



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

7th Meeting of the 47th SRC
6:00 pm, Sunday, November 15, 2020
Via Zoom (Online)

Attendance Record

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

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 6:07 pm.
Quorum is met with 11 voting members present.

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to council.
It was moved by Kathleen J. to approve agenda.
Seconded by Megan C.
The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the 5th Meeting

Andie: Throughout the whole document Wasiimah's name was spelled incorrectly. So, I just wanted to correct that.

Matt: This isn't changes necessarily, but I don't know if everybody's doing this already. But if you're reading the minutes, you don't have to read the whole entire thing. It's more efficient if everybody just reads what they spoke if that makes sense. Because you can read the whole thing if you want, I'm not gonna discourage that. But if you want to just read what you kind of spoke as or when you spoke, I mean, that'll make it more efficient and that'll cover up the whole thing if that makes sense to everybody, Just want to put that out there.

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

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Discussion on the Safer Spaces Workshop

Tyler: Hello everybody, I just recorded it like two days ago, but I totally forgot to send it to everybody. So, I will do that like tomorrow. And then we'll have the updated version for next meeting. That's it. I'll just table it.

Motion has been moved by Sexuality and Gender Diversity Representative to table agenda item 3.1 until the next SRC meeting.

Seconded by Andie A.

That motion has been approved by all present 11 voting members of council.

3.2 Jack.org STU Chapter Proposal

Kyle: Hello, everyone. I hope you all had a great week. So, I want to get back to you all just on some information about holding third parties accountable for the training to ensure that voices are heard. And so, the accountability would mainly come from Geneviève when she meets with the chapter executive, as well as when I liaise and meet with her about the chapter. So ideally, there would be two to three positions on the executive as well that would ensure representation among LGBTQ and indigenous communities and other folks as well. In addition to ensuring that all voices are heard between myself, Geneviève, and the chapter executives. And also, we discussed in our last meeting, just that it would be a good idea that I bring this forward to mental health committee before having it



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

passed or whatever. And unfortunately, the mental health committee was supposed to meet during, the meeting fell on the reading week. So unfortunately, that meeting did not happen. So, we will be meeting next Monday. So, if there are no questions or concerns about that, I would like to motion to table as well.

Motion has been moved by Vice President Student Life to table agenda item 3.2 until the next SRC meeting.

Seconded by Tyler M.

That motion has been approved by all present 11 voting members of council.

4. Executive Reports

4.1 President's Report – Sarah Kohut

Hello, everyone, obviously as our conversation before the call started, highlighted that I know we all still feel overwhelmed after reading week is done so I am not even going to say I hope you had a good reading week because I know we're still all stressed. But I hope you had a good reading week anyways. And I hope that you were able to find some time, during that reading week to de-stress, do some things for yourselves, do some self care, all that good stuff. Because you all very much deserve it. So, it has been a while since we've met. And so, I'm going to try and keep my report relatively short, but I also just wanted to kind of highlight my rationale for canceling last week's meeting. Usually when we would meet in person, people would have headed home at that point. And like for the reading week, so most members wouldn't be present to meet quorum anyways. However, since we're online this year, I thought it would not be fair to have us meet when in any other year we wouldn't have met in that particular week. And plus, like I said, we all deserve a little break. So, I hope that that break was appreciated. And we're back at it this week, until Christmas break. So, Monday, November 2, and I had my first monthly meeting with Dr. Fenwick. And that was a great meeting. Dr. Fenwick is an excellent person and really, really cares about students. And so in that meeting, we discussed a little bit about study spaces on campus, they're going to revisit, like revisit study spaces, and likely make some changes to make them more, I guess just make it better for students this year. And some of the changes we talked about were opening, maybe the Meal Hall, opening up that space to use that as a study space. But the last I heard about that was because they're using that space right now as storage, they don't necessarily have another location that they could use a storage if they wanted to clear out the Meal hall to use as a study space. So that option is likely not the most viable option but we also discussed changing up the tables in the Great Hall so that they're not the small coffee tables that are like really, really low, but rather some higher tables that you can like actually put your laptop on and like work on and write on. Because right now that space isn't the best for like doing some serious work. It's great for reading and for chatting and stuff like that. But it's not the most optimal workspace. So that's something they're considering. And they're also considering, if they do decide to change up the great hall and maximize that as a study space to do some labeling on kind of like if you've ever been in the library, how the library does it where they label their floors on like noise level and stuff like that. Because if you've been in JDH at all this year, it's kind of a weird time where JDH is usually like bumping with people and it's a very noisy space but since there's not a lot of people on campus right now it's very quiet. So then you get that awkward like, am I supposed to be very quiet or am I allowed to like chat and I won't bother people because I'm chatting and so hopefully to alleviate that kind of uncertainty They might do some labeling. And label JDH as like a talking study space and then the Great Hall a quiet or study space or something of the sort. And then obviously, we all know study hall, you can hear a pin drop, it's that dead quiet. So that one doesn't really need any labeling but that is some of the things we talked about. And then the NBSA had our weekly exact meeting, which is always great. We were just discussing about the upcoming lobby, season lobby, two weeks, advocacy, two weeks, whatever you want to call it, and just prepping for that still. And then I attended the David Kuhn event, which was great, great conversations, and shout out to Megan, for putting those on every week, she does a great job with them. And then I met with Victoria, our lovely At-Large Rep to discuss the position and kind of what it entails, and some of the things that would be feasible to take on this year and then on Tuesday, I participated in an advocacy meeting with casa, which was great. I think that was my first one. So, it was very exciting. And then on Wednesday, I met with Cindy, our Director of Communications, to chat



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

about her role and to talk about the year ahead, and we will be continuing to put out our newsletter this year. But instead of it being weekly, we're going to do bi-weekly, because we just don't, we don't have the need this year to put out a newsletter weekly, I think it would get kind of redundant, and it wouldn't be very robust and very full. And so, we'll be doing that. And as well as that. We also discussed SRC headshots and employee headshots. So, this is another thing that usually gets done every year. For those that are returning, you will know that we usually get someone to come in and take photos of us for our website and just a headshot, a professional looking headshot for everyone to have, it's always handy. If you want to use it on your LinkedIn profile, anything, it's a great, great thing to have. And so, I will be sending out an email about that. Probably at some point this week, there's not a big rush on that. So I'm not sure when I'll be sending out an email, but I will be sending out one to kind of schedule that because, as mentioned, most of us are in Fredericton, if not all of us, which is great. And so, we can actually get that done this year. if everyone's interested. If you're not interested in a headshot, then by all means you don't have to get one. And then we usually take a group photo as well. So obviously socially distanced masks on group photo this year, but nonetheless, still a group photo and then on Thursday, I attended the Senate Committee on Reconciliation meeting. That was very, very exciting, because this is the first meeting that we had, since we made the decision to switch over a meeting format to a talking circle. And it went so well. And it was such an excellent experience. And I mentioned over the weekend that to some NBSA folks that that's my favorite committee to sit on. And it really is and meeting in a talking circle format just makes it all the more special and all the more great. And Megan and I attended a President's Advisory Committee on experiential learning, which ones well as per usual, I also attended another CASA advocacy meeting. And then the executives had our weekly meeting on Thursday evening. And then on Friday, I took a photo for the Aquinian about an article that I did unrelated to my position as President, related to me being a student from Ontario that has to self isolate, I kind of got singled out to do that article, because they couldn't find anyone else. So, I was happy to help them out. Um, and then over the weekend, the same thing happened, the Aquinian was in a little bit of a bind, and they didn't have someone to participate in their podcast, the topic was busy schedules. So, I got reached out to do that. And I was happy to fill in. So, I did that on Saturday. I also did the NBSA minutes like I usually do in preparation for a meeting. And then I also posted asking for students to fill the position on the Senate Special Merit Award Committee. Unfortunately, we had no students put their names forward. However, Megan very generously offered to fill the student position on that committee. So, congratulations, Megan. She will be approved to the committee in the next senate meeting. And then on Monday, the 9th I met with Cindy again to talk about the newsletter that will be coming out tomorrow and I actually think in previous years because of the plan that we had, we had to take people off of the newsletter. So, we usually took all the members of SRC off the newsletter, because you folks know what we do all the time. But this year, I don't think we have to do that, which is exciting. So, everyone will get to receive the newsletter, myself included. So, we discussed that. And then I have my bi-weekly meeting with Ryan Sullivan. And this meeting, we just kind of checked in on the conversation that I had with Dr. Fenwick about study spaces. And then I explained to him this was the beginnings of when the campus sexual violence movement began at Mount A. So, he was a little confused about that. So, I explained to him the origins of it and what's going on. And so that was good that he showed interest in what was happening. And then the MSA executive met, again, still to talk about advocacy season. And then on Tuesday, the 10th, I participated in another Casa advocacy meeting. And, then the NBSA had our board meeting, again to we mostly talked about preparing for advocacy season. And then on Thursday, I was supposed to have two CASA advocacy meetings but I cancelled both of those so that I was able to attend the protest at Mount A, alongside Megan and some other members of the NBSA board, which was so fantastic. It was excellent to be there. It was an excellently organized protest. And there's lots of students there, I think there's 400 students, which is really excellent to see. And it was great to be a part of, and to support our friends over at Mount A, and then on Friday, Megan and I also attended the protest at UNB. Tyler was there, Wasiimah was there from the NBSA. We saw some STU students there, which was excellent. And then the NBSA Health and Wellness Committee met that afternoon because in lieu of the campus sexual violence movements that are going on right now, originally, we had not decided to include an ask on campus sexual violence in our advocacy document this year solely because the committee did not have the policies ready in time, however given what's going on currently, we decided that we needed to include something on that subject in our advocacy document. For context or advocacy document is what we present to the government



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

when we do our lobby meetings at the end of this month. So that's great that we made that addition, so the committee met to look over the NBSA statement that was put out and then also to look over the asks that were included in the advocacy document, and then begin discussing creating a new policy to support those asks. Um, however, we did decide that given that it was reading week, and everyone was very, very busy, we felt as if to try and create a policy in that meeting, we will not be able to do the policy justice. So, we decided that we would be meeting in early December, when everyone has a little bit less on their plates, and we're able to devote our efforts really, fully to creating a strong and robust policy. Also, on Friday, STUSU put out our statement about the campus sexual violence and then on Saturday, I attended the NBSA advocacy season training alongside our delegates from STU and Megan and the other board members. I also put out the second top five Instagram story on Saturday and that's pretty much it. I just wanted to take this opportunity to discuss a little bit about the statement and STUSU's relationship with the campus sexual violence movement, I guess, is what I've been calling it. I met with Dr. Fenwick. I'm not sure when it would have been Friday morning, just to discuss what the university was doing on regards to this. And the same goes for both the university and STUSU in the sense that because I guess complaints or issues that have been brought forward are really specific to you UNB's campus that it kind of puts STUSU in particular, in an unfortunate position where we're kind of one step removed from the situation. Of course, we at STUSU, we have a very, very strong relationship with our university administration. And in that relationship, we're closely tied to the decisions that they make and stuff. But again, it's very unfortunate that the same can't be said for UNB because they have their own Students Union where they have that sort of relationship with them. And so, given the fact that any action that were to be taken on the UNB campus, obviously would be done by the UNB administration. So I guess our relationship in this scenario is ensure that if anything, were to come forward on our campus that we are holding our university administration accountable, but also working with the University of New Brunswick Fredericton Student Union and our university administration to hold UNB Fredericton, or UNB in general, their administration accountable, because, as I mentioned, if any action were to be taken, it goes through them. So, the best thing that STUSU can do in this scenario is primarily support our students ensure that our students are getting access to appropriate supports and getting access to the resources that they need. Also, we can certainly be there to help students that want to come forward and make complaints and make and file official complaints. We can support them in their advocacy to the administration's whether it be you UNB or STU and then also work very, very hard to ensure that when UNB Student Union is advocating to their university and working with their university to make changes in the situation that we're ensuring that they know that this situation also very much affects STU students and reminding them that we are a key stakeholder in the situation, and not letting that be forgotten and not letting the voices of STU students be forgotten. And the same can be said with STU's administration, we need to as they discuss with UNB's administration, we need to remind them that we are very much a key player in this scenario. So, it's a little bit of a unique situation. And it really disheartens me that we're kind of one step removed, as I said, we can't directly or we don't have as much of a direct relationship with UNB's administration, as we do with St. Thomas's. However, we still work very, very diligently to ensure that our students are supported, and that action is taken in this situation. And also, on that same note, this is kind of a two-part thing before I wrap up my report, but obviously, the predominance of this movement has been over social media. And so if any of you folks are on your social media, and you see something that is concerning, or you see something that pertains to STU, please, please let myself or any of the executives now, full disclosure, here I am only one person and being on my social media so much really is poor for my mental health and being on my phone so much to constantly scroll through and try and catch every post and every disclosure and every story. So, I really appreciate the help. And the executives as well would really appreciate the help of all of you, not only to bring those posts forward, and to bring forward the things that you hear and you see, but also to bring forward your recommendations of things that you think that we should be doing in this particular situation, because it really is valuable. And I think the biggest thing in this in this situation is that everyone has a unique experience, and everyone has a unique set of needs. And it's certainly our responsibility to make sure that those needs are addressed regardless of what they might be. So that was the first part. And then the second part was, I will say that as I mentioned, a lot of this stuff has to deal with UNB's administration, UNB's students, UNB's staff. But there has been an instance I saw today where something directly pertains to STU on the accountability UNB page, someone did name a perpetrator that was a STU student. So, in that instance, that's



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

something that directly affects us. It directly affects our administration and it would be our administration that would take action with that student to ensure that that student is whatever the survivor would prefer the action be taken because they are a STU student. So with that being said, as soon as I saw that post, I sent it to Dr. Fenwick and I sent it to Ryan Sullivan and Brock and informed them that this was going on and they said that they would take action and follow up. So that's one thing that STUSU can do in this scenario is we will be staying very vigilant to ensure that the university does indeed follow up and they do take action. And that they do take the appropriate measures when it comes to our students and something that they can actually, you know, seek out and have control over. But when I did meet with Dr. Fenwick, the university administration is very, very deeply concerned about this situation. And I also think it very deeply concerns on that, they also are a little bit removed in the sense that they're not the UNB administration. So, they can't directly take action against students that aren't their own, they can only do what's best for our students however they fit in this in this in this situation. So that was a lot of me talking, I apologize, I just wanted to fit that in there. And also give everyone a little bit more context because I know that this kind of unfolded over reading week, and we hadn't had a chance to meet until now. But I just wanted to let you know the steps the executive is taken so far, STUSU'S positioning in this matter, and what we can and can't do. And then just let you folks know that if you see something, if you have recommendations, if you need support, if you need anything, please, please let the executives know, it's so hard with online learning to feel connected to others. And it's really hard that we don't get to have that face to face interaction, we can't see each other on campus or see each other in person when we meet. So, I encourage you all to reach out for any anything at all. And also to please if you see something on social media, or even if your friends mentioned something to you, so please bring it forward to us so that we make sure we're identifying and supporting every single student that needs us. And after that little tangent, I am finished.

Andie: So, thank you, Sarah, for talking about that whole sexual assault issue. That's definitely a pressing matter right now. Now, you said that STU could not be involved because it on UNB campus. So, if we had a student come forward who was subject to this sexual violence, could they come forward anonymously? Or do they have to state their name for the record?

Sarah: Just wanted to clarify here, a student, like a STU student that was affected by a UNB student. Is that what you mean?

Andie: By UNB staff?

Sarah: Okay so in that situation, I'm not 100% sure what the reporting process would look like for that. But because this is where I was talking about where it becomes tricky in the sense that because the UNB staff is employed by UMB, the student can certainly come to STU's administration and STU can advocate on their behalf, as well as STUSU but ultimately, the reporting process goes through UMB, action goes through UNB in that sense. So that's where I was getting at saying that it's really unfortunate that we're disconnected in that sense, because we can't directly say, to our administration, and we, and have that relationship that we do have to say, take this action, because we need to go through that third party person, which is UMB and their processes and, and the stuff that they've highlighted.

4.2 Vice President of Administration's Report – Matthew Oram

Hello everybody, hope everybody had a good week. I know it was busy for a lot of people. But hopefully you got some sort of break in between work. For my reports, I'll start off with just kind of outlining the budget update. I'll get into it more later. But so when I get to that, it's gonna be a little different than last year for those of you that were around, just because I don't have the ledger because Tina's not working at the office and stuff like that. So, it's going to be a little different process, but hopefully, it'll kind of be the same in a way. We'll get through it. But I'll also be creating an electronic update to post on social media so that students can look at the budget updates for transparency and all that kind of stuff. So, I'll get into that later. In terms of Campus Trust, a student reached out to



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

me about missing the opt out deadline. As I mentioned before, part of the policy that we created the start of the year was that this could be prorated for students that miss the deadline for any particular reason, just because of the way in which schools operating this fear and the virtuality of it. So, I'll be emailing her back shortly, just to set her in the right direction to address that concern. I and Sarah received a survey from Campus Trust in relation to some of the operations, I think it's based on one of committees. So, we'll be filling that out by the end of the week. In terms of the Student Advisory Committee, I received a few confidentiality agreements back, I'm still waiting on a few. But as the time is closer to exams, or final papers, that kind of stuff, and when grades come out, I'm thinking that more or the committee would put in more use, because that's usually when those type of concerns come up. So I'll be advertising that again within the next month, and hopefully getting it out to the university, through Kathleen, the media person, so they can advertise as well so that every student knows that that means available to them. I received the information back from the doodle polls from the Governance and Finance Committee. I will be sending out emails to both committees tonight, for those of you that are here, and that are on committees for future meeting times. As of right now, I still haven't received any funding applications or clubs, societies, applications, but we can still meet, to go over a few things, maybe kind of work on the budget updates together, that kind of stuff. But yeah, I'll be sending those emails out tonight. The same as the rest of the executives, I had my office hour, not last week, but the week before, not last week, because of the reading, we go, obviously. And then we had our SEC meeting. That was good. And recently, I've been working on editing the STUSU's website in different kind of ways. Not the best with technology, as I've kind of said before, but kind of slowly kicking away at it, trying to make the academic assistance application process and the clubs and societies funding application process more efficient for students, especially seeing as this year's online. So I kind of want to make it so that they can kind of put it into a Dropbox on a website, instead of having to get the form for me over email and fill it out and send it back. Hopefully, this will kind of destroy some barriers, I guess in terms of the way in which these forms are submitted. So, I'm working on that. And then I've also been working on editing my presentations for the STU retreat that will be coming up, some of the things have to be changed just because of the way in which school is different than previous years. But not that many changes out to me which is good. And also setting up a clubs and societies check-in kind of event. I've noticed this year that it's not surprising that there hasn't been many clubs and societies funding request. Most of them have just been for zoom accounts, which I kind of expected. But I want to sort set up a sort of check in just to see kind of the ways in which we can further supports the clubs and societies. If there's any way, we can promote more stuff or any ways that can use the funding besides zoom accounts. So once that happens, I'll get back to you on that, just to see the results of that. And then I also had a student reach out to me about the guard.me International plan. It's Carrie that deals with that. But I'm also always glad to point students in the right direction, and help out if I can, it was about COVID testing and if it's covered by the plans. And it is, so if you ever get COVID, hopefully not but need to get it covered by a guard.me that is available. And then I also had a club reach out to me about a fraudulent sponsor claim that sometimes goes around from organizations that send emails that aren't real. So, I've been looking into that. I'm gonna send out an email just advising the clubs to maybe stay away from it. Don't answer it just because I don't want to see any clubs get screwed over in the process of thinking they're getting sponsored when they're really not. That's it for me.

Sarah: Just a comment about the retreat. And as I mentioned, in my email, I have submitted the operational plan. I should have mentioned that in my report, but I didn't write it down. But I have submitted the operational plan to have it in person. And hopefully it gets approved, I can't see why it wouldn't. But if it doesn't, we will still have the retreat online, because I think the information is really important. And we'll just do our best to adapt to having it online. So regardless of if it's in person, or online, please book that that slot out of your schedules for the retreat. And if you're unable to make it, or if you have any questions or anything, please reach out to me. And Kyle will be sending an agenda for it very, very shortly.

4.3 Vice President of Education's Report – Megan Cormier



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

Hello everyone, it's been a pretty busy two weeks of solid work, which feels good to look back on this report at the end. So, starting Monday, November 2, we had an MLA Monday where we discussed staying social during COVID-19. And like I said, we're going to continue to have those themes every single week. We didn't have one last week just because of reading week, but there will be one this Monday. Following that meeting, I met with my ad-hoc committee on remote learning and we discussed some of the survey results that came out. And I did ask the chair of the committee, Andre Lozol, if we could share them, or what kind of information could be released to students, as well, as David Kuhn was really interested in some of the results. And he is talking to Dr. Fenwick about that potential. Because when we do surveys through the university, they're generally confidential. But they do see how this information would be good for students to have, especially students like ourselves, student leaders, and those who are stakeholders in post secondary education specifically at STU. So hopefully, I'll have an update, this week of what I can let you guys know or what the university is going to release on that. So that same day, I had my second CASA admin meeting with MP Omar Al-Gabra. Then Thursday night, November 5, I met with Alex, our International Rep to talk about the upcoming Wall of Flags event, that'll be taking place November 25. So, we're going to have a lot of work to do this week, Alex, and I, on prepping that meeting. So, I'm really excited to continue working on that. That same day, I also met with the Presidential Committee on experience learning, like Sarah said, and later that evening, we had our regularly scheduled executive meetings, which we have every Thursday evening. This past Friday, as Sarah said, we attended the protest at UND, to show solidarity with all of our survivors, as well as those from UNB and NBCC. And it was a very, very powerful moment for our campuses. And I was really happy to see some, some student faces there, especially some of some of the boys to show that they also care. And then we worked on our press release that was released Friday, I made a graphic for the upcoming MLA Monday, and we will be having a special guest from UND to talk about mental health strategies if anyone's interested. I know it can be a very hard time. And we're very excited to have that kind of resource available to students. So, if you guys could also share that so that other students see that that is available. I know, sometimes our reach doesn't get very far, but we're glad to have you guys to kind of get some more unique constituents. And then I set up all of my meetings for my committees for this week, which is very exciting to get those started, as I've been pretty busy beforehand. And I'm really excited to see what the committees want to tackle this year, especially the new committee, the Sustainability and Environmental Awareness Committee. For the NBSA November 2, I met with some NBSA board members to go over our CASA asks, because after our CASA training, we still felt like we had a few questions and we kind of grouped together to go over everything again and just ensure we're prepared. Tuesday, November 10. We had our regularly scheduled NBSA board meeting. November 12, Sarah, and I traveled to Mount Allison to also show solidarity with our colleagues there because that's really where it sparked. And we're, we're very excited to see that it gained much traction. Like Sarah said, there were so many students, like the flood of support, and all of the survivors sharing their stories, or even having faculty members speak, it was it was very moving. I also attended the NBSA advo season training as we are jumping into that, and I'll be starting my advo tomorrow morning with Wayne Long, who is the MP for St. John. So now jumping on to CASA. Like I said, I had my first CASA advo meeting with Wayne Long. And then I've continued to have Casa meetings, they are scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays. So last Thursday, I met with a senior staff of a senator to talk about our asks, and then Senator Gold. And then finally my last meeting was with Jenica Atwin the MP for Fredericton South which was really nice. And finally, I sent out a doodle poll to my Member Relations Committee meeting that I chair through CASA to set up our meeting for the month of November.

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

All right. Hello, again, folks. I'm going to try and make this one relatively quick. Because it's been it's been a long one so far. So, two Monday's ago, I met with the Campus Events Committee, where we discussed the Midweek Motivation event. And that's gonna be happening on a weekly basis on campus to try and get more students there. And just for your all of your information, we are currently looking for some volunteers. So, if this is something that you potentially be interested in, or have time to do, feel free to reach out to me or Velaria. I met with Brock on Monday, similar to our bi-weekly meetings. We talked a lot about the upcoming event that was on Wednesday for



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

the Midweek motivation, as well as brainstorm some ideas on other events that we could collaborate on on-campus. Also, on Monday, I had my second STUSU Sexual Assault Prevention Committee meeting, where we came up with ideas for our student surveys that we're going to be doing and we also talked about how it would be beneficial to have an Instagram account. And so, during the reading week, I created the Instagram account. And over the past few days, Megan Costan, the co chair as well as myself have been following lots of students on that account, just to get a wider audience to raise awareness to. Tuesday, I had my office hour in-person and virtually. And we'll be having them as usual on Tuesdays for the rest of the semester from 12 to 1. I sent recurring zoom meetings to all the three committees I sit on, and they're going to be running till the end of the semester. So that being said, please feel free to reach out if you're interested in joining or whatever, or attending a meeting, just so that I can add you to the recurring meeting lists. Advertised Community Foods Mart these past few days, just as the orders had to be in by Thursday, the fifth. So, on Thursday, I sent the order form and money to Community Foods Mart. And then on Thursday of this past reading week, I went and picked up the bags and brought them to campus for students. And because the Help Desk wasn't operating, I stayed in JDH, in the parking lot for an hour so waiting for everyone to come and get their bags. That was great. We've received orders this month and I assume the drop in numbers is probably just because it was reading week and people are going home. On Wednesday, I was on campus like I said for the motivation event. We had an extra 43 students in JDH and we're suspecting the numbers are going to continue to climb with the free parking on Wednesdays and the snacks that are available to students as well. Also, on Wednesday, I had a tri-campus sexual assault or sexual violence prevention committee meeting. And as always, it was nice to connect with those folks from UNB and NBCC. We talked extensively about the tri-campus sexual violence drink spiking committee that we formed earlier in May and talked about some sort of campaign that we can do between all three campuses. The activities and events committee met on Wednesday. And we are working on planning our first event towards the end of November. And so basically, I posted some polls on my Instagram account to get a relative idea on what kind of trivia themes that students like. And Netflix trivia was the winner. So, it is looking like towards the end of the month, we are going to have a Netflix trivia event. Dr. Zelazeny reached out about STU Santa so I helped her advertise that. During the reading week, I attended a harm reduction student conference on zoom, titled Rethink the Drink supporting students during a global pandemic. Really enjoyed this symposium, because it really carried like a mental health frame to everything that was discussed, which of course is super important during these times. And also, I made some connections at St. Mary's University, Acadia, as well as some students and with admin from DOW to inquire about what harm reduction work, they're doing on their campuses and what that looks like. So, it's been super, super awesome to see what other campuses are doing in terms of that. The exec had our weekly meetings, I brought the trick or eat donations to Greener Village, which is the food bank in Fredericton. As I'm sure you're all aware, I met with Maddie on the Friday morning before reading week, just as part of our bi-weekly meetings we talked about the Help Desk, Help Desk volunteers and the Shinerama bottles that are in Rigby Hall. The emergency bursary committee met twice and approved two applications for \$500 each over the reading week. And I also made a graphic for Sexual Violence New Brunswick Bystander Intervention training that is available for self enrollment on Moodle. And honestly a great training to have and it provides you with a little certificate of completion at the end. So, I encourage you all to take that training if you do not have it, as well as spread the word about it. This past Friday, I had an on-campus events committee meeting, where we just talked about last week's first midweek motivation event and prepared for this coming week. I made a couple of graphics, got a picture of the donations together for our Instagram account, which I am sure many of you have participated in. I sent along some information to Cindy for the STUSU newsletter. I've been discussing back and forth with AIDS New Brunswick again, to talk about the potential of having an in-person naloxone kit training. Whether that be towards the end of November, early December, just for students who might not have been able to join virtually and are here in Fredericton. So, stay tuned on that I will keep you all updated if that is the go. I started working on the retreat agenda, as well as editing my presentation for the retreat. And lastly, I've been talking with our Social Inclusion Rep Andie about a Mental Health Forum event that she is working on. That is all for me.

5. Employee Reports



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

No employee report available.

6. Representative Reports

6.1 Social Inclusion Representative (Andie A.)

Hello everybody. Hope you had a restful week because I did. So, I finally found a proper website to host my Mental Health Forum. So, I bought out the domain and it'll be I guess, mine for a year. I was thinking of like, putting this Mental Health Forum event as like an event that's hosted every month. So, each week, or each month, there's like a new question where people can just like, write their answers. So, kind of like a writing prompt. I've been going through kind of like how I will set it up. So, I will be a moderator, and I've been working with Kyle, so if you'd like to be a moderator too, for the posts, that would be great. So, we don't have any triggering posts or content on there. So it's all appropriate and so if anybody wants to also volunteer, in like writing out something for the forum, I just kind of want to give it a test drive before I actually make it public to students. So, if you have any questions about where to get the link to the forum itself, just shoot me an email or an Instagram DM, whatever. And I'll send it to you. So, I have three questions set up. So the main one being 'my brain is beautiful because' and then 'I healed from' and 'I am proud of' so if anybody else has any, like mental health related questions that like people would like to write about, or something, also shoot me an email and I was also including a resources page on there. So, it's not only a forum, but it's also a place where students can find resources for mental health services in the Fredericton community and New Brunswick as well. So, I'm putting together that resources page right now. And I was also wondering, if, Tyler, you knew of any mental health resources in the community for the LGBTQIA+ community. If you have anything, if you could send it my way, that'd be great. And I also scrapped the idea of having kind of like a giveaway if you participate in this forum, just because I want it to be like a continuous thing throughout the year. So, I'll just do like some sort of contest or giveaway, probably for my next event at some point. And yeah, that's about it.

Tyler: Hello. Yeah, I'll send a look at what resources I have and send any of what I have your way.

Sarah: I just pulled it up on my phone, it looks really great. And also, I love the name of the link and the title of it all. I think it looks awesome. And also, I would be more than happy to volunteer to write something or to help out with this in any way that you would like me to, please put me to work, I'd be happy to help out with any anything to do with this, because I think it's such a great initiative.

Kyle: I was just gonna reiterate exactly what Sarah said.

6.2 First Year Representative (Lauren H.)

Hi, so this week, a lot of the first years were saying like that they're just concerned about like, the sexual assault allegations and everything. But I think the post that was made like kind of helped them a little bit. And also, I don't know if there's something that we can do to help or bring to someone's attention. But a lot of the first years that are in residence are like having a hard time because they aren't able to see everyone on residence and I noticed like to do with COVID and stuff. But they're meeting outside the building all the time anyway. So, I don't know if there's anything we could do, but I thought I'd just say something about it.

Sarah: Thank you, Lauren, for that. It's so exciting to have your perspective on council now, especially because first year students have such a unique experience coming to university and there's so much transition. And it's tough being a first year, especially during a pandemic. Firstly, I want to address what you said about first years and being concerned about the sexual violence movement, I guess that's going on right now. And I just encourage you to



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

encourage them to either reach out to us directly, or to reach out to you to come to us. And then we can help connect them with anything that they need. Because I remember being in my first year and figuring out sometimes you don't even know what you need. And you need someone to tell, you know, this is what's available as of right now. And then they can navigate to what they feel is most appropriate for them at the time. So please, I encourage you to get them to reach out to any of the execs or any council members or to go through you to bring it to us just like you did. And secondly, I actually heard or not heard, but I heard from upper your students earlier this year saying how they could only imagine how difficult it would be for students living in residence to kind of like bond with each other and see each other. So, it's sad that that concern has become a reality. And that first-year students are feeling that way. But that's definitely something that STUSU can look into and I'm not going to speak on behalf of Kyle here. But that's something that Kyle could certainly look at, you know, talking with you to figure out what type of events maybe that we could host or anything really that could help bond, get that bond going with students and residents and also talking with our Rigby Rep as well, to figure that out, but I'm sure Kyle has something to say but I'm not going to chat too much and speak on his behalf.

Kyle: So just to reiterate, literally what Sarah was saying, if you do want to reach out to me with anything, any concerns, as well as look into like collaborating on any events or anything, I am more than happy to do so. And more than willing. So, feel free to just reach out if you have any questions.

6.3 Grad Class Representative (Alaina M.)

Hello, everybody, it's nice to see you all again, it's been a little bit there. So on the grad class side of things, respecting the fact that this is a very busy time of year, we haven't had that much going on in the past couple of weeks, the University did push back the due date for grad applications. So now due tomorrow, Monday, November 16. It was announced that there would be no fee associated with sending applications that was very exciting to hear. Oh, absolutely. In support of that process, over the past couple of weeks, my main function has been guiding members of my class either to the correct forms, and other supports just to ensure that everyone who wants to graduate and get that going was able to get their application in reasonable time. So that's very exciting. I'm hoping to pick things back up again in the coming weeks with the grad class committee, and kind of discuss different events that we hope to see happening soon, and create a game plan regarding whether or not we want to sell grad class clothing this year. And if we did, what that would look like and that's everything we've got going on this week.

Sarah: I just wanted to tell you Elena that I reached out to the new jeweler that's taking care of the grad ring, and I tried on a grad ring last weekend, or yesterday, actually. And the process was so easy, the individual is so kind the payment options are incredible. So that you can bring that back to the university's grad committee and let them know that because it was such an easy process, such a kind individual, and anyone else that hasn't had a chance to try on a T ring yet, you can know that it was super, super easy. And I was really impressed with the amount of payment options. He mentioned to me, he said that I could literally pay \$20 a day if I wanted to. which is excellent because sometimes students don't have a bunch of money to fork up all at once. So, it's great to see that flexibility.

Alaina: Absolutely. I'm so glad to hear you had such a great experience with that, Sarah. And it's been awesome just to hear like on that side and on our grad class photos as well. Just what great experiences have been and making sure we work out all the kinks with this year having some changes and of course, meeting our new COVID restrictions and guidelines.

6.4 International Student Representative (Alex N.)



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

Hi, everyone. Last week, I reached out to Sarah about some project I would love to help with and am still waiting for a reply. And on Thursday, I met with Megan, about International Week. And for this week, I have stories out for some materials in preparations for international week. And that's it.

Sarah: Alex, I am so sorry. I will reply to your email ASAP. I had dedicated Thursday to be my go through my email day. And then as I mentioned, I took the day off for the protest. And then Friday, I also essentially took the day off for the protest. So, I'm getting caught up here on my emails. But there's been quite a few things that have come to my attention that needed my attention immediately beforehand, but rest assured, I will answer you ASAP. And I am very, very sorry for the delay.

6.5 Sexuality and Gender Diversity Representative (Tyler M.)

Hi queens! Welcome back! It's been forever since I've seen all of you. But it's fantastic to do that once again. So, what did I do last week? Last week was reading week. Honestly, I took like two days off, which was great for you know, having a bit of a mental health break. And I hope that all of you got at least some chance somewhere in the week to do the same thing because let's be honest, we all need it. I did two interviews with the Aquinian, one of them came out, it was on the Pope's words towards LGBT people. And he had apparently said something about how basically being gay is okay. Which I mean, welcome to the 20th century. Here you go. Congratulations. Anyway. So, I did an interview with that. And then that was about it for last week. And then this week, I did, I went to the protest, as Sarah had said, that was down on UNB's campus. It was a very powerful event. I was happy to see that it was well attended, and that we had some STU students there as well as UNB students. And I yeah, I think that again, it was just it's a very powerful event. And we're going to do what we can to be there for survivors and for our students as well. So, I think that that definitely was very moving and eye opening to be there. I recorded the slide for the final module, which for some reason has just taken me forever, but between school and everything else. It's just It's been one of those slow-moving things. But that's about it. Yeah.

6.6 At-Large Representative (Victoria Y.)

Hi guys! I hope you had a relaxing reading week. So as Sarah mentioned earlier, I met with her during reading week and just discussed focusing on environmental initiatives on campus. So, focusing on the environment is something that was done by the Rep, I think, like two years ago, so I would be continuing on what they had started. So, this week, I'll be starting to look at what they did and how I'd like to extend that into this year. I'd also like to open that up for like the rest of the SRC like if you guys have any ideas or suggestions like feel free to reach out.

Sarah: I think I remember two years ago, and my first year on council that they moved a motion to kind of formally approve the At-Large Rep's portfolio. But I don't think that that was something done last year. So, I'm unsure whether or not we should do that. But I'm going to double check our bylaws and, go through the past minutes to see and then so that might be something that happens next meeting, just kind of giving you a forewarning here just to make it official.

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

Kathleen: So, we've really been talking a lot, as representatives, all three of us about what we want to do for our next event, we want to consider something for the holidays. But we also want it to be very inclusive for everyone. So, we've really had to discuss this. We don't have a functional plan in order yet. But we do have a lot of ideas. And as soon as we consolidate those, we'll be coming out with what we're going to be doing next. That's about it for all three of us. I know I got approached by Laura McDonald from the Aquinian this evening about doing an interview



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

for their podcast. So, I'll be doing that tomorrow. It's about COVID-19 in the workforce because I'm in the education program, they just want to talk about my practicum. But as of right now, that's about it.

Sydney: We had a draw for a \$25 gift card for our Halloweek event that happened a long time ago, it seems now. So, I have to hand my receipt to Matt and I'm not really sure how that works. So, Matt if you could give me some clarification that would be awesome. I didn't really do a whole lot. I started a new job. So, I've kind of been focusing on my job more than STUSU. I mean, STUSU's great but my job pays me.

Ravtej: Yeah, as Kathleen said, we discussed about all the options we have for our next event. And I basically just rested all week, didn't do anything. So that's it.

Matt: For the receipt, in the past years, you just brought it to the office, but because we're not all working in the office, and Tina's usually from home, if you can just kind of scan a picture of the receipt or just take a picture of it, and then send it to me and I'll pass it along to Tina that we can work with through that way.

7. New Business

7.1 Women's Centre Liaison

Sarah: So, for those that are returning, you'll be familiar with this and for those that are not, it's completely okay. But essentially, every year the Students Union will elect a person to be the Women's Center liaison. And so, this is kind of an informal position. You won't necessarily find it in any of our bylaws or our Constitution. To be honest, I'm not I'm not entirely sure when STUSU started doing this, but nonetheless, it's a fantastic thing and it definitely should be continued. But it is an informal position, that basically just means you will attend all of the Women's Centers board meetings. So, they meet once a month, and kind of represent the needs of students and also be the voice of the Students Union in their meetings. Because we do work closely together and having that connection is super important. And then vice versa for the Students Union. So, you would be the voice of the Women's Center to us and kind of update us on what the Women's Center is up to what they're planning and keep that close connection between us and the Women's Center. This position is super great. The folks at the Women's Center are amazing. I was the Women's Center liaison in my first year on STUSU back in second year, which seems like ages ago, and I very much enjoy that position. And as I mentioned, there's some great folks over there. And I would also just kind of like to make mention how, given the campus sexual violence movement, how increasingly important this liaison position is, because we really do need to keep in close contact with the Women's Center because they are really integral group to our students and to UNB students as well. And so firstly, I will ask if anyone has any questions about the position itself. And then if not, or I'll answer them, of course, and then I'll move into what the process looks like.

Sydney: I just had a question about how it would work this year. I know that they usually meet in the SUB if I'm correct. And so, would that just be on zoom this year?

Sarah: Yeah. So, they've told me that they're meeting virtually this year. So, I'd imagine that all their meetings for the rest of the year will be virtual.

Victoria: You might not know the answer to this, but do you know how often they have their board meetings?

Sarah: Once a month, with the exception of November, December, where their monthly meeting fell on the reading week. So, they're combining their November and December meetings together. Perfect. So, the process, as I mentioned, the process for this position is pretty informal. So usually what we do is we will table it for a week to allow folks to kind of decide whether or not they want to put their names forward for this position. So do not feel



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

obligated to put your name forward right now, I encourage you to take the week and think on it. And if you're interested in putting your name forward, you can either send me an email or in our next SRC meeting, you can just raise your hand and say, I'd like to put my name forward. In the event that there's more than one person that's interested, then we usually ask for everyone to kind of give a very, like I said, informal and brief little spiel about why they're interested in holding the position just to help folks decide who they want to vote for. And then we do a vote between everyone on Council and the majority rules, essentially, as all of our votes go.

Motion has been moved by the President to table agenda item 7.1 until the next SRC meeting.

Seconded by Victoria L.

That motion has been approved by all present 11 voting members of council.

7.2 Budget Update

Matt: So, this, as I mentioned, is a little different than last year. Just because we're not using the ledger. Tina is and she is working from home. But you'll see throughout this that there is a lot of money, more than usual left and in a lot of the lines compared to other years. Just because like I mentioned in terms of academic assistance, clubs, societies, funding and all that kind of stuff that, it has hasn't been used that much by students. But if that could be considered a good thing, I guess, in terms of budget wise, but for students it's kind of unfortunate, because there's no academic conferences, not a lot of events are being put on just because of everything, the restrictions. But with that in mind, I'll try to make this as efficient and quick as possible. I won't go through all of them, just because there's not really worth mentioning all of them. But basically, so there's different lines in the budget, those of you that were here around last year, will remember the process. But as you can see, I'll just point out certain things like capital expense, we had \$3000. And now it's down to \$1988 and 27 cents, just from the zoom accounts that we purchased for the STUSU, and then a desktop printer from Tina for home so that she can manage the budgets and the expenses at home by herself. Equipment lease, that went down a little bit, that's just yearly charges. And a lot of these things, especially at the beginning, like telephone, insurance, postage, all that stuff. They're just yearly kind of fees that come out at the start, or the middle of the end of every year. So that those just come out periodically, we set aside money for office supplies we purchased. So that's pretty much it for accounts, it was pretty much straight forward. For communications, we have a Squarespace, which is our internet provider, an update fee every couple of years. So that came out of there. And then obviously, catering hasn't been used, because we haven't had any events that are in need of catering. Then salaries and exact stuff that comes out just based on pays for employees and the execs. So SRC General, that's the funds that you all have available to you all throughout the year for things that you want to put on. The same as the other stuff that I mentioned, obviously, not as many events can be put on this year. So that line is still untouched. But just to let you all know, if you ever want or need funds for certain events, or something like that, or need to be refunded for something that those funds are there. Just email me if you are interested in learning more about that or want to know how much funds you can get. So, for elections, you can see we went into a \$7 deficit just through renewing our subscription for simply voting, which is what we do our elections through. Obviously, the \$7 deficit is not a big deal. It just can be offset through surpluses and other lines. Emergency bursaries you can see about \$1600 dollars has been used. So, there's a lot still there for that. One thing that I did want to point out is the Welcome Week. As you can see, it says there's a \$14,000, almost \$15,000 left, where we only budgeted 6500. So basically, that surplus does not include the outstanding invoice for shipping charges, which as Tina calculated, there is a total of almost \$5,000. So sometimes we'll have surpluses in the budgets, and then it'll look like we came out on top, but that charges were made later on in the year. So, then it all kind of evens out. But like I said, if there are surplus lines, they're put into other lines that maybe are in a deficit or something like that. So, you'll see that as the year goes along. And then in terms of campaigns, we had Get Out the Vote and Shinerama. So, we use about \$500 for that. Clubs, societies about almost \$600 has been used, which past years would be more. Then CASA and NBSA, we set aside that amount of money for the membership fees for that that we pay yearly. So, I think the NBSA membership went up a little bit last year, but obviously we budgeted for that for the upcoming year. But other than that, that's kind of the general process. It's not as in depth as previous years, because there hasn't been as



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

much spending. Most of it's just been membership fees, things that we pay for every year, and then a few odd things. But other than that, that is pretty much it for the budget update, I'll post an electronic version, on the website and on our social media, just to let students who may not read the minutes or something that could see it. But other than that, I'd be glad to answer any questions. If you have any.

Andie: So, thank you, Matt. I have two questions, actually. So, the SRC General line, is it \$1611 per counselor or divided between all counselors?

Matt: It's usually divided between all counselors, it gets used, just for kind of events, the stuff the counselor will put on. I've only been here for one year, but Husoni explained to me when he first came as well is that depending on how many funds are needed by counselors, we can always budget to make sure they're available, they're able to put on events and the funds that they need. And like I said, there are surpluses or lines that can be moved to that line. If ever we kind of ran out of money in that line. But yeah, so it's available to all counselors, I don't know about letting one counselor use \$1600 but if it came to say \$200, or something like that, we'd be open to just kind of expanding or lessening and stuff like that.

Andie: Do committees have a budget?

Matt: So, committees, the budget for that is usually they don't have their own kind of line. But it can come out of a few different lines, per se, like SRC General, that can be used for committees and stuff like that. And at the same time, if we didn't have funds left over in that line, it could be taken from surpluses in other lines. But if committees didn't want to put on an event that could be categorized as SRC General, because that kind of covers a wide array of things. But we don't have specific lines for say the Finance Committee or Governance Committee, but if there were funds needed for those committees that it could be taken out of, say SRC general.

Tyler: Would it be okay if I like emailed you about like potentially using, I guess I'd have to apply for it. But like, using some of that to maybe give the panelists that we had for an event that I ran a little while ago, just giving them a little something as a thank you because I was thinking about doing that. But I didn't know that we had something available for it.

Matt: Yeah, just email me. And I should have said this in the beginning, when we first started meeting, you don't have to apply. If you're a counselor, just email me and we can figure it out. Clubs and societies have to apply and same as some students for academic assistance. But as counselors, you can just email me, and we can figure it out. You don't necessarily have to fill out a form or anything. We can just kind of figure it out.

Sarah: I just want to kind of further emphasize what Matt said about the budgetary lines, don't feel I'm constricted by them, because they really are flexible. So as Andie mentioned, like, there's nothing explicit that says, like, sustainability and environmental awareness committee fund or anything like that. But that money can come out of anywhere like the mental health committee that we have, they can take money out of the mental health line, or they can take money out of SRC General, it really is flexible. And obviously, we want to support you all and be able to give funds to whatever initiatives you want to put on this year. So as Matt said, money can be moved around very easily to make that happen. So, don't look at the budget. And don't feel discouraged. Because there is, especially this year, where as Matt mentioned, we are running a lot of surpluses, there's a lot of flexibility to kind of use that money to put on some initiatives this year. And also, I just wanted to elaborate on the Welcome Week line, I'm in contact with Carmen from Residence Life to kind of tie up some loose ends when it comes to the welcome week kits and shipping and stuff. It's been a little bit of a complex process towards the end, because some first year students didn't fill out the form to request their welcome week kits, or there are some errors in shipping, and students got double kits, or they didn't get kits at all, or they got the wrong ones. And so, we want to make sure that obviously



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

all the first-year students that want a kit can get one and they get the right one. So that's why, usually that line would be kind of finalized by this point in the year but because of the fact that we shipped out kits this year and in this year is very, very unique as is that one still kind of ongoing. So, I just wanted to give some more clarification on that.

Sydney: I don't know what exactly would maybe want to speak to this, but I saw that there was the \$1800 for counselors. I don't know if you guys want to mention maybe what that was for at the end of the year. I just noticed it. I don't know who would want to talk about that as maybe somebody wants to know that was.

Matt: If I understand what you're referring to it's like the counselor honorarium that they get at the end of every year. So basically, that's based on attendance, at meetings and stuff like that. And I don't know exactly how many counselors are on counts, I'm assuming is it less than last year. So basically, based on attendance, at the end of every year that honorarium is given out to counselors. I believe there's a ratio, Sarah may know the ratio. It's in the bylaws about how many meetings you have to attend to be eligible for it. I'll hand the floor to Sarah just because she knows the ratio.

Sarah: I don't actually know the ratio off the top of my head, but the executives did have a conversation about this earlier on in the year about kind of doing away with the necessity of attending meetings, just because this year is already very, very stressful. And I think, if any, if there were any year to be forgiving about counselors not attending meetings, this would be the year. So I'm not sure that we need to have a further conversation about how we want to like dictate the counselor honorarium, but it's likely honestly I'm most inclined to just give everyone an honorarium because you guys all work very hard, regardless of how many meetings you attend, because I know you're all very diligent and hardworking people. But that's a further conversation we need to have but don't I guess be alarmed at the concept of attendance because that's something that I want to do away with for this year. And also, we will have an Indigenous Rep. The Longhouse Circle met with the candidates last Friday or two Fridays ago. So, they're in the process. We will have one very soon. But I will say that we are down in numbers this year for SRC because we are missing three residents' representatives because we don't have three residences open, and we are also missing an At-Large Representative as well. And so yes, in short, we are we are down some counselors this year just because of COVID.

Andie: I have three more questions. So, I noticed that the mental health fee is \$1750. I think I might have had this conversation with you last year, where is all the fee money that students are paying? When they pay their tuition in September? Where's that going?

Matt: So, if you look into it, it says Student Union mental health fee when you pay tuition. But that's all based on the referendum and stuff like that. That happened a few years ago. And that money actually goes to the university. As you can see from the budget, I'm not looking at it right now, but I think it's 1750 that we have set aside for mental health events and stuff like that. But the university has the money that students pay. It's categorized as a student union mental health fee, but the university has that, and Sarah can expand on that a little bit if she wants to.

Sarah: I just circumstantially had the receipt right beside me. But yeah, this is our receipt from the university for Yeah, as Matt said, like it's listed under us. It's a weird scenario where we basically give them the money, even though it technically is theirs in the first place. That is a strange dynamic. But yeah, Matt put it well, that's, that's what it is.

Andie: So just kind of jumping off that. Is there any way that we can change that? Because that's so confusing to students. I've had many questions about that throughout the past few months, and people like don't know where that money is going.



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

Matt: So, do you mean like, would it help if we changed the title of the fee from student union mental health fee to just mental health fee generally? Or would you mean, like transfer the funds to us? Because I think that might be a little more difficult than just changing the name of the fee itself.

Andie: Yeah. So, I mean, just kind of changing the name because it's obviously not the student unions.

Matt: Yeah, we can definitely look into that I'll reach out to Reg or financial services. And we can look into doing that for sure. Because I think it was mentioned before, that is kind of a weird thing that it says Student Union mental health fee, but that it doesn't go to us so I can understand the confusion there.

Andie: So, I also have two more questions. This is kind of unrelated to the budget, I think. But students are talking about opting out for the bus pass fee. Is that happening this year or next year?

Sarah: I was just going to say, just because I've been working with the University on that, and so to be to be completely transparent here, it's Fredericton transit, that's being really difficult with us. And so, we have co signed a request with the university and submitted it to Fredericton transit, asking them to revisit the structure of our bus pass for this year because of COVID. And moving towards an opt in model, so students will get refunded that fee. And I'm sure you can imagine that Fredericton transit is a business, and they don't want to lose that money from students. So that's why they're being quite difficult. But the university is really pushing them to keep that conversation going. And to not kind of forget about it this year. But I also will highlight that our contract with Fredericton transit expires in 2023. So, for anyone that's going to be around in 2023. If you want to completely revisit the structure of the bus pass, that would be the time to do it, because our contract will be expired. And so that will be at the hands of the Student Union at the time. But yeah, it's it's really unfortunate that they're being so difficult to work with at this time. And because I just want to get it done. But we obviously have to go through them and have these negotiations and we need to actually get them to engage with us to have those negotiations.

Matt: Sarah and I, we're dealing with it earlier in the year, probably a month ago, or maybe a month and a half ago. And I did have a lengthy phone call with Reg about the bus pass and stuff like that, just about the logistics of it. He even said that he understands why students wouldn't want to kind of pay the bus pass if they're not even here. So, we were trying to get a sort of opt-in process, instead of opt-out. Because opting out requires that every student in the school opt-out of it. Whereas if you could opt-in to it, then only the students that wanted access to it would have access to it. But like Sarah said, it's their business, and there's a contract. But the university and us have been working together to try and help students with that kind of subject area. So yet to see anything, sort of concrete come out of it, but we're still working on that. So hopefully that answers the question.

Andie: And one last question. Sydney mentioned that she saw a counselor honorarium, and I just kind of wanted to know what that was.

Matt: So basically, what it is, is that at the end of every year, we usually do it on based on attendance. But obviously, in past years, we've also been meeting in person and stuff like that. But at the end of every year, I think it's 1800 dollars. I'm not looking at a budget now, but I think that's right. And I think in past years, it was around \$100, or somewhere around there that each council would get, if they met the attendance law, the attendance requirement, I guess, like I said, I don't know the exact ratio, I forget what it is, but it's in the bylaws, but every counselor gets around \$100 as a sort of honorarium for meeting the ratio of attendance I guess. But like Sarah said, we're going to have further conversations on whether that ratio will be kind of kept for this year due to the circumstances or not.

Sarah: I don't like that concept of attendance for this year. I don't like it one bit. I would also like to highlight that the honorarium is just for you folks. Obviously, the executives do not get that honorarium. I believe, actually, that it



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

was introduced in my first year on Council. So, it's basically just a gift from STUSU, and from the executives to council thanking you for your participation, but in monetary form.

Matt: I'll be doing these kinds of things every month, as it is in the bylaws as one of the requirements for position. So future months, maybe longer, depending on how many funds are used and stuff like that. But I suspect that this will be one of the shorter ones just because as you all saw, not a lot of funds have been spent so far. But as we get further into the year, there will be more explaining to do. And just it's all for transparency purposes, just so that students in the SRC all know where the student union money is going and stuff like this. But yeah, thank you all for listening and having good questions as well.

7.3 STUSU Swag

Sarah: It's kind of a fun little appreciation token for our counselors. We will get some sort of kind of swag to give out to our counselors. Last year, we got quarter zip hoodies, and that some of you may have seen, so obviously, we're not meeting in person this year. But I really am trying to not let COVID impact STUSU that much. And I still want to do all the fun things that we get to do, or we would have gotten to do if it were a normal year. So, like the retreat and having the retreat in person and also including getting some sweaters for everyone. So, I would welcome everyone's opinions on what you would like to see as kind of your merchandise for this year. As I mentioned last year, we got quarter zips, but we could really get anything. I know last year, they looked into getting pants like sweatpants as well. But that didn't end up going forward just because the majority vote was for quarter zips, but I would welcome everyone's feedback on what you want. If you want to hoodie, quarter zips, pants, anything, it's really open to us all to decide. And also, the design as well like the color of the hoodie, what you want on it, that sort of stuff, we can really just make it our own and make it fun. And then once we decide on that, then I can go forward and reach out to some companies and get some pricing and stuff. And then we can have those, those conversations. And so obviously, you don't have to have any ideas right now. But if you folks want to send me an email or something about your opinions on what you would like to see, I have some opinions in my head. But obviously, it's not just me on this call, it's not just me on SRC, so I'd love to hear everyone else's thoughts. And on a lighter note stuff like this is fun. And we all deserve it. We all work very, very hard. And so, you deserve a little fun token of appreciation. So, you're more than welcome to give your feedback now or via email or at any point. But the sooner the better would be awesome so that I can work on getting that order in and making sure that it's placed with enough time to actually get us our whatevers before the end of the year.

Andie: I'm so sorry. I'm always so annoying with all these questions and comments. Do we get to vote like what the final thing would be at the end or okay. And I just want to put my input like I would love an oversized crewneck. So, I can dress it up and dress it down with some really nice dress pants.

Sarah: I love the outfit considerations and that decision. It makes me happy. But yeah, as Andie said, we get to vote on what we want at the end. As I mentioned, last year, we didn't end up getting pants because it was a majority vote for quarter zips. We are democratic union here. Whatever the majority wants, is what everyone gets. So that's why I encourage everyone to give me your opinions. And then at a later meeting, I'll present them all, I also will probably do some mock-up designs on Canva so we can kind of visualize what it would look like. But yeah, I'm welcome to everyone's opinions. Andie, I've noted the crewneck opinion also, you're more than welcome to give your opinion on like colors as well. Like I mentioned last year, we got black, we could get theoretically any color that folks want.

Sydney: I really like the crewneck idea as well.

Sarah: I love all these considerations going on.



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

Kathleen: Okay, I love the crewneck idea as well just because like I'm wearing one today as well. It's lovely. I'd like to veto, maybe not black this year. I have like five dogs and black is not a good color when you have dogs. So, anything but black would be lovely.

Tyler: I'm gonna jump right in with what Kathleen said. I have two golden retrievers black with golden retrievers does not work at all. And I love the crewneck idea.

Sarah: We've got four votes crewneck. I also will say now that we're sharing some no black sweater opinions. My opinion in my head was, I wanted a nice forest green or a nice army green like a STU green. I think that would look nice but honestly like I said, it's a democracy here.

Sydney: I love the green. I was thinking, Gray, whether it be light, whether it be dark, but no black. I also agree with that.

Andie: I'm on board with any color as long as the lettering is black. So that way you can style it. It's so many other things like a dress shirt or something. So that's my final input.

Sarah: I am writing all this down right now. And as I mentioned, I am not going to keep us all for too long. But if anyone else has any opinions, please email me send me a Facebook message. Stop me on campus. If you see me, tell me in my office hour, just give me your input, whenever wherever.

8. Questions, Announcements & Notices

Tyler: Yeah, so I totally forgot to mention this in my report. I received a couple of emails from students asking about SAGA. So, I thought I would just address that here. SAGA for those of you who do not know is the sexuality and gender advocacy. It's a society that we rebuilt last year. So, we designed it from the ground up, the constitution was approved, and everything was ready to go and right before we were set to have our first meeting, Miss Rona showed up. So that that kind of fell through and put us on hold. I am currently talking with the executives from last year to see where they are. And if it's something that they would like to continue seeing as it was a brand-new society. And with everything that's happening right now if it's something that they are willing to take on this year. If it turns out that it isn't, we will be talking elections, and we'll put those out to students who would be interested, since we don't have much of a base, that would be voting, it would be by appointment. So essentially, whoever has interest in doing it, you can just put your name forward, submit them to me, my email is su_sexualdiversity@su.ca. So, if you are interested in participating in, in SAGA, or maybe holding a leadership role, just email me as I am currently the acting facilitator of the of the society. So that's just a little update that I forgot to mention in my report.

Andie: So, regarding my report for the URL, because I did give it away during my report, is there any way that could be kind of redacted or kept confidential? Just because I don't want students finding the forum before it's even ready. Just to kind of conceal it until it's ready to go.

Sarah: Yeah, definitely, I will ensure that Minahil makes those changes in the minutes and that it isn't published. I just wanted to end this meeting with a little note before we adjourn, because I completely recognize that it is a very intense and stressful and emotionally charged time right now, especially as a student leader and holding the positions that you do. And so, I just wanted to come in with your friendly reminder to please take care of yourselves, and only do what you're comfortable with. As I mentioned, it's a very tough time right now to be a student leader. And you will likely have a number of students approaching you or maybe even making disclosures to you. And please put yourselves first because you come before your role on the Students Union and your mental health comes first and foremost. So, I encourage you all to remind yourselves of that going forward. And if you come over anything



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

that you don't feel comfortable dealing with, please just let the executives know, and we'd be happy to take it from there. And don't feel afraid or don't feel bad for putting up barriers, because barriers and boundaries are really important to protect your mental health. But also, with that, remember to just support your friends, support your peers, support your fellow students, and to continue doing the great work that you do advocating for students. We are doing an excellent job this year, and we have been thrown with so many curveballs, more than you can probably even count on one hand, and I'm very, very proud of you all for dealing with that with dedication and character. And you're all great at your jobs. And, I also just as a last thing, I just want to remind you all that in light of all the disclosures that are happening publicly, and people are posting theirs, or sharing their stories publicly, there are folks around you that may be survivors, I do not feel comfortable disclosing their story publicly. So, I just want to encourage you and remind you all to, not that I think that you would, but it's a friendly reminder to not make any assumptions about individuals right now. You really never know what a person has gone through or a person is currently going through unless that they've physically tell you. So just remind yourselves of that as you talk to students, and you see things posted on social media. And that regardless if people have shared their story publicly or not, their story is just as important, just as valid. And they're just as supported by everyone in the Students Union especially. So, with that being said, my final note, I already touched on it. But please take care of yourselves and remember that the executives are here to support you, that's our primary role is to support students, and you are all students, and especially members of SRC and the Students Union. So as I mentioned, please don't feel ashamed to put up those boundaries, to put up those barriers to prioritize yourself during this time and to give anything that you don't feel comfortable dealing with or even if you just don't have the time to deal with, to the executives, because that is our job. And I'm really happy to hear that a lot of folks said that they took a few days off or that they have been focusing on their jobs and rather than the Students Union, and I mean, most people wouldn't say that that's music to their ears. But it really is to me, because that tells me that you folks are really prioritizing yourselves and you're making sure that you've got a balanced plate and that you're not overwhelming yourself. So, I wanted to end the meeting off on that note. If anyone has any questions about anything that I've said today, please reach out to me or any of the executives. And as I mentioned, we're here to support you. So please, please use us as that resource.

9. Adjournment

Motion for adjournment was moved by Tyler M.

Seconded by Andie A.

Motion for adjournment was carried.

Adjournment at 8:00 pm.

Submission:

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on November 17th, 2020.

Minahil Fatima

su_secretary@stu.ca

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council