15th Meeting of the 48th SRC

5:00 pm, Sunday, February 20, 2022

Via Zoom (Online)

**Attendance Record**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Name | Present | Regrets | Absent |
| President | Tyler MaGee | X |  |  |
| Vice President Administration | Alex Nguyen | X |  |  |
| Vice President Education | Sydona Chandon | X |  |  |
| Vice President Student Life | Victoria Young | X |  |  |
| Off-Campus Representative | Carol Alvarez | X |  |  |
| Off-Campus Representative  | Gregory Robinson | X |  |  |
| Off-Campus Representative | Lindsey Graham |  | X |  |
| Harrington Hall Representative | Lauren Hayes | X |  |  |
| Social Inclusion Representative | Manvi Walter |  |  | X |
| Indigenous Representative | Stevie DeMerchant | X |  |  |
| International Student Representative | Sony Phung | X |  |  |
| Member at Large Representative | Julia Evans | X |  |  |
| Grad Class President | Tory Desroche |  |  | X |

**Staff Present:** Kryssonia Wedderburn (Chair), Minahil Fatima (Recording Secretary)

**AQ Representatives:** Jessica Saulnier

**Guests Present:** N/A

**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.

**Call to Order and Quorum Call**

Meeting was called to order by Kryssonia Wedderburn at 5:03 pm.

Quorum is met with 10 voting members present.

## **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was presented to council.

It was moved by Victoria Y. to approve agenda.

Seconded by Tyler M.

The agenda was approved.

## **Approval of the Minutes from the 14th Meeting**

The minutes from last meeting were presented to council.

It was moved by Alex N. to approve minutes.

Seconded by Sydona C.

The minutes were approved.

## **Business Arising from Minutes**

## No business arising from the minutes.

## **Executive Reports**

**4.1 President’s Report – Tyler MaGee**

Hello, everyone, I hope you've had a decent week. I will keep this report very speedy. So, on Monday, we kicked off CASA’s advocacy week with a training that Syd and I attended. It was from 9am to 6pm. It was a very long day. But we heard and gathered a lot of information for the week. And then I answered a ton of emails, because on Tuesday, I had wisdom teeth surgery, and was out for the rest of that day and Wednesday. On Thursday, I submitted my BoG report, the Board of Governors meeting is scheduled for the 26th of this month. So, all of our reports were due. And we had a little bit of transitionary talks with Kathy who kind of like assimilates all of the board governance stuff. So, we were talking a little bit about transition to the next president and Board of Governors representatives as we are sadly coming to the end of our term, but also kind of positively coming to the end of the school year, which is nice. Then I answered a bunch of emails, because I needed to catch up on the ones that I missed for Tuesday, Wednesday. And I put together a policy draft which we will see later in this agenda. And I also attended to CASA advocacy meetings, both of those meetings went very well. One was with an MP, and one was with a senator. And they did agree to carry forward three of the five asks hands down and they asked for more information on the other two. So that was a very, very positive meeting, set of meetings rather. On Friday, I in our group chat a call out for any of you who would like to sit on a Senate committee. And Sony was first to respond. So, I officially nominated Sony to sit on Senate committee for the Special Merit Awards Committee, which is all the University's prestigious awards. So, the Senate meeting is on the 24th. And that's where Sony will be officially appointed. So, congratulations on that one. And then I had two more advocacy meetings. Well, two more that were scheduled, one was canceled on us. And then the other one was with some NBSA folks and another MP which was awesome. Then we also had a campus sexual assault prevention committee meeting, where we talked about a fundraising initiative that we're going to be putting on I believe the advertising day that we said was we were going to call for donations to go on the 28. So, it's for women's shelters, we'll be calling for toiletries, non-perishables, monetary donations if you would like and new clothing with the tags still on. So, there will be bins that are placed outside of the help desk. Starting, on the 28th. But we have another committee meeting coming up on the 25th. So, I will confirm those dates at our next SRC meeting. We also spoke a little bit about the believe/stand with you video and we're working on rejigging the language. And there's a new approach that we're looking at taking for this for this video. So, a lot of progression is happening there. Then on Saturday, I basically just answered emails and set up a couple of meeting times with some students for next week. And then Sunday, we had our exec meeting because while everyone is crazy busy this time of year with midterms and stuff, so we've pushed our exec meeting to just before this one. And then I've been working on affirmative action bursaries, those applications closed, and now the four of us are sorting through all the applications so I started chipping away at those today. Then I also set up a meeting with Jeffrey Carlton to talk about our election because the STUSU spring general election is on the way. Nomination period will open on the 28th and there will be a post that's coming out later this week to remind everybody when the dates are and so you can get your nominations in. I hope that a number of people on this call are considering running again. And that a lot of our students here also participate because we love seeing people join in and get involved in the Students Union. Then two other things that I wanted to mention, because of upcoming events that are coming on. So, the work that needs to go into winter carnival planning, in addition to our annual general meeting, which we're actually looking at having in person, we have a vacancy now on the tri campus sexual assault prevention committee. So, if one of you would like to stand in on that meeting, it is the first Wednesday of every month at 10am. Please send me an email if you are interested. And it'll pretty be a first come first served basis. So, if you're really passionate about sexual assault prevention, and you would like to have some experience, there are only two meetings left. So, they're on the first Wednesday of every month at 10am. And also in addition, because of the workload that is associated with the with the AGM, and the Winter Carnival that's coming forward, I have agreed to step in as Interim Chair of the sexual assault prevention committee as well, just so that Victoria can focus our efforts on these other two very large undertakings. So that is it for me.

**4.2 Vice-President of Administration’s Report – Alex Nguyen**

Hello everyone. On Monday, I set up and attended the table for Valentine's Day at the JDH help desk which was amazing. It was a successful event, a lot of students, faculty, staff came up and it was really fun seeing people getting something for themselves for their friends and others. Victoria and I also went around buildings and give some leftovers chocolate to staff and faculty as well. And throughout the week, I received a huge volume of affirmative action bursaries which by Friday was roughly 70 applications. So just to have this on record, due to high the volume, the date, that the decision will be made will be pushed back a little bit, but it should be by the end of next week. And I also be prepared the budget update which will come out next week as well as prepared an election timeline and sent it off to Ty and our director communications to take care of. I also attended the exec meeting which happened right before this meeting. I just want to clarify about the election thing. Ty will step up so I will not be involved whatsoever.

Ty: I know there might be some conflict-of-interest questions that are showing up so as I am graduating and will not be running in the next election, I am able to facilitate stand in as CRO. That also means that from the time that the nomination period starts which is the 28th clear through until the names of those who have been elected are called which I believe is on the 11th of March. I will not be able to give any form of like campaign advice and I will not be supporting any candidates. It will be CRO only. So, if you have any like questions or concerns or would like to have help with your campaigns or anything, please reach out to either Victoria or Sedona, as they are very capable executives who have run in elections for a number of years, and they are able to answer your questions because in my assumed role as CRO I will not be able to answer anything beyond bylaw questions.

**4.3 Vice President of Education’s Report – Sydona Chandon**

Hi, everyone, happy Sunday. I won't be turning my camera on just because it's been a crazy week, and I'm looking like a mess. So, I'll go right into my report. This week has been all advocating for students with CASA as I had mentioned last week, and so on Monday, Ty and I had a huge training with from basically 9am until 6pm that focused on how to keep our language conversation while going into the meetings with MPs and senators. So, throughout the week, I attended three to four meetings each day with different MPs and senators from all over Canada, some of the asks that were brought forward included, creating an affordable post secondary system for all and that involved expanding the Canada Student grant to help improve access for those who need it most. Also tackling the post secondary mental health crisis to create in pan Canadian post secondary mental health strategy. Another ask was funding more students to tackle the challenges of tomorrow, which focuses on providing graduate students with more scholarships to keep pace with overall Canada Research granting agency funding. Another asks involved increase in indigenous access to post secondary education. And this focused on funding Truth and Reconciliation Commission call to action 66 to help connect Indigenous students with support and educational opportunities, and finally, helping international students gain skills in Canada by helping to streamline the co-op process for international students seeking Canadian work experience. The MPs and senators that attended the meetings were very receptive and commended CASA for all the ask that were brought forward. They also supported follow up letters to bring to Parliament and said they would ask many questions during their question period. My week was mostly advocating because prepping for all these meetings took much work. I however, also managed to confirm timings for the cultural sensitivity training for faculty, media, and students. The link for attendance will be sent out early this week. And the time for the training is this Friday, the 25th at 3pm. So, I'd love to see students within the SRC come out to just listen and absorb all the information because it will be a worthwhile and wholesome training. Additionally, I did attend a hybrid panel on Friday, as a panelist that spoke on concerns students brought forward for online and in person, I shared many views from students, some of which involve the increase in the workload of online courses, so students can better balance the hybrid model. So that's my week in a nutshell. I also attended the exec meeting right before this meeting, as well. So, if you do have any concerns or questions, feel free to share that with me. Thank you.

**4.4 Vice President of Student Life’s Report – Victoria Young**

So, I'll just go through my report in chronological order. So, on Monday, bright and early in the morning I had a meeting with the food bank. And then I headed down to JDH to set up for the Valentine's Day event that Alex had mentioned. It went super well. We had it right have different chocolates and little cheesy pickup lines, where students could make their own bag and even put a drawing for a prize. So that was really fun. And thank you to all the volunteers that helped out. And Stevie made a beautiful poster for that, and other students are there manning the table, which is amazing. And then I just had to step away from that event for about an hour because I had a meeting with the subcommittee for the good neighbor program with the city of Fredericton for the College Hill area, so that's with myself and Brendan from UNBSU, as well as a member from the College Hill area, who's just a Resident Representative, and a representative from the city of Fredericton. And we were coming up with sort of like coasters and magnets and other like kind of household fun items, for suggestions on how to be a good neighbor. So, we all kind of took a little different section for that. And we're starting to put that together. So, the next steps are to find out how we can actually make those and make it into an actual reality, I guess. And also, we're planning to have a pamphlet that goes along with that. So that's really exciting. And then on Tuesday, I contacted the winners from the Valentine's Day giveaway for Monday. So, I just sent them an email and told them that their prizes would be available on the Help Desk, put their names on the prices and made sure that volunteers knew what was up with that. And then I also had a meeting with Brett and Valeria about the Winter Carnival. So, things are looking really exciting for that we're hoping to have a concert with a local folk singer and have some students doing a few performances in between that folk singer’s performance, as well as possibly having a skating rink and ice sculptures, some hot chocolate, mini donuts popping up for students to grab between classes, random days, as well as even maybe like a scavenger hunt. So that's really, really exciting as well. Then on Wednesday, I reached out to the pre–Law Society as they had a few questions about masks and mask regulations for campus. And what would be the best choice in choosing pre–Law Society swag, in the form of masks. I also spoke to the OC reps about offering them some prizes from local businesses for their giveaway, and on Thursday, I held my office hours, and I also attended a meeting with central banks New Brunswick. Then on Friday, I attended the sexual violence prevention committee with Tyler. And I was just also talking to the Women's Center about promoting a coffee house that I believe it's collaborating with the 203 Center. So just looking at different ways we can promote that to our students. And then today, earlier in the day, I had an interview with the AQ about the change in sense of community on campus, and kind of giving the VPSL perspective on that and even also as a fourth-year student to the change of community and how the pandemic has impacted that. So that was really interesting. And then I of course attended the exec meeting, where we went through our reports and reviewed some affirmative action bursaries. So yeah, have a nice long weekend, everyone.

## **5. Employee Updates**

No employee reports available.

## **6. Representative Reports**

**6.1 Off-Campus Representatives (Carol A./Gregory R./ Lindsey G.)**

Carol: So, we basically emailed Victoria to see what gifts we can have available for the giveaway. And we have been working on the advertisement of the giveaway. And that has been everything.

**6.2 International Student Representative (Sony P.)**

Hello, everyone, hope you're had a good week, so last week, I wrapped up on International Student Leadership Award by asking for promotion from the international office and STUSU. On Thursday I contacted Tyler in hopes to becoming a member of the special merits awards committee. On Friday, I received an impromptu meeting invite from STUISA, which I could not make as it was so short notice. So, I look forward to the future meetings in order to plan the multicultural fair and perform my role as liaison. And that will be it for me this week.

**6.3 Harrington Hall Representative (Lauren H.)**

Hi, everyone. So not too much for this week. On Monday, the House Committee handed out Valentine's which is sweet. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend. I was still in isolation at the time. But I think people enjoyed it. And I also had talked to the RAs about some resident’s concerns, just seeing if there could be addressed that way rather than going up but I'm going to talk to them to follow up after and then. Yeah, so I'm just hoping that we get to have a House committee meeting soon, and then plan some more events for the house. But that's all for me

**6.4 At-Large Representative (Julia E.)**

Hello, everyone. I hope you're all having a great weekend. I also wanted to report on the success of Monday's Valentine's Day event. As a member of the activities and events committee, it was really great to be a part of that. And I also got a lot of good feedback from like just talking to students this week about it. So, it's really nice to see that it was well received. Because I know Valentine's Day, sometimes it's hard to think of something creative, but sometimes simple is better. So that was a really great success. I'm happy to see that the student body appreciated it. As you all know, this week's been really busy with advocacy week. So Sydona and I have had a really hard time pinning down a meeting time. So, we're going to meet right directly after this meeting, and to talk about the remote learning roundtable event. And from that, I'll have some more updates and hopefully finalize a date by tonight. But that's everything and I hope you all have a great long weekend week.

**6.****5 Indigenous Representative (Stevie D.)**

This week was pretty fun. On Monday, I was able to attend Victoria's Valentine's Day event. And I love watching everybody just walk up and say how much they enjoyed the activities that we were doing. And I don't know, it was super awesome. Tuesday, I had a meeting with Rachel Burke. And we talked about a possible beading workshop for the grads. And this beading workshop is going to be doing I think it was like T pins. And the reason that she brought me into this conversation is that she wants to partner with the student’s reconciliation committee about possibly doing a questionnaire during the event, about grads perspective on reconciliation on campus. And I thought that was an amazing idea. So, we got on that really quick. And on Friday, the reconciliation committee had a meeting, and it was our first meeting regarding our guidelines. So, we were able to define our roles this week. And we got that down on paper. And yeah, it was really awesome.

**7. New Business**

**7.1 Committee Operations Policy Amendment**

Ty: Yeah, so for this little policy thing, since we're coming into the end of our terms and going into transitionary stuff, the executives have been reviewing a lot of the policies that are existing and looking at where we can make improvements where we see our shortcomings, different gaps that we have, just a little review and reflection processes now. So, one of the ones that we identified was in our committee operations policy, specifically that there was a lack of a confidentiality clause within those committees. And it was the feeling of the executive that if we are to introduce a confidentiality clause and specify that what is and isn't confidential, it might facilitate and encourage students to be more vocalized and comfortable sharing their thoughts on specific issues, while still maintaining the productivity of the committee's. So, I will share my screen here. Alright. So, this is the new proposed amendment. So, it'll slot right at the very end of our existing policy. And since this is all brand new, I'll read through it all. And then we can get some feedback. So, for section 1, it says, all student’s union committees are subjected to partial confidentiality, to facilitate anonymity and open dialogue within committee meetings. Section 1.2: Items that are subjected to confidentiality include any information that can reasonably be related to a specific person, discussion items pending committee approval. Student Advisory Committee is subject to complete confidentiality. Section 1.3 says items sub not subjected to confidentiality include committee approved initiatives and or events and/or action items, specific items which require the approval of the student representative council as part of the SRC committee operations policy. So, this is anything like funding applications that are over $500, they need to come to the SRC, in addition to I think some ratifications have to go to the SRC so those would fall underneath that. Section two, all Student Union Committee members are to ensure that they attend meetings online or in person or in private settings. Any official and or designated committee members are permitted to attend meetings. This is basically just because and we're all guilty of this. I know I definitely am, too. Sometimes we take committees, like meetings and stuff that may or may not talk about different information and people sharing opinions and things in locations like JDH. I have definitely been guilty of that, as I'm sure we all have. So as a way of kind of allowing students to feel as though they're in a completely safe space or as safe spaces we can possibly make. Knowing that you're not in a public place when you're taking these meetings may be beneficial to that. Section 3. 1: and these two clauses here, I will say are pulled directly from the confidentiality agreements that the four executives sign in addition to all of our employees. So that's why it's worded this way. Any unauthorized release or carelessness in the handling of confidential information is considered a breach of duty to maintain confidentiality and any breach of the duty to maintain confidentiality could be grounds for immediate dismissal and or possible liability and any legal action arising from such a breach. And then confidentiality sanctions will follow St. Thomas University Students Union code of conduct in human resource policy. So that's kind of the big overview and the justifications and reasonings for why. At this time, I would love to hear everybody's feedback on this if there is any, and if not, you can bring it to a vote.

Alex: I just want to have a quick comment on why that one committee is subject to complete confidentiality. The student advisory committee, due to the information that's shared between that committee specifically, all committee members have to sign an NDA. So that is why it is subject to the highest standard of confidentiality, and that committee protector only.

Ty: Alex will be formatting this, just to let you all know.

**Motion has been moved by the President that be it resolved that that the proposed amendment to the SSE Community operations policy part 14: Confidentiality be accepted into our normal committee operations policy.**

**Seconded by Alex N.**

**That motion has been approved by 10 present voting members of council.**

**8. Questions, Announcements & Notices**

Syd: Hi everyone again, I just wanted to reiterate that the cultural sensitivity training is this Friday at 3:00 PM, so I'd love to see students turn out. And if you can share with other students within, you know, like your classmates or within your friend groups, that would be great. Thank you.

Ty: Where can we find the link for that, and do you have to preregister?

Syd: So, I'll be sending out the link because I'm trying to collaborate with a facilitator so by say end of Monday, which is tomorrow or early Tuesday. The link will be sent, and I don't believe that there will be a preregistration.

Ty: Will it be through student notices just so everybody knows?

Syd: Yes, it will be.

## **9. Adjournment**

Motion for adjournment was moved by Alex N.

Seconded by ­­Tyler M.

Motion for adjournment was carried.

Adjournment at 5:38 pm.

**Submission:**

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on February 25th, 2022.

Minahil Fatima

su\_secretary@stu.ca

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council