

Students' Union of St. Thomas University, Inc.

16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 47<sup>th</sup> SRC 5:00 pm, Sunday, March 3, 2021 Via Zoom (Online)

### Attendance Record

Position	Name	Present	Regrets	Absent
President	Sarah Kohut	Х		
Vice President Administration	Matthew Oram		х	
Vice President Education	Megan Cormier	Х		
Vice President Student Life	Kyle McNally	Х		
Off-Campus Representative	Sydney Shelley	Х		
Off-Campus Representative	Kathleen Jones	Х		
Off-Campus Representative	Ravtej Singh	Х		
<b>Rigby Hall Representative</b>	Jonah Simon		х	
Social Inclusion Representative	Andie Amaya	Х		
Sexuality & Gender Diversity Representative	Tyler MaGee	x		
First-Year Representative	Lauren Hayes	Х		
Member at Large Representative	Victoria Young	Х		
International Student Representative	Alex Nguyen	Х		
Indigenous Student Representative	Tiger Levi	Х		
Grad Class President	Alaina Mejia		х	

Staff Present: Brianna Hill (Chair), Minahil Fatima (Recording Secretary) AQ Representatives: Hannah Rudderham Guests Present: N/A



The Students' Representative Council Le Conseil Représentatif des Étudiants *Students' Union of St. Thomas University, Inc.* 

#### Call to Order and Quorum Call

Meeting was called to order by Brianna Hill at 5:08 pm. Quorum is met with 10 voting members present.

## 1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to council. It was moved by Kyle M. to approve agenda. Seconded by Sydney S. The agenda was approved.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes from the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The minutes from last meeting were presented to council. It was moved by Tyler M. to approve minutes. Seconded by Sarah K. The minutes were approved.

#### 3. Business Arising from the Minutes

No agenda item available.

#### 4. Executive Reports

#### 4.1 President 's Report – Sarah Kohut

Hello, everyone. I hope you had a relaxing March Break. And I hope that you caught up on schoolwork. Because I'm sure that we all had tons of it. I know I did. So, since we didn't meet last week, I will go briefly over the stuff that I did in the last week of February, and then also the stuff I did over March Break. So, my goodness, on Tuesday, February 23, was my Instagram takeover day. So, I'm not going to go too into detail on what I did on that day, because hopefully you all were tuning in, watching me vlog my whole day. It wasn't that crazy. It wasn't very exciting, but I hope everyone enjoyed our Instagram takeovers, nonetheless. And then on Wednesday, I had a NBSA exec meeting like they usually do. We were still prepping for our Annual General Meeting what's happened over the past two days. And then on that Thursday, February 25. I had a Senate Committee on reconciliation meeting where we welcomed Jonah to the committee. That was his first official meeting. So that was super exciting. And then I watched the speaker event that the Indigenous Students Reconciliation Committee put on and that was really fantastic goes very well done. So big shout out to them. And then I kind of attended Megan's remote learning conversations. I was sitting at the desk beside her, so I was overhearing but I wasn't physically present on zoom call. And then on Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, I met with Tyler, who is running in the election for President, as I'm sure we all know. And then on that Friday, I met with Seydona who's also running in the election for the position of President again, as I'm sure we all know. And then I had my biweekly check in meeting with Ryan Sullivan. We haven't met in a while because things kept coming up, but it was nice to touch base with them. And then on that Sunday, I attended the candidates meeting alongside all the candidates. I also submitted some responses for The Brunswickan, and they reached out to me to do a piece on myself and Sean, who is the president of UNBSU. Just as our terms are coming to an end, just kind of like a final wrap up piece, they did a piece on us at the start of our term, which was really well done. And so, I'm

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looking forward to seeing this one. And then over March Break, the grind never stops. STUSU never stops. So, on Tuesday, Matt, and I met with Reg who's the accountant for the university to talk about the bus pass, because of the fact that we amended the bus pass this year, as a result of COVID, we voided our previous contract. So now we are entering negotiations for future bus pass contracts. Following whenever, after the election is coming up, so that kind of caught Matt and I by surprise, but we're happy to enter negotiations with Frederick Transit to figure out the bus pass for future years. And then on Wednesday, I met with the NBSA Financial Aid Committee to go over end of year report that we presented at the AGM. And then the NBSA Executive also met to still talk about AGM. And then on Thursday, I attended the VP Administration and VP Student Life candidate debate. That was very well done. And I thought it went pretty smoothly for first time doing a completely virtual debate. Unfortunately, I had to reschedule the Health and Wellness Committee meeting for that day because it overlapped with the debate. So, we had that meeting on Friday morning, to go over our year end report of for the AGM, which also happened in that same day. Friday was the first day of the AGM. The purpose of the AGM is it's the NBSA last conference of the year. Also, AGM stands for Annual General Meeting. So, it's pretty much exactly what it entails. We, it's kind of just a conference to wrap up the year, tie up any loose ends of things we're working on, reflect on the year prior, give some feedback. The board did a review of myself and Patrick as vice chair and chair. And then the board also did a review of Waseema, our executive director. And so that was great. And then Friday evening, I attended and facilitated the President's candidates' debate, which is also really well done. I put Tyler and Seydona through the wringer just feeding them audience questions for about an hour straight, but it was great. They took it like champs. And the engagement with the audience for that debate was absolutely fantastic. It was so great to see students, you know, really engaged with what STUSU does and care about our election. So that made me very happy. And then on Saturday, was the second day of the NBSA AGM. I also did an interview with the Aquinian for Women's History Month to talk about being a female in a position of leadership, which is really, really great. I'm also looking forward to seeing that article. And now we are here. I'm wearing our STUSU Merch. I picked that up on Friday. So, everyone can stay tuned in their emails next week. So, I can send out emails to get everyone's payment and whatnot, and then arrange how to get your sweaters to you. And I also did the NBSA minutes this week for our board meeting that happens on Saturday. And I also wrote up my portion for the NBSA Financial Aid Committees year I'd report and likewise with the Health and Wellness Committee. I created questions for the candidate's debates. I also created the graphic for the debates and put that out on social media and I also figured out how to host a zoom webinar and it was a trial-and-error process. But I think I got it down pat now at this point. And I think that is all for me.

Tyler: Just a question about the bus passes. I don't know if it's possible or not, since they did convert to a whole ready pass system, but would it be possible for us to like talk about maybe going back to the way it used to be with just scanning our ID cards? Again, not a clue if that is possible or not, but I think it would be a lot more accessible for our students, if you could find a way to go about doing that.

Sarah: I can't necessarily make a comment on whether or not that's 100% feasible, but I can take that into consideration. We will be meeting with Frederick transit in the very near future to kind of discuss our options, and figure out, you know, what kind of different ways the bus pass can look like that's, you know, feasible for our students in the sense of minimal increases to the cost. Optimal accessibility, stuff like that. So, I definitely can take that into consideration. And, and as I said, there's absolutely no promises that I can make it happen, but I can definitely bring it up to them and see if it's a possibility.

4.2 Vice President of Administration's Report – Matthew Oram

No report available.

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4.3 Vice President of Education's Report – Megan Cormier

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Hello, everyone. So, this might be a little bit of a longer report just because like Sarah said, it is going to be that week of February and then the March Break. So, starting off with what I've done with the STUSU. February 22, I met with the Academic and University Affairs Committee. The 23rd, I had a Retail Review Committee meeting in the morning, kind of directly following that I had a Remote Learning Committee meeting. And then directly following that I had an experiential learning committee meeting. So, it was quite a jam-packed day. And then on the 25th, I did my Instagram takeover on our social media. And it was also quite a busy day started off with my office hour. Then I had a very brief Sustainability and Environmental Awareness Committee meeting. Following that I had my remote learning conversations with Dr. Robear. And then to finish off the evening, we had our weekly executive meeting on the Thursday. During the day, I also attended the indigenous education awareness series, part one on treaties, which was very informative, and I think it gave some great context, as someone who's doing a native studies minor, it actually added to what I'm learning, and I think that was really impressive. And I hope a lot of students attended because I know it was incredible. The 27<sup>th</sup>, I met with a student regarding the elections. Thursday, I went to the VP Admin and VPSL debate, and Friday, I went to the President's debate. And then most of the March Break consisted of me just answering emails, and I scheduled all my committee meetings for both STUSU and CASA. I made sure those were scheduled for the month of March. I've been speaking to a nurse about an upcoming event. And then this week, I also created a new graphic for MLA Mondays, which will be occurring tomorrow. And the topic of that discussion is surrounding University funding. So, kind of what we want to seek in a memorandum of understanding. David Kuhn wants to hear what your thoughts are on where university should be spending money or where the province should be putting money for universities. So, moving now to the NBSA. On the 23rd. I met with the NBSA Financial Aid committee to work on our transition document. The second of March, I met with the committee again to finalize that work before the AGM. For the past two weeks, so just whenever, over Slack, the NBSA Systemic Racism committee and the NBSA Sustainability committee have been finalizing our plans as well for the year and have created a transition document that was presented at the AGM. So, one thing all of our committees did was create those documents. And we'll continue to update them as we are not done with our term yet but wanting to ensure there was something there for groundwork for the delegates who will be coming very soon. And then like Sarah said, March 5, and 6, we had our NBSA AGM. So, turning now, finally to my work with CASA. February 22, I had a liaison call. On the second, the board had our biweekly board meeting. The third, I had another liaison call, the board has also started doing drop-in calls for members. So, the first one occurred on March 3 at 1pm. But I wasn't able to go, but I will be posting when those are. So, people want to drop in to talk to the board, because I think it's open to all members. And it would be a great experience for students to kind of talk about CASA because I know sometimes there can be some disconnect because it is federal but luckily, I'll probably be there so might ease you into a conversation of federally about politics. And finally, last week, the board sent in pictures of ourselves to the CASA communications person, which is (?) as she is creating a graphic for International Women's Day. And that I think is all for me.

## 4.4 Vice President of Student Life's Report – Kyle McNally

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Hello, everyone. I hope you all had an amazing March Break. I myself wish that it could have been a little bit longer, but it's all good. We're in the homestretch now and I am looking forward to the rest of the year with you all. So, starting on Monday, February 22. I posted the STUSU monthly giveaway draw on our Facebook account. And I've been discussing back and forth with the two winners just on how we're going to be getting the prizes to them. So, Mary Baker and Sidney Glant were the winners of the draw. So, congrats to them. And I'm going to be shipping Sydney's out probably sometime this week. So, throughout the past couple of weeks, as always, myself and the Emergency Bursary and International Student COVID-19 Fund committees have been reviewing several applications. And the International Student Committee approved two applications a couple of weeks ago and the Emergency Bursary Committee approved five the week before March Break. And so that happened. There also two current applications that are under review with that committee. On Monday, the first two wellness week events happened. The first one was the self care one. And then there was the harm reduction and substance abuse one. It was nice to see that there were some students engaged in both of those sessions, and throughout the rest of the week as well.



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On Tuesday, the 23rd, I met with Victoria, to go over the cooking on a budget event that happened on Tuesday afternoon for the wellness week. And this was great. Although the event didn't go exactly as we were hoping students still got a lot of helpful tips from Alison, who is the executive assistant of Greener Village. That was nice. On Tuesday afternoon, I went to the wellness week's yoga event. And this was actually my first-time doing yoga. It's nice to see that there were students there as well. And yoga actually was pretty fun. It was quite a workout. And then on Wednesday, was a super busy day had the I had my VPSL Instagram takeover. So, I'm sure many of you all watched that if you didn't, I briefly held my office hour. And then there were those three events happening on that Wednesday for the wellness week, the meditation class and then the digital art class and that was nice. I really enjoyed the meditation class, actually my first time ever partaking in any meditation event and it was awesome. And then we have the digital art class on Wednesday evening. And I also met with Estefania, who is the co chair of the Activities and Events committee and also the instructor of the actual art class, we just ran through the logistics of how we wanted the event to go just in case there were quite a bit of students who joined. And I also use the app quite a bit now, just because it's pretty user friendly. And it's easy. If anyone wants to know what the app is, it allows you to like upload pictures and stuff and trace them basically, it's called Autodesk Sketchbook. And basically, you can trace using that app. And it's very easy. You can get it on your phone or iPad or whatever. And then on Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup>, I spend most of my day dealing with those finding applications. And then in the afternoon, there was the jungle house event for the wellness week. And then I met with Victoria on Thursday morning, as she's running for VPSL as I'm sure we all know. And then on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>, I was supposed to have a meeting with Maddie, the help desk coordinator, but I ended up canceling it just because I was absolutely burnt out from the week. But we are going to be meeting sometime this week to go over the work that she did, while the help desk was closed. And then on Friday advertised Community Foods Mart on Instagram because orders were due that that week, or this past Thursday. And now onto this week. Pretty much Monday and Tuesday I haven't done anything STUSU related because I've been swamped in homework, as I'm sure many of us are. And then on Wednesday, I confirmed with love shouldn't hurt for an event that's going to be happening in a couple of weeks. Also, on Thursday, I attended and hosted the VP Student Life debate and VP Administration. That was great. Very interesting moderating a debate in this format. And then also on Thursday, I sent the order form and payment to Community Foods Mart for the second last time during my term as the VPSL. So, the program will be running in April, just because the second like the last day of classes on the second Thursday, so we'll be able to have Community Foods Mart in April. So that'll be nice. And then on Friday evening, not really related to my role as the VPSL but I attended the Presidents debate and watched that and that was very well done. Great job to Sarah on moderating that. And lastly, that brings us right up to here. So, this coming week, I'm going to be looking into the STUSU AGM and starting to plan that so that's pretty much it for me.

## 5. Employee Reports

No employee report available.

#### 6. Representative Reports

6.1 Grad Class President (Alaina M.)

No report available.

6.2 International Student Representative (Alex N.)

I have nothing to report. Just had a meeting with Matt for the election.

6.3 Off-Campus Representative (Sydney S./ Kathleen J./Ravtej S.)



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Sydney: Hello, everyone. It's been two weeks since I've seen you guys and I'm gonna be honest, I haven't done a whole lot. I've been kind of relaxed. And taking my time, fourth year is killing me. I don't know how you exactly do it. All Praise to you guys. However, we will be planning an event here soon. Probably before exam, just to chill everybody out because we all know that stressful. I gave my input in a low key but meeting I guess for the Finance Committee. It was kind of a meeting. I don't really know. It was just over messenger. So, we got a lot done with that. So, I just kind of focused on school.

Kathleen: I did much the same as Sydney. The week before March Break was my last week of my second term. So, I'm jumping into my practicum this week. So, it's been crazy. I did participate in discussion with the Finance Committee regarding some applications. And as well, Megan had given my email out to somebody who had some questions about the education program. So, I'm working on that email response back. And if you know anybody who has any questions about the education program, please don't hesitate to give them my school email, and I will answer any questions. Other than that, I'm just really excited to work on our next event.

Sydney: I forgot to say something. One of the people who is running for OC rep for this coming year reached out and asked me a bunch of questions, and I was so glad to help them. They're like, what do you do? And I was like, listen, I got this, let's chill out a little bit. I explained how Megan's event with coffee houses last year were really successful when they're in person and not all wine. And I just said, if you're finding that you're struggling, that's okay. Like it happens. So, it was really nice to get to know one of the candidates for the OC Rep next year, see who we're gonna potentially be passing that on to.

## 6.4 Rigby Hall Representative (Jonah S.)

Sarah: So, under Rigby Hall. There's an event planned for March 10. On the website, backyard.co. And each member of the Rigby Hall House committee will act as hosts for games students want to play. There'll be gift cards that will be given out to winners of each game and be used as a door prize for all participants. And the gift card amount will be \$15. And the winners will have to will have the choice to choose one gift card from three different predetermined gift card locations and they'll be given out virtually and then on March 11, treat bags will be given out to those residents who participated in the event. They have a meeting scheduled for March 9, to go over the event and learn how to navigate the website. And then under reconciliation, Jonah says that he attended the Senate Committee on reconciliation meeting as his first meeting, where he was officially welcomed by chair, the committee Vice President Dr. Kim Fenwick, and the rest of the members of committee. Most notably, personally, the Honorable Great Nicholas and our very own Madam President Sarah Kohut. So, thank you, Jonah, for that nice little shoutout. It was very nice to welcome you to the committee. He says I'm excited and thrilled to be part of this committee with many amazing leaders and help do my part and decolonization of our university. And then under the Indigenous Student Reconciliation Committee, the Committee held its first four parts of their speaker series, the guest speaker, I'm going to absolutely mess up this up and I apologize in advance. But we'll listen to Walastakwiyik Grand Chief Ron Trombley of Tobique First Nation. And he says as always, I will allow the indigenous representative Tiger to speak more regarding the event. But he wants to congratulate Tiger on a job well done hosting the event. And he hopes to see members of SRC attend the next one. And that is it.

## 6.5 First Year Representative (Lauren H.)

Hi, everyone. I don't have too much to report on as I got my wisdom teeth out. So, I was in recovery for a while. I did host a movie night, the Friday before reading week. And as it didn't have like a lot of attendance. It was still really fun. And that's all for me.



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Hi all! Hope you had a great reading break. And we are in the homestretch. And for those who are doing thesis, I totally feel you. So, throughout February 22 and 26, I was just emailing back and forth with Matt, Mariah, which is the Future Ancestors relationship enabler and Larissa about the event. And I was talking to Matt about getting the payment to Future Ancestors. And I believe that went through. I was also emailing the panelists so Sarah, Brock and Dorcas about information, their information, and their headshot for their panelist profile. And then on February 23, I sent Lauren which is the beading artist, an e-transfer for Larissa's gift and I'm still waiting for STUSU to reimburse me for that and then on Thursday, I made infographics for my keynote event. And I also made a Facebook event, which if you could all share, and attend, that would be great. And then, I just set up the Women's Center board meeting, which will be this coming Tuesday. And that's about it.

## 6.7 At-Large Representative (Victoria Y.)

Hey, everyone! I've definitely been busy, two weeks flew by, but I did miss you all. So as Kyle mentioned, on Tuesday, I had my sustainable and affordable cooking event with Greener Village. I also attended a few other wellness week events; they were all really well done. And it was really nice to see and connect with at least some of the STU community in a really casual setting. Then I met with Kyle on Thursday, as he said, to discuss the role of VPSL and discuss my platform, which was super exciting. And then on Friday, I talked to a candidate for At-Large representative who wanted to know more about the role, which was also really exciting. And then I attended the debates this week as well. Well, obviously, I attended the VP one. And it was really excellent to hear from all the candidates and hear about their potential plans for next year. So that's about it for this week.

#### 6.8 Sexuality and Gender Diversity Representative (Tyler M.)

Hi queens! I hope you've all had a good March Break. It definitely was not long enough. So, I hope you all found at least some time to have a little bit of self care. So, over the last couple of weeks, I've been working away at the LGBT+ inclusive sex-ed with Cassidy and Stacy Taylor from the UNB Health Center, we decided to go with infographic series, as it will be more accessible to students. So, you'll be able to find that on the STUSU socials when the time comes. I attended a panel with the UMB education program on the inclusivity and how educators can support LGBT students at various levels of education. It was a really good panel. I loved the discussions that were have and the people who were listening to the panel, they were very engaged and asked a lot of really cool questions. So, and I loved hearing the responses from the other panelists as well. I attended the indigenous education and awareness series part one, it was really eye opening and I learned so much and I look forward to part two, which I believe is this Thursday coming up. So, I look forward to attending that. I also had a meeting with Sam Walsh. They are the new Gender and Sexuality representative from Mount Allison University. We just chatted about the position some exchange resources and brainstorm some initiatives for us to try out on our campuses to see how they go. It was really cool to talk to them, I haven't had the most connection with other representatives from the different universities just because it's usually not something that we do, working externally. But it was pretty cool to talk to them a little better. So yeah, that's it for me.

## 6.9 Indigenous Student Representative (Tiger L.)

Hello, everyone. Let's start off with saying I had a meeting with my committee, the week of the event on February 26. So, a couple of days prior to that. And then we had a practice run with communications and my co host and our q&a moderator on that Wednesday, the 25th. And then we held our first event on February 26th. It was a success with over 50 attendance at an amazing time, being a part of it. And it was more than I expected. So, it was perfect. We had a debriefing on that event on Friday. And then I also on that same day, had a meeting with our future guest speaker for our next event, Ivan Augustine. We met with the committee on Tuesday, March 2 to iron out the details for this week's event. And also started talking about the third event that's coming up in about two weeks. So, Ivan Augustine, will be guest speaking on March 11, at 1:30pm to 2:30pm on residential schools and Indian day schools.



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It'd be almost essentially the exact same format as last time, but with me and Jonah being the host. And we have a giveaway as well. To be entered, you just have to show up. Rather than staying the entire event, as this topic of the event is actually a lot more sensitive. And you know, it wouldn't be fair to make someone sit through all of that for the giveaway, because you know, if you leave out of like just needing to. The giveaway will be a \$50 Visa card, new STU mittens and some more apparel in the bag. You can sign up by using the link provided in the Facebook page and the Instagram page. So, I look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday.

## 7. New Business

## 7.1 Close the Gaps Campaign

Megan: I just wanted to kind of talk about a campaign that CASA has been doing recently, just to bring it all to your awareness and ensure that we're having as many students participate in the campaign as possible. So, for the past month, CASA has been running a national campaign called Close the Gaps. And it's a grassroot campaign by students for students seeking to highlight the many challenges faced during this unprecedented year. Sorry for using that word. I know it's a lot. But whether these are due to COVID or they've just been kind of exacerbated by COVID. We want to help tell students stories when it comes to these issues and bring it to the attention of the people who can make the difference, which is the federal government. So, we're asking that students interact with our materials, whether it be on social media or on the website, which is closethegaps.ca, to share whether they have faced issues relating to access to technology, childcare for students, discrimination, and post secondary education, jobs for students, mental health funding, student financial aid and support for international students. And it is important that our students interact with the campaign, as our stories can be sent directly to the government. By going to the take-action tab on the website, you can fill out what you want to be sent, and there's an email that will be sent on your behalf to MPs and members of government just to share what your gap is. And you can also go on the website and make a little autogenerated social media share. I don't know what it's actually called, but where you kind of discuss what your gap is. And it's important to not only just get this spread among students to raise awareness for the campaign, but the more the students interact with this, the more stories we have to give to the government. And the greater the push is, that they'll actually address them because we want them to know that, obviously, we're struggling. But sometimes, statistics like we have gathered in the past through abacus data aren't enough, we kind of need to share that personal side. So, they know that we're actually struggling, and they actually have to do something about it. They can't just sit by while students don't have access to technology, or student's mental health is suffering, because there's no resources areas provided by our post secondary institutions. So, I just wanted to jump in quickly and bring that up. And you can find all of these on the CASA Instagram page, or like I said, the close the gaps website, which is closethegaps.ca. Thank you everyone!

## 8. Questions, Announcements & Notices

Sarah: I wanted to add something in my report that I forgot. A policy that the Health and Wellness Committee which I am the lead on that we wrote got the pass at the AGM. Finally got to put my name on a policy before the end of the term metaphorically so that was great. And that policy is on Sexual Violence and Post Secondary. But that is not what I wanted to say. What I did want to say is to re-emphasize that I will be reaching out over the course of next week just to get everyone to e-transfer and stuff for the sweaters. I just want to put this out here now, full disclosure that you will not be getting your sweater until I get your e-transfer. Its not that I don't trust you all, its just that I paid for these sweaters outright with my own money and I would like to make sure I get it back. So, keep your eyes out for an email from me.

Megan: Tomorrow there is another MLA Monday, and we haven't planned one for April so this may be the last one. So, if you have the time tomorrow at 1 pm, we will be having a call with David Kuhn. It's a great opportunity and we have a topic but its also an open space to talk about anything you like so check us out!



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9. Adjournment Motion for adjournment was moved by Megan C. Seconded by Kyle M. Motion for adjournment was carried. Adjournment at 5:53 pm.

## Submission:

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on March 9, 2021.

Minahil Fatima su\_secretary@stu.ca **Recording Secretary** STUSU Student Representative Council