**1st Meeting of the 49th SRC**

**Date: Sunday, September 18th, 2022**

**Location: Virtual via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order**

Ahmik Burneo, the Chair of the SRC called the meeting to order on September 18th, at 5:33pm.

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 HayesChloe York |  |  |  |
| Off campus Representatives  | - |  |  |  |
| Sexuality & Gender Diversity Representative  | - |  |  |  |
| First Year Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Harrington Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Vanier Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Holy Cross Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | - |  |  |  |
| Grad Class President | - |  |  |  |

Quorum has been met with 6/8 present.

1. **Review of the Minutes.**

**[4.1.] Currently there are no previous minutes available for approval**

1. **Review of Agenda**

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

**Moved by: Vice President Administration**

**Seconded by: Vice President Education**

**Motion: Carries**

1. **Unfinished Business.**

No unfinished business.

1. **Executive Reports.**

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

**7.1. President report - Alex Nguyen**

**Meetings**

Meeting with Jeffrey Carleton

* I had my regular meeting with STU Director of Communications Jeffrey. We went

through agenda items and exchange updates between institutions.

Meeting with NBCCD Student Association President

* Kordell, UNBSU President and I were invited by NBCCD Student Association to have a meeting at NBCCD campus. We discussed collaboration opportunities and had a brief presentation on how NBCCD Student Association is set up and operate. One of the potential events we discussed is the Ice Cream Buffet at NBCCD campus. I connected our Director of Communications Reinaldo to their Communications person to work on promotional items and currently waiting for follow-up.
* We talked about Clubs & Societies and opportunities for collaboration on advocating for Sunday buses.
* We also invited NBCCD to join the STUSU x UNBSU Student Business Fair.

Meeting with Director of Communications

* I had my training meeting with Director of Communications and went through some important agenda items: Event schedule, Review of Communications plan, Bi-weekly meeting and Fall By-Elections.
* If you need help with promoting or need a graphic to be made, please send a work

request to su\_communications@stu.ca and a document that states event and content description, date to post and set priority level.

NBSA Governance Committee Meeting

* I sit on the NBSA Governance Committee this year and we had our first meeting on Tuesday.
* Some of the priorities for the Committee this year includes: By-laws review, and Observer/ membership status review.

Monthly check-in meeting with Dr. Fenwick

* The executives have our first monthly meeting with Dr. Fenwick and Karen Preston (Registrar).
* We updated Dr. Fenwick on STUSU work for the last month including: NB-EI Connect program termination, MLA Monday, Operating grant, “More than Tuition” campaign and “Affirm the value of Liberal Arts Education” campaign.
* We followed-up with Dr. Fenwick and senior admins team to have an in-depth talk about Operating Grant.
* We received positive feedback and support for the Affirm the value of Liberal Arts education campaign.

SEC Weekly meeting

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

Senate meeting

* Julia and I attended monthly Senate meeting. The meeting confirmed appointed student members for the Senate Committees. We still have some vacant positions left.
* Senate Committee on Reconciliation
* I attended the Senate Committee meeting as Observer.
* The meeting discussed various preparation and activities for Orange Shirt Day and the upcoming National Truth and Reconciliation Day. There are a lot of meaningful will be taken place and open to all students to participate. More information will be available as we move closer to the date.
* We also welcomed Kamryn and Gage to STU as they will take care of the Wabanaki Center.
* The Indigenous Fil m Festival is also receiving short film projects for competition and preparation are being carried out for the screenings.

**Project/ Initiatives**

More Than Tuition Campaign update

* We are now preparing report based on the result of the survey as we move to

concluded phase 1 of the campaign.

**Miscellaneous**

NBSA Bios and Graphic

* I worked on updating NBSA website and created graphic series to introduce the NBSA Board members and Executive Director.

Senate Committee recruitment

* As discussed via meeting with Dr. Fenwick, I put out a call for student positions on Senate Committees. As of right now, we still have vacancy for some committees and will be filled through appointment in October.

Office hours

* I had my office hours at the Help Desk from 11-12pm (every Monday) so come by and have a chat if you have the time!
* Media interview with Telegraph Journals on NB-EI Connect

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

**Meetings**

* The executives and I had our weekly SEC meeting where we discussed our reports and the progress of our initiatives.
* I also briefly joined Alex and Julia in meeting with Dr. Fenwick and Ms. Preston.
* I had my weekly office hour at the JDH Help Desk on Monday from 2 to 3 PM.
* Lastly, the executive met up with the AQ for our beginning-of-the-year report.

**Projects and Initiatives**

Clubs and Societies

* After the fair, I have been planning the executive training and answering questions some clubs and societies have had through email.

Campus Trust

* As some of you might know, the student benefits website went down this week and that created problems for students who were trying to opt out of the health and dental plans.
* So, this week has been answering student concerns and coordinating between Tina, our GM, and Crystal Baker, the PBAS representative about figuring out the problem. Thankfully, it was resolved within a day.

**Miscellaneous**

* As you all know, I sent out doodle polls so we could arrange our first meeting.
* I also met up with our RS Grace so we could have a chat before the first SRC meeting and be fully prepared.
* Lastly, I had emailed all our employees about sending me their bios and a picture so we could post that on the website. After receiving all the submissions, I started updating the STUSU website.

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

**Meetings:**

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Consultation Session:

* On Monday, I had a consultation session with CASA where the director of policy presented new policy surrounding Indigenous post-secondary students and funding. These sessions ensure that as primary delegate I stay in the loop on all federal advocacy.

New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA) Affordability Committee:

* On Tuesday, I had a meeting with the New Brunswick Student Alliance (NBSA) Affordability Committee. I lead this committee. At this meeting, we decided on meeting times, discussed NB-EI Connect, and laid out 3 policy priorities to focus on. Right now, I am researching the Operating Grant. Again, as mentioned previously, the operating grant is a source of revenue to the universities from the province of New Brunswick, specifically PETL. The reason this is important is because if the government does not adequately fund our university, then this is when we see a cut in student services and accordingly, tuition hikes.

Meeting with Dr. Kim Fenwick and Karen Preston:

* At the institutional level, Alex and I had our monthly meeting with Dr. Karen Fenwick and Karen Preston (registrar). These meetings provide us with the opportunity to update them on student concerns, advocacy projects and general updates and vice versa. From this meeting, we decided on having a follow-up with the administration to discuss University funding and how the province decides on the “operating grant” as a source of university revenue. Learning more about university funding helps inform our advocacy projects moving forward.

CASA National Advocacy Committee:

* On Wednesday, I had a meeting with the National Advocacy Committee. I sit on this committee and we are in the process of brainstorming a federal advocacy campaign. I will keep you all updated throughout the stages of the planning because I will need all hands-on deck once we execute the nationwide advocacy campaign later in the academic year.

SEC Meeting:

* On Wednesday, the executive team had our weekly meeting, we updated each other on our respective projects and prepared for today’s first meeting.

Senate Meeting:

* Alex and I sit on the Senate, alongside the student Senator Megan. Alex and I attended, and I delivered an oral report to update the Senators on advocacy projects and general student updates.

**Projects and Initiatives**

‘More Than Tuition’ Advocacy Campaign:

* We are in the final stages of drafting the “More than Tuition” Phase 1 report. Throughout the summer, we collected survey data from students to gain insight on student concern, best methods of communication and how well-versed students are in STUSU services and our advocacy organizations (CASA and NBSA). Now, we are putting that information into presentable and actionable items and information to share with students, the administration and to the provincial government. The next step will be to plan an in-person advocacy demonstration, so students feel immersed in the campaign.

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 and accordingly, we are bringing the MLA Monday initiative to campus this year and each session will be centered around an advocacy concern highlighted by students (for ex: sustainability and affordability). For this initiative, we are collaborating with UNB so we are rotating between the Student Union Building and James Dunn Hall. We hope this will encourage more participation. The first meeting is Monday, October 3rd at James Dunn Hall at noon so mark your calendars as this is a great way as a representative to learn more about advocacy and share information with your constituents. I am working alongside the communications director, Rey to ensure we can get the word out early.

**Miscellaneous**

Office Hour:

* I will be having my Office Hour every Tuesday from 1-2pm in the JDH Help Desk. I had my first one this past Tuesday.

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

**Meetings**

Residence Life:

* I met with Cory Flynn regarding students' concerns about Windsor Street.

Meeting with Activities Coordinator:

* We talked about the different initiatives she has for this upcoming year. We also start the planning for the upcoming activities for the month.
* We also start dividing our tasks and begin planning the STUSU retreat.

SEC Weekly Meeting:

* Every Wednesday we had our weekly meeting where I gave all the executives an update of my week.

**Projects and Initiatives:**

* I answered different emails about students wanting to join the Mental Health, Sexual Assault Prevention, and Activities and Events committee.
* I have been adding a lot of students who reached out regarding the Community Food Smart bag to the program.
* I have also answered some questions regarding the bus pass and Hotspot.

**Miscellaneous**

**Office Hours:**

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

No employee report available.

1. **Representative Reports.**
	1. **Indigenous Representative Report**
* Meeting with National Indigenous Advisory Committee – CASA to discuss goals and Committee operations.
* First reconciliation meeting last week – addressing goals for committee for the upcoming year.
* Second St. Thomas Student Reconciliation Committee Meeting on September 23rd at 10:00 at the Wabanaki Centre and online.
	1. **International Representative report**

No report (absent)

* 1. **At-Large Representative report**
* Addressing issues with parking for students.
1. **New Business.**

**10.1.** Jack.org/ Mental Health Committee update –VPSL

* In the coming weeks, we will be discussing Jack.org, and whether this is something that we will be pursuing having the chapter merge with the Mental Health Committee with consideration of limitations of being a chapter or alternative options.
* Will follow up with more information in the coming weeks.

**10.2.** More than Tuition Campaign update - VP Education

* Launched More than Tuition campaign in early June – drawing attention to the financial issues that students are currently facing due to rising cost increases
* Survey launched to ask students where their concerns are, and what they are prioritizing most
* Action items will be presented alongside a report on the survey’s findings.
* Draft report is currently being worked on and to be accessible for student
* Survey indicated tuition is the most prominent issue that students are facing, followed by rent and cost of living.
* Campaign will be launched in **November.**
* Contact VP Education, su\_vped@stu.ca for involvement in External Affairs Committee and Academic and University Affairs Committee.

**10.3.** Fall By election - President & VP Admin

* First graphic for fall election’s vacant positions has been sent out.
* **September 23rd information session** to answer any questions that students may have.
* Fourteen vacant positions for fall election.
* Nomination period open for five days.
* Will be like the two years prior. Can do both in-person and online, if they are conforming to the by-laws.
* Encouraging students to campaign online, however they will have the option to campaign in-person.

**VP Education**: Online would be preferable to help create sustainability. It is also important to recognize any accessibility barriers that students may face regarding technology.

**Director of Communications:** Reach out to myself if any student has concerns regarding their limitations or barriers regarding creating posters for their campaigning period.

**Indigenous Representative**: Putting posters in frequently visited areas of campus and limiting the number of posters that can be placed, would be a more sustainable practice.

**President:** Narrowing down the places that students can place is a good idea, however our current by-laws do not allow a cap on the number of posters that students can place during campaigning. However, this is something that can be brought up again in the future, to ensure that too many posters are not being printed by each student.

**VP Education:** It is essential to ensure that the word is being spread surrounding this election to ensure that these vacant positions will be filled to ensure that we can get as much work done as possible this year.

**News Editor for Aquinian:** How will this campaign period be happening?

**President:** We will be encouraging students to campaign online, however if they wish to campaign in-person, they will have to conform to STUSU’s by-laws.

**10.4** Ice Cream buffet with NBCCDSA - President

* President of NBCCDSA emailed yesterday, asking the STUSU to provide toppings.
* They currently have no budget.
* To foster a collaborative working relationship with the NBCCDSA, would it be beneficial to assist in paying for toppings.

**VP Education:** To foster a relationship with NBCCDSA, I am in favour of allocating a budget to assist in paying for this ice cream buffet to pay for toppings.

**VP Admin:** It would be a good idea to contact NBCCDSA to ask how much ice cream will be provided, to make sure that we will be bringing enough toppings to provide for everyone.

**VP Education:** Where is the ice cream set-up going to be, and will we be needing to assist in setting up?

**President:** The Director of Communications will be in contact with NBCCDSA in the coming weeks to keep us updated on the date and time.

**Chair**: Is the topic of ice cream topping budget allocation a motion that needs to be passed?

**President:** No, as this will be discussed at a later time.

1. **Questions, Announcements & Notices**

**President:** As we move forward in the year, the coming SRC meetings will be in-person. Having in-person meetings will. In preparation for in-person meetings, we will be having bullet points reflected in the meeting minutes. We have also made changes regarding how the meeting minutes and agenda are kept since they will now be one document rather than two separate documents. If there are any changes or adjustments that need to be made, reach out to the secretary for those changes to be made. Robert’s Rules are important and should be reviewed in preparation for the in-person meetings.

**VP Education**: For MLA Monday’s, David Coon will be on campus on **October 3.** More information will be provided in the coming days about our theme for the event. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me.

1. **Adjournment.**

**[12.1.] BIRT** the meeting of the SRC adjourned at 6:41pm.

**Moved by:** President

**Seconded by:** Vice President Administration

**Motion:** Carries

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on September 20th, 2022.

**Grace Steeves**

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council