name and mission garnered attention across the Maritimes and we are now working with our provincial partner, the NBSA, Students Nova Scotia and UPEI on a Maritime Wide More than tuition campaign. All of the participating institutions will be conducting this campaign the first week of November, and we will have our in-person Wall of Costs in JDH to demonstrate “tuition PLUS” and showcase all of the student expenses and the discrepancies between costs and available aid. This will amplify affordability concerns to government and demonstrate the need for financial aid to be modernized to reflect the real cost of education in 2022.)

**Recruit for Advocacy Week:**

* Encourage and promote volunteers for Advocacy Week: November 14th-18th.

**Miscellaneous**

**Office Hour**

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

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

**Meetings**

**Lisa Edwards- Chimo Helpline**

* I had a meeting with Lisa, who is the Program Manager of Chimo Helpline. She talked about her organization, and she is interested in collaborating with us to improve mental health awareness on campus.

**Ridhi Sharma**

* UNBSU VP Wellness, UNBSU VP Communcation, STUSU Communication officer met to talk about the promotion of the student run business that is happening Nov 17th, at the SUB from 2:30.

**Psychology and Mental Health Society**

* I met with the Psychology Society and the Mental Health Society to brainstorm about the future wellness zone, and a mental health booth at campus. We are also planning future activities and events.

**SEC Meeting**

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

**Projects and Initiatives**

* I have a meeting with more mental health organizations around Fredericton.
* I am looking forward to the first sexual assault prevention and Mental Health/Jack.org committee that are happening next week (November 3rd).
* Continue planning the winter formal.

**Miscellaneous**

* **I** had my office hours at the Help Desk from 3:00-4:00pm (on Thursday).

**President:** Please also be aware that the Indigenous film festival is currently taking place this week, and I would encourage everyone to go to this event.

1. **Employee Updates.**

No employee report available.

1. **Representative Reports.** 
   1. **Indigenous Student Representative Report**

* On Sunday, I communicated with the Student Reconciliation Committee to get the names of recipes to get the names of ingredients, and to start organizing the list. At our Monday meeting, we also worked on solidifying the plan for the November 23rd craft fair. We are planning on using the JDH basement or the Great Hall for the fair. Currently, we are reaching out to potential vendors or artists who are wanting to participate. Also, I have signed up for the NBSA advocacy week, and look forward to participating in this event. On Wednesday, we bagged and prepared everything for the bake sale. On Thursday, we raised $318 during the four hours that we sold our baked goods. We are so happy that the event was such a success.

**President: I** was wondering if the reconciliation committee could review STUSU’s current strategic plan in preparation for our SRC retreat, so we can voice any concerns or areas of improvement into our new strategic document. Also, I just wanted to make everyone aware that the university raised nearly $71,000 at the Gala.

**VP Education:** When you’re reviewing the strategic document, would you also be able to review the advocacy report as well, to ensure that STUSU is incorporating the spirit of reconciliation into our next strategic document for the next three years.

**Indigenous Student Representative:** That is a great idea, and I will bring both of these action items into our next meeting.

* 1. **At-Large Representatives report**

**Representative Hayes:** We are very excited about the Advocacy campaign meeting, and what is next in the campaign. Lately, I have been talking to my peers about financial difficulties, and other concerns that they have with the rising cost of living. There was also a Sustainability and Environmental Awareness Committee meeting, which I attended and enjoyed. Also, this week was my first shift at the help-desk.

**Representative York:** This week, I attended the Presidential Advisory Committee on Environmental Issues where we discussed policy work. With regard to sustainability, there will be November 17th sustainability swap for Enactus, and I would love to see people help out.

**VP Education:** In our sustainability meeting, we questioned how much sustainability is really occurring on campus. If events like these come up, I recommend that everyone attend so that STUSU gets involved in these kinds of initiatives, so that everyone is more aware of environmental awareness and sustainability. One thing I will suggest with regard to sustainability, is that the student union should have a formal guided policy from the sustainability committee in order for us to best support sustainability on campus.

1. **New Business.**

No new business items.

1. **Questions, Announcements & Notices**

**President:** So, for the “More than Tuition Campaign”, I was hoping people would be able to help volunteer in JDH for the “Wall of Cost” because it’s a STUSU initiative. I have a sign-up sheet after this meeting for those who are interested. As for advocacy week training, it would be a good chance to work with a chance of diverse stakeholders. It is also an opportunity to be hands-on and to experience what it is like on a policy-level

**VP Student Life:** If anyone is interested in joining Sexual Assault prevention committee and the Positive Mental Health Committee, please let me know as we are still looking for members.

1. **Adjournment.**

**[12.1.] BIRT** the meeting of the SRC adjourned at 3:38pm.

**Moved by:** President

**Seconded by:** VP Student Life

**Motion:** Carries

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on November 1st.

**Grace Steeves**

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council