



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

10th Meeting of the 47th SRC
6:00 pm, Sunday, December 6, 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	
Indigenous Student Representative	Tiger Levi	X		
Grad Class President	Alaina Mejia	X		

Staff Present: Brianna Hill (Chair), Minahil Fatima (Recording Secretary)

AQ Representatives: Hannah Rudderham

Guests Present: N/A



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Call to Order and Quorum Call

Meeting was called to order by Brianna Hill at 6:06 pm.
Quorum is met with 11 voting members present.

1. Approval of Agenda

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

2. Approval of the Minutes from the 8th Meeting

The minutes from last meeting were presented to council.
It was moved by Kathleen J. to approve minutes.
Seconded by Megan C.
The minutes were approved.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Jack.org STU Chapter Proposal

Kyle: Hello, everyone. I hope you all had amazing weeks and weekends. So, I know that since our last SRC meeting, I kind of just tabled the chapter proposal just to give you all more time to think about it and overall, just to wrap your head around the idea. And to think about whether or not you think that this would be something that would be beneficial for our students. And so basically, I just kind of want to briefly do a little recap of everything that we talked about, since late October for this initiative, and then answer or work out any other further questions or concerns that you guys might have, before making a motion to pass the chapter. I think it's important to go over everything that we've talked about so far, just because it has been quite a lengthy discussion. And it would be nice to go over things again, just to make sure that there's everything's worked out and all of that. And so basically, we talked about wanting to have the LGBTQ community voices to be heard. And we talked about ensuring that this would happen by having a position on the chapter executive, as well as through liaising with Geneviève who is the program lead. We talked about ensuring that indigenous student voices are also heard through this committee to also have a position on the jack executive and to make sure that their community is heard in the training that is provided. We talked about what it would look like to have a chapter, what it would look like to be implemented. So, having to meet with our lawyer to review, edit the bylaws, creating a committee operations policy and doing that work on my end to make sure that the changes are accurate. And we talked about making sure that the training jack.org provides encompasses indigenous and LGBTQ voices, as well as to represent them through the training and initiatives that they put on. And so, we also talked about the personal development and growth opportunities that come from jack.org, the additional training that's provided if chapters want to opt into that, the Atlantic summits that they do, as well as the National summits that they do, where students can connect with others and make even more connections. We talked about myself having to liaise between the chapter at the SRC and student services. So, Brock Richardson, Kelly Humber Kelly, to ensure that there's consistent communication messaging between these parties. We also talked about myself meeting with the chapter on a weekly basis to make sure things are going well as well. We talked about the pros and cons to having a chapter at STU. I briefly went over the student survey results that I



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did earlier in the summer, to gauge student interest. And we talked about the financial side of the chapter, how jack.org can but doesn't have to provide \$500 every year to their chapters, where and that money can be allocated or used in whatever ways the chapter wishes, they can also provide swag for the chapter members and this money can be kept organized through the chapter itself, whether that's through their own bank account, similar to how other chapters do it, as well as how some clubs and societies do it. And we also talked about the idea of also keeping the money within the chapter itself with the treasurer or secretary positions. If we do decide to keep the funds within STUSU's money though, that would mean that there would have to be lots more communication between myself and the chapter, which is great. We talked about the flexibility jack.org has for their program chapters, their events, and how many events are put on or whatever, that's completely up to the chapter executive and the members. And then lastly, we talked about the idea of having information sessions for students, at least one with Geneviève to inform students of the program before we put out any applications or anything for it. And lastly, I brought it to the STUSU Mental Health Committee, where I wanted to bring it to members to make sure that they knew that this was happening, and to hear them out and hear what their thoughts and concerns were. And that also went well. And so basically, everything that I just went through, encompasses the discussions and stuff that we've been having since October, which is helpful for all of us to be recapped on and also for Tiger who is new to SRC. And so yeah, overall, jack.org is extremely flexible with these programs, with their chapters, because it helps them also spread their awareness of their program. And so, they often do whatever chapters suggest anyway. I met with UNB Fredericton jack.org chapter lead this past summer. And she informed me that jack.org has done pretty much anything and everything to accommodate for what they need, and how their chapter works. And so basically, after going through all of that, I just want to open the floor again, to you all, to talk about it, and to answer any questions or concerns that you might have in regard to it.

Sarah: Thank you, I would just start off the discussion by saying I know we're probably all exhausted at the end of the semester, I am too. But this will likely be the last time that we talk about this. So, I just encourage everyone to think critically and to vote appropriately. Because this will be a big change to the structure and the function of our union. And for those that are duplicate representatives per se, for those that are like one representative with within like a group of multiple I sure I don't need to say this, but you can vote, like how you vote is on your own accord, like don't feel obligated to, to discuss with your fellow members and stuff because everyone's vote on here is individual. And so, with that, please just think critically. I just really wanted to emphasize that because I know trust me, we're all so exhausted but definitely put your thinking caps on for this one.

Andie: So, as I was listening, you said that there would be exec positions regarding indigenous mental health affairs and mental health affairs within the LGBTQIA community. Is it possible to have the elected members of the SRC fill those positions as part of their own mandate?

Kyle: Yeah, that was actually something that I that crossed my mind and that I was thinking of as well. And I would be more than happy to have, you know, Tyler and Tiger be a part of the chapter if they would like to be. Because then it would also help like in terms of SRC being aware of what the chapters doing if we have more SRC members on it. The more the merrier.

Tyler: If we do, like go through with that, which I totally think it's a good idea to have that written and our positions too. But that would be a change in our bylaws. So, I'm wondering, when if we were to include that would that then mean that we could take away one of the required committee positions that we would have to sit on? Since I know that we have to sit on two committees. So, with this taking place, if one of them, or would it be two committees that we would sit on alongside this as well?

Kyle: That is a very good question. And I think that warrants a discussion with the executive as well, I see Matt has raised his hand raised, so maybe he can adjust that.



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Matt: it would just be a discussion between the representatives specifically. And then I guess, whoever's running the committee. In terms of the two requirements, if I don't see a problem with making that one of the requirements, not making it three, because I guess three would be maybe too much. So that's just my opinion, Sarah might have something different. But if you wanted to switch that in for one of the second position that I'd be fine with that would just be a matter of changing the bylaws, obviously.

Sarah: Yeah, I second what Matt said. And also, if you wanted to, like, ultimately it will be a discussion with counsel with the executives. But ultimately, if you wanted to just switch that out, there's no limit on the amount of positions or committees that a representative can sit on. So, say if we did change that, to take away one of those committees in lieu of the chapter, then basically what I'm trying to say is, if someone was upset at that, then there's nothing stopping them from sitting on whatever committee they wanted to sit on instead of the chapter.

Tyler: Thank you that does that makes a lot of sense. The next kind of follow up that I have is, do we want our positions to take that slot? Or do we want to have the opportunity for other students to go in and be represented on those committees, or on chapter as well? Because again, not all LGBTQ+ students will have the same thoughts or share the same things or like ideas that that I would have. So, I don't want to be taking away an opportunity for another student as well.

Kyle: Yeah, that's a great point as well. And I think, I think there's a way to do this as well to gauge interest before like, like I said, I wanted to, if this was to pass, I would like to have like information sessions first, whether it's one or two, just to, you know allows students the opportunity to, you know, join the zoom call, and ask questions directly about what the program is what chapters are. And then once that once those are done, I would put out the applications and then gauge interest or see if there's any further interest within those communities before checking in with you guys. But what I think would work was, is if I was to do it that way, and nobody wants to come forward, then I could come back to SRC and check in with you guys to see if that would be something, you're interested in. Just like after the fact kind of thing to see if there were any students interested first. Thank you.

Tyler: Thank you. Yeah, I just wanted to say that I agree with that. That sounds good to me.

Megan: I just want to comment quickly on what was just said if you don't mind. I just want to say Tyler, that is absolutely such a great idea because that was something, I was thinking is we can't necessarily have our Student Union take over positions that will hopefully be larger leadership positions for other students. I really think it is a great idea to put it out to students who might not have similar opportunities First, if it were to come that way, because obviously, you all hold very powerful positions on campus, and are in very privileged seats. I'd like to see some other students pick up on those if we were to have another type of executive so we can see our other students flourish in the same capacity.

Andie: So, I really like what you both said, Tyler, and Megan, like, it's a very good idea. However, would it be possible that because you know, we are the representatives of a certain portfolio that we could like, maybe the indigenous rep, or the sexual and gender diversity rep could do maybe like, kind of like how the execs have office hours every week, but we can make it monthly so that the SRC is also involved but so are students, like directly through conversations happening on campus?

Kyle: Yeah, I'm certainly open to it but it's up to Tyler and Tiger really, in terms of that, but I do think that that would be beneficial. And I do like the idea of doing the office hours as well. Its unique.

Sarah: Firstly, I will say that doing office hours for counselors has been an idea that's been tossed around for a couple years now. So, I don't think that if that's something that folks are interested in, I don't think that that should be



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confounded to this specific topic. And this definitely something that can be done regardless, outside of this, but I just wanted to echo what Tyler and Megan said, where I completely agree that what I've learned the most in my role is that everyone has unique experiences. And exactly as Megan said, we are very privileged to sit on this council and represent our students. However, our experiences aren't the same as everyone else's. And also, I think that I'm always of the opinion that maximizing leadership positions for students is a fantastic idea, because STU is so small, and I mean, I'm sure we're all examples of many of us holding many different positions in different facets in the university. And there's definitely students that want to get started, but don't know where to start. And I think that allowing other students to sit on this would be just doing exactly that giving students and other leadership position. And as well, I just wanted to touch on the bylaws, basically, like whether what decision happens from this, it's either going to be written in the bylaws, or it's not. So, it's not like we can say, okay, like, for now, we'll decide that counselors will sit on it, but like, maybe we'll backtrack, like we need to, we need to make a decision, essentially, because it needs to go in the bylaws. Because when individuals are looking to sit or run for the student union, they as you all know, you how to attend candidates' meetings to like get in your positions, they go through the bylaws, they make their decisions on what positions they want to run for, basically, on what the bylaws says. So, I think it's really important to outline expectations, always. So, what I'm trying to say is, is all of these different things that we're talking about right now, like they all need to come together as a package, and they all need to be decided on. Because if we obviously, like we want to have discussions and stuff, but there will come a time where we need to decide on everything. And all of these questions are part of like flushing out exactly what this looks like on our campus. So, if we have questions that we're not able to answer, then I would factor that into your decision making as well as if there are questions that we have definite answers on, I would also factor that into your decision making. Because as I mentioned, this is this is a package here, there's a lot of different facets with it that we need to decide on essentially and make some concrete decisions.

Tiger: Hello. I agree that the position should go to somebody else to broaden the student experience. And I really like the idea of office hours.

Tyler: And yeah, I'm gonna hop right in with what Tiger was saying and pass it off to two other students as well. As someone who has held office hours in the capacity of the 2SLGBTQ+position, it's very, it's heavy at times, especially when you're dealing in the capacity of mental health, it's hard to be the frontline person. That happens naturally when you're in a mental health position to deal with that. And like already needing to advocate for students, like on top of having to take on the role of being the mental health rep as well is going to be very demanding on whoever holds that position. So, I think that's another reason to have it passed off as two separate entities. That way, it's not placing the burden on one individual.

Kyle: Excellent. Those are amazing points. Thank you so much.

Jonah: I just want to make a quick comment. I was thinking maybe like, in the beginning of the year, when you guys find out your positions, you make a choice of either going with a portfolio or passing it on to the student body.

Tyler: I think based off of what you're what you've laid out, and to my understanding of it, it would be kind of like an oversight roll. And if that's the case, it would operate based off of what I'm hearing, it's like kind of similar to the way that we've set up the Sexuality and Gender Advocacy Society in conjunction with whoever holds The STUSU position that I'm in right now. Is it's like in the event that the positions aren't filled, like the holder of my position's responsibility now, is the way that SAGA is set up to like, hold like an election that would place somebody in that role. And in the event that they aren't there, they take on responsibilities until somebody does it. Is that what you mean Jonah?

Jonah: If you're just given the choice if you want to do it? If you want to be a representative in that chapter, and if you don't want to do it, it'll be like an elective. I didn't put much thought into this.



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Kyle: Yeah, so I think what you're what you're trying to say is if like Tyler wanted to, he could kind of opt in to being involved with the chapter. Is that what you're saying? Yeah, yeah. So basically, each jack.org chapter has like executive members and general members. And so, the general member portion of the chapter is very flexible. It's kind of like how some people join for example, I have some people who are on my STUSU Mental Health Committee right now, who don't attend meetings, but read the minutes and attend and like participate that way. And so basically, with each chapter, it can be a if you want to participate, you can certainly help out as a general member but the more the positions that are more involved, this, I guess, are the executive ones.

Sarah: I also will when we're having these discussions and when we're voting, just kind of forget about everyone's positions like the executives don't have more weight in voting. I don't have more weight in voting. Like we're all equals when we vote. So just don't take that into consideration when you're voting that just goes back to me saying like, vote as an individual based exclusively on how you feel as a member on Council and obviously how you think your constituents would feel. So, don't look at the exec and say, Oh, they voted one way, so I need to vote that way. Or you get what I'm saying. But I think everyone understands that well, but I just wanted to reiterate that because I think that's something like important to be said, when we're making big decisions. And I remember when I was on Council for the first time, and I saw the executives vote one way, and then I, in the back of my mind, I was like, oh, maybe I should vote that way. But I don't want anyone to think that.

Tyler: I'm just going to do a recap based off my own understanding what we just said right now, because I don't want to be lost. So, we have the jack.org chapter, it has the positions for an indigenous representative and an LGBTQ representative. It's handed off to the student body to fill those positions on the executive. So, it's independent of us. However, we still hold oversight.

Megan: Hello. So, I just wanted to be extremely transparent with my thought process on the chapter itself. And I have a few concerns that, in my mind, make it not as applicable to STU as it would be at other universities. So, I kind of just wanted to go through those with everyone beforehand, just like I said, to be super transparent. So, first, jack.org is an external organization, which I think well, which we know would make us lose our committee within STUSU. And that would mean that we have no advocacy for mental health within the STUSU while the VP Student Life would have some liaison there, we're actually losing quite a bit of control. And from an advocacy perspective, I think that can be extremely dangerous, when we're supposed to be the representative for our students rather than an external organization. Further, it's jack.org is extremely commercialized compared to what we have now. And I think that will take away a personalized touch that as someone who has sat on the STUSU Mental Health Committee, I think it has been very beneficial to see your student peers represent a committee rather than an organization. I know last year we did the Valentine's cards and we handed them out as students to students. And I feel like that made a much bigger connection that represented kind of what STU stands for, a small campus of big opportunities. And I think if we go too big, we might lose that really personal touch. Another thing is, everything that's being mentioned, I believe, can be done with our pre-existing committee without having to go through a bunch of legalities, and spending money on our bylaws, everything that was mentioned, such as an assessment of what we already have on campus, or assessing our policies, those are things that are already within the capacity of our mental health committee. It's more than tailor what the committee we have now is to what we're expecting a jack.org chapter can do, because it's also important to note that going to summit and going to training with jack.org, you don't have to be a chapter member. I know a lot of our students already go to the summit and really benefit from them. But I don't think we necessarily have to be a chapter for our students to benefit, as I've already said. So those are a few things that have always been on my mind, just really the fact that we're losing that personal student touch with this chapter, I'm somewhat of a feeling that I prefer the way STU is very personal for students to students. One thing I love about our union is I know in the past, we've seen seem a little elite, but being transparent, being there for students, we've been very on the ground rather than top down with a program. So those are a few of my thoughts. But like Sarah said, don't take anything I've said as being like, more weight than what everyone else is



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thinking just because I'm an executive, I really want everyone to think about what I've said and how that feels with them.

Kyle: I just want to thank you, Megan, for those points. And I just wanted to make a quick little comment about the point you made about losing the touch of the committee. That actually was the reason I wanted to bring it forward to the Mental Health Committee in the first place. And during that meeting, I actually received quite a bit of interest. And a few students have reached out via email as well, that that are on that committee that are interested in the chapter. And so, I just wanted to say that like, if the current committees interested in being involved, it's not losing too much touch from STU apart from the fact that deck.org an external organization?

Sydney: I just had a question. Let's say, we don't go with the chapter, would it be possible to do a jack.org training like Megan said, but like, with the Committee just to have further information and further training so we can be better on our committees?

Kyle: It's certainly something I can look into. I know jack.org does a lot of internalized training. And that's, that's when they do it mostly with their chapters. But in terms of like doing external training from the organization itself, I can certainly look into that.

Andie: I'm not sure how viable this option would be because it might actually cost us money through lawyers. So, what happens if we do like a one-year trial of this program? I know the implication would be that this would be your project, Kyle. So, your successor would have to look after this. So, this would be like planning ahead to successors possibly. Which could be challenging, but we could see how the student body takes it. If they like it. I don't know if that's a good option.

Kyle: Yeah, I mean, it certainly is an option. The only the only thing that makes it difficult is the fact that I'm trying to put this under my belt as VPSL and so it runs into a bit of problems pending if the next VPSL, if we have to put it in bylaws and stuff, then, like that would have to be changed out next year. But I don't see why that wouldn't be able to happen from what I know.

Sarah: I think Andie, you hit the nail on the head there with money because in order to switch that over like, it's it really has to be one or the other. Just because if the chapter exists and the Committee exists, and we don't change the bylaws, then the Committee is in our Constitution, it's in our committee operations policy, it's in our bylaws, as under Kyle's portfolio, representatives have to sit on it. So, without being dramatic, but essentially, like, it would have to be one or the other. Or else if you don't change the bylaws then the duties of the STUSU will not be fulfilled as per our governing documents. And that's definitely problematic. And this goes for anything like if the jack.org chapter were to be implemented, we would need to pay money to have a lawyer come in and look at our bylaws and change that and consult with us, which I will emphasize is those are student dollars that we're using to pay for that. So, if we were to do a trial, we'd have to change over the bylaws, once again, say it doesn't work, we change them over again. So that's lawyer fees times two. And again, that's student dollars. We don't have like a secret money reserved for our lawyer like that. Essentially, if you want to put it in perspective, we all pay Student Union fees, that would be all of our Student Union fees going to our lawyer fees. So, it would definitely cost money for sure to do that. And I wish that there was an option to do a trial because that will make things a lot easier. But if we were to go that route, then basically like, people wouldn't be fulfilling their duties, which is very problematic. And it's also not that it's going to happen, but that's also in our Constitution, our bylaws for grounds for removal. So, we don't want to put anyone in a position where they're not doing their job.



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Kyle: Yeah, and just a little comment on that. I believe it's 500 dollars to meet with our lawyer but anyways, in terms of that money jack.org does provide \$500 as well. So, if you think about it, if it was to be like around \$500, it's not really using student dollars, it's basically using jack.org's.

Sarah: I would counter that with yes, you are correct, that it's not using student dollars, but then we're no longer getting money from jack.org. So, you could take that away from the pro argument for jack.org. And we'd only be using our reserves for that chapter.

Sarah: I wanted to wait to comment at the end, because I'm a strong believer that I like everyone to go before me, and that I should always speak last. But I just wanted to touch on again, kind of what Megan said to be transparent with you all. And also, again, don't take what I'm saying as weighted any more or less, because I am the President that, like I said just forget that roles exist. I'm just speaking as Sarah, right now. But first of all, I think having this conversation was really fruitful because it brought up a lot of things that we could improve on with STUSU's mental health services and advocacy. So, I think that regardless of the outcome, this conversation was very, very valuable, because it gave us a great direction moving forward. But I will just kind of touch on what Megan said, and that I agree that I'm of the personal opinion that all the things that we've discussed about implementing with the chapter could be done with our pre-existing mental health committee. And I think they're excellent recommendations. And I really think that as I said, regardless of the outcome, they will be implemented. But I do think that we don't need an external body to implement these recommendations and to go forward with them because they're easily something that could just be done this year, or right away, to change our organization for the future. So, I guess that's my two cents, and then again, as well, just the cost associated with making these changes. And I guess all in all, I believe that if we were to go forward with this change, I don't see an egregious benefit. I just kind of see it as being the same but with a different title. So that's, that's my two cents here. And again, for transparency sake, I just wanted to share to share my perspective before we go into voting.

Kyle: I just want to first thank you all so much for hearing me speak about jack.org for these past few months. It truly means a lot to me. And I just want to let to make a motion to pass the Jacko dog student chapter through SRC.

Motion has been moved by Vice President Student Life to replace the STUSU Mental Health Committee with a jack.org STU chapter.

Seconded by Andie A.

That motion has been opposed by 7, approved by 3 and abstained by 1 voting member of council.

Andie: I just want to say thank you call for like putting in so many hours and dedication. I know this is probably consumed, like a lot of your work during the semester with STUSU but, I just want to congratulate you for actually like taking the initiative.

Sarah: Yeah, I just wanted to echo what Andie said, and say that, Kyle, I know how much work you put into this. And I've worked with you over the summer to work out some of these details. But regardless of the outcome, the conversation that we had over the past few months about this is you greatly improved with your work the structure of how STUSU governs mental health on campus and how we're involved with mental health on campus. So, all these conversations that we've had are not lost, because some excellent, excellent recommendations have come forward that I personally would love to see implemented, because I think your work again, really has not gone to waste, because you certainly have positively improved the way that STUSU deals with mental health for the foreseeable future. So, I just wanted to congratulate you on really putting in all your time and energy on this and for improving the Students Union and the way we deal with mental health. So, thank you for that.

Kyle: Thank you for those words.



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4. Executive Reports

4.1 President's Report – Sarah Kohut

Hello, everyone. I hope everyone is managing to stay afloat with final assignments. And I am proud of you all, we have all made it through the first semester and St. Thomas University's history of online learning. And we're still here, we're still thriving, I know probably doesn't feel like it, but you definitely are. And we are so close to Christmas break. And might I add as well, I'm not sure if people know, but this is our last meeting of the semester. So, you also made it through the first semester of SRC. So, congratulations to you all. It was a busy, busy, busy, busy, busy semester. But I'm so proud of you and all the work that you put in on top of adjusting online learning and the COVID madness that our world is engulfed in right now. So, everyone deserves a pat on the back after this meeting. On Monday, the NBSA board and our delegates met with the UNB St. John senior administration to present our advocacy priorities for the year and that was really great. And they've got some great folks over there and their senior administration especially I don't know what her title is, but her name is Petra, and she is a queen. She basically said that all students should get free tuition if it was her world. So iconic of her to say. I met with Tyler to go over a meeting that he had with a student. And I attended the MLA Mondays, which was great. We talked about traveling, I was the only non-New Brunswicker there. So that was neat to share my perspective on what it's like to travel out of the province mid COVID. The NBSA exec had our weekly meeting, which again, has taken up all of our time so far, but we were talking, or we talked about the NBSA's advocacy month/season. And then on Tuesday, I attended the First Year Experience Program Review with Kyle, which was really good meeting, we shared some perspectives on behalf of students. And it seems like there's some good ideas for second semester floating around. So, I'm excited to see how that turns out and then I had a Board of Governors orientation meeting with Jason and Jesse-Lynn, our newly elected Board of Governors Representatives with President Russell. So that was really good. And then the executives had an impromptu exec meeting to talk about a meeting that we had on Wednesday, which I will get into, and then on Wednesday, I briefly attended the post secondary, I never remember the title of this committee, the post secondary relations Fredericton committee, I'm just making up a name at this point. It's really long, but it's the committee that the UNB student union sits on, the executive sit on, the Mayor, David Kuhn, some Fredericton city councillors, a lot of people that are important to Fredericton. So that was good. And then the executive met with the President of Faust to just discuss about our advocacy for pass/fail, and then hear a bit about her perspective on how the year has gone. I will say that that conversation was great in the sense that we definitely will have a stronger working relationship with them in second semester. Faust and STUSU generally don't usually cross paths a lot throughout the year, but because of this year, and how unique it is, and really that professors and students are going through the same sort of issues this year with online learning, we thought it'd be beneficial to keep in close contact for second semester. And also, we chatted a lot about maybe doing a town hall with professors and students, just so we can kind of like have a big open discussion about online learning what's working, what's not, kind of share horror stories, if that helps students feel better, or professors feel better. And also give students the opportunity to see their professors because I know some students don't even know what their professors look like this year. Or this semester, in the next month or two, probably. So, I'd love people's feedback on that, if you think that'd be beneficial. On Thursday, I had my office hour, which is always good. And Tyler came and visited, which is exciting. That's my second visitor of the year and then I attended the university's Experiential Learning Committee meeting with Megan for a little bit, which is also good. And then I had to switch over to another meeting, which is the Retail Review Committee meeting for UMB, that's the committee that Megan and I sit on, basically just reassessing the retail spaces on UNB campus and in particular the SUB. So, they're looking at, you know, what's working, what's not working, they're gonna change around some of the positions of things on campus. So, like the bookstore, the pharmacy, like where they're physically located and also another cool little nugget. I don't know if that committee is confidential or not, they didn't say it. So, like, I'm gonna say it anyways. They're looking at putting an elevator in the SUB, which is really, really exciting because we love accessibility. So that's really great. The very personal downside is that the elevator shaft will cut into the President's office, but accessibility is up here, President's office is like in the ground, President's office is underground. So, the President's office may be moving in the future. But that's exciting because



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that means an elevator is being put in and then I attended Megan and Dr. Robear's remote learning office hour, which is always good, I highly recommend everyone to attend. Megan are you doing on this Thursday? Yes! I highly recommend everyone to attend, you probably can't this Thursday, because exams and stuff, and it's a stressful time, but definitely attend in second semester, because they are really, really great. And it's also just great to vent and have someone listen to you, especially someone that can make a difference with online learning. So highly recommend. And then the executives had our weekly meeting on Thursday evening. And then on Friday, I had my biweekly meeting with Ryan Sullivan in the morning where we just caught up and touched base. And then I also brought forward just because it popped into my mind while I was meeting with him. But STU usually does a faculty fair every year. And I think that's something that just kind of slipped through the cracks this year, and usually happens in second semester anyway. So, it's not like it was supposed to happen. And then it didn't. But I think people just forgot about that with the transition to online learning. So, I brought that forward. And Ryan was really excited about that. And he wants to make it happen for a second semester in a digital format. So again, that's really exciting. Because I think that'll help combat a lot of the feelings that students have felt this year in terms of not knowing their professors, lack of social interaction, lack of relationships with their professors, as well as we have heard some students and they're getting a little bit of uncertainty based on what they want to major in because this year is so different, and their performance is a little influenced because of online learning. So, they think that oh my goodness, I'm doing so poorly like I shouldn't major in this anymore which obviously, as we all know, isn't the truth because I'm sure for us in our upper years, we've done really, really poorly on assignments and stuff that's within our major, or for me my honors, but we still made it through to the end. So, I think having a faculty fair in second semester would really help combat some of those feelings and build relationships between students and professors this year. And then we, the executive met with Dr. Fenwick to chat about pass/fail. And although the meeting started off talking about pass fail, we ended the meeting, just kind of sharing recommendations onto Dr. Fenwick on what should improve based on this semester. And it was a really, really great meeting. And Dr. Fenwick seemed really receptive to what we said should be improved upon. And stemming from that meeting, I have monthly meetings with Dr. Fenwick, just me and her but going forward in second semester, the entire executive is going to meet with Dr. Fenwick and Karen Preston, the Registrar so we can, like have this continuous conversation about online learning and improvements and stuff. So, I think that'll be really beneficial for second semester to help make things better, because this semester definitely was anything but spectacular. So, I'm looking forward to that in second semester, and oh, not even in second semester. I forgot to tell the exec, but Dr. Fenwick and I do have a meeting next week and if they're around and they can come but definitely starting out in second semester. I attended Megan's Academic and University Affairs Committee meeting, which is really, really great. There were some great ideas tossed around and also the committee decided on their priorities for the year. And every year, the President is an ex-officio member of every committee on campus, so I realized that that committee in particular, is especially pertinent to my job as President, so I definitely am going to be really active with that committee. Obviously, I'm not going to be overbearing, but I will touch base very frequently with that committee and try to attend as many meetings as possible and then I met with Andie and Megan to talk about the speaker that Andie would like to bring, metaphorically to our campus which was a really, really great meeting. I'm really, really looking forward to having that speaker come because she seems so excellent. And then on Saturday, I attended the Board of Governors meeting, which is great. I delivered the student report as per usual, I can't really say anything else about that because as you all know, it's confidential and then a little thing for Alaina: my experience as a graduate student. I took my grad pictures on Saturday and I have never met a kinder family then the photographer's. I am just like, in awe of them. They were so kind. And I'm going to write them a Facebook review and say how amazing they were because they really were fantastic. But anyways, that I also did the NBSA minutes, which I always forget about but that concludes my report. If anyone has any questions, please ask.

Tyler: I just want to preface this by saying that if you don't have the answer, no worries at all. Just because the exams are relatively close, around the corner. I'm just wondering like, where we are in the process of if we are going to have a pass/fail or not?



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Sarah: Yes, I would be happy to provide a little update. So, when we met with Dr. Fenwick. Dr. Fenwick is against the idea of pass/fail for a variety of reasons. So essentially unfortunately, where we still are is, we are still trying to persuade senators to give us those 10 signatories in order to call an emergency senate meeting. Because if we don't have those 10 signatories, and an emergency meeting needs to be called by the Chair of Senate, which is President Russell. I think I might have misspoken on a previous meeting saying it was Dr. Fenwick. It's not it's President Russell. So that's not necessarily an avenue we can pursue or that's feasible. So, we're still working on getting those 10. Senators, I think we're at nine right now. But it is it is really cutting close. So, we're really, really trying to put the work in and convince one last senator to sign that call for an emergency meeting. But I also will, well emphasize that. And just if we are successful in getting an emergency meeting, we also need it to be passed in Senate. So, if we do get an emergency meeting, that's not a guarantee that it will happen. It still needs to go one step further and be passed by Senate. So yeah, we're kind of we're stuck, unfortunately, in the procedural stuff. But nonetheless, we're still going to keep working. So, we're going to keep pushing and try and convince one last senator, just one.

Alaina: Sarah and Brianna, I'm so glad you had a good experience, Morris Photography is awesome. And I'm so glad that all of our grad students will be able to get pictures taken if they're in the Fredericton area.

Sarah: So, Alaina, I'm not sure if you promoted this or not and maybe it's something that you have, and I just didn't see it. But I didn't know that. Morris Photography had worked out something with taxis that you can get like a taxi voucher for going to their place. And obviously, it says that in the email that they send once you book your pictures, but I thought that was a really, really cool thing that I had no idea about. So maybe like, we put that on onto social media and say like, hey, times are tough, but you can get a taxi voucher and save some money.

Alaina: The only thing from Morris Photography is that when they're in the process of figuring out that deal, they just want to make sure that people have booked the photos before, they then make that arrangement. So that's why it wasn't specifically promoted separately.

Sarah: That is a very, very good point. Yeah, we don't want anyone finessing them because they deserve all the money in the world. Like I would empty my pockets for these people. They were so kind.

4.2 Vice President of Administration's Report – Matthew Oram

Hi, everybody. I hope everybody had a good week and a relaxing weekend. For my report, I'll be meeting with the Student Advisory Committee tomorrow along with Tyler and Sarah tomorrow afternoon just to address student concerns. And then after that, or before that, I had a pass/fail meeting, obviously that Sarah mentioned with the rest of the executives. It went over well, the discussions that we had were good and insightful from what I could see. Tiger emailed me the funding. I'm just waiting to hear back on the budget, I'm assuming maybe you're just waiting to see what the budget will look like. But once I get that I'll put you in contact with Tina and we can work that out, whatever you need. As Sarah mentioned, we met with Faust and then during Megan's office hour, it just so happened that somebody came in with a Campus Trust related question. So that was perfect timing, I guess. So, I helped that student reset their student benefits account, and then just kind of directed them how to make a specific claim for stuff they were trying to claim through the insurance company. I'm working on the budget update with Tina, that'll come out, most likely next meeting, just waiting for some more credit card things to come in and things of that nature. I have an office hour virtually; I'll be returning to in person office hours this week. We've just been doing it for my room lately because of the orange phase. But as now yellow phase. Hopefully, they'll be back in person. And then right during the SRC meeting last weekend, (?) STU reached out to me about setting up a bank account. So, I got Tina to write them a letter, I just signed on to it just so that the bank knew that it was them and they were part of the STUSU so that we can confirm. And I was also talking to Sarah about the Winter Clubs and Societies Fair so I'll be sending out an email this week, just to inquire about what the clubs and societies would like to do in January. As you all probably saw or heard in September/October, we just posted videos for the clubs and societies, which I



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thought was pretty good. There was a good amount of interaction. But it'll just be a matter of what they want to do during the winter term. Because obviously, we just got out of orange phase, we're back in yellow now. But we still won't be able to have an in-person clubs and societies fair. It'll just be a matter of if they want to just repost the videos or if they wanted to have some sort of interactive virtual clubs and societies fair. But I'm open to any suggestions once I get those back. And yeah, that's pretty much it for me.

Sarah: Sorry, something I forgot to mention in my report but related to what Matt just said is that in the First Year Experience Program Review meeting, Brock Richardson, the Director of Student Services says that he didn't name a number, but he said that there was a significant amount of students coming to STU in January. Significant enough to mention it. And so that's why I brought that up to Matt because usually we do have a winter fair, because we do have a good chunk of students that come to STU in January. But this is kind of something that was up in the air in first semester, but it seems like now we've got some new students coming, which is really exciting. So, I guess that's relevant information for all you folks is that you might have some more constituents coming your way in January.

Megan: I want to give Matt a fat shout out for saving my butt during my office hour because if he hadn't been there chit chatting, I would have not known how to answer those questions. So, he really came in clutch. Thank you so much, Matt.

Tiger: I was just gonna say that I'm gonna send you an email after this meeting about the budget.

4.3 Vice President of Education's Report – Megan Cormier

Hello, everyone. Congrats on finishing your first remote semester we're almost there, so hold on a little longer. I know it's been very, very tough. As someone who sits on the Remote Learning Committee and gets all of the complaints put in by students, like I totally understand. And like Sarah said, we will be having our last remote learning meeting of this semester this Thursday. I know people are extremely busy but even next semester you can give your feedback on your learning experience thus far. And we can actually take that right to the committee and hopefully change it. So, I was just my plug right at the start. So, into my report, starting with what I've done for the STUSU this week. Monday, I'm going to be really honest, I took mental health day because I was just very overwhelmed after a very long weekend. So, I put some extra work in the rest of the week. But starting Tuesday, I attended Remote Learning Committee meeting, which I do every second Tuesday. Tuesday, we also had a little executive meeting to talk about some meetings we had coming up in the week. Also, on Tuesday, I wrote the motion that will hopefully get through for the pass/fail if we end up going to emergency senate meeting, just having all of that material prepared beforehand is something I've been working on. So, in addition to that, on Wednesday, I created a Q/A just to ensure that when we have meetings about the topic, we're all on the same page, we all understand the implications in and out, because it's very valuable in advocacy to know everything about everything. Wednesday evening, we had our meeting with (?) as Sarah had said, which was a very great meeting. It was very productive. And I really, really enjoyed meeting with (?) for the first time and having that new connection between the faculty union and our Student Union. Thursday, I attended a Presidential Advisory Committee on Experiential Learning and unfortunately, I had to miss the Retail Review Committee because they overlapped. So, Sarah decided to take the retail review and I tackled the experiential learning meeting. Directly after that I had my weekly remote learning office hour which I just plugged with Dr. Karen Robear. So, this week, like I said, is our last week, but we will be having them next semester as well, because it's very, very valuable that students come and let us know what's going on, because I'm the only student voice on the committee. So, I can only rely so much. So, having those students come in, we've had some great students come in and give us their experiences. And we can bring that back to the committee or even directly to Dr. Fenwick, to ensure that they're being heard. Friday, we had our meeting with Dr. Fenwick and Karen Preston, which was also very productive. Even though it might not have been what we hoped for obviously, we want everyone to be on our side right now. But like Sarah said, there's work going on constantly and it's been a really good experience and I'm still, like, slightly optimistic. I'm really pushing for it. Friday had my office



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hour like Matt said, I had one person come in and have a question about insurance that I could not answer. So thankfully, Matt was there. Friday, I also had my Academic and University Affairs Committee, which was extremely productive. Thank you, everyone who's here, who was there, and all the students who came. It was a very loaded meeting, it had a lot of students, and we had some great, great topics come out, we actually set our action plan for the year. So, in our next meeting, we will be turning that to tangible goals and deadlines. And I'd love to share that with you all once we get to that point, because I think you'll be extremely excited to hear what's going on. And then immediately following that I had a meeting with Andie and Sarah to talk about Andie's event that she's planning or the speaker she's hoping to have virtually meet with us. And I think that's a very, very exciting topic. Moving on to what I've done with the NBSA. Monday alongside NBSA delegates, such as Sarah, we met with the UNBSJ leadership team. And like Sarah said that was such a beneficial meeting, because although they're not the government, a lot of the asks are government asks, they can give us really good feedback about how we can best tailor those asks or where we're lacking from a university perspective. And I really, really enjoyed that. Further, I sent Sarah our NBSA report yesterday at five o'clock right on the deadline for our meeting that's going to be Tuesday. And finally, for CASA this week, we started our December liaison calls. So, I had my first call with the President of Red River College, which is located in Winnipeg, and I have three more calls booked for the upcoming week. So, I have to write my reports on those calls, and then create the reports that go with that. But that's a later issue that we'll probably talk about further in the weeks and that's everything for me. Thanks, guys.

Sarah: Thank you. Firstly, I will say I'm yet to receive an email from Spirit River about our liaison calls but it's okay. For those keen listeners, you might have noticed, we have met with every leadership team except for St. Thomas. That was supposed to happen last week unfortunately, it had to get canceled, but that will be happening next Thursday, and Megan and I obviously will both be attending that one. So, we get to end the finale of NBSA lobby season with our university, which is exciting.

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

I hope that you all had a great week, and great weekend. This has been what I've been up to since our last SRC meeting. So, I had a last-minute meeting with Maddie directly after our last SRC meeting to talk about the orange phase, how that affected the operations of the help desk. And during this meeting, we decided that it would be best to close the help desk for the week. But since it was announced today, Fredericton is going back to yellow phase at midnight, the Help Desk is going to be open again this week, not going to be open on Friday though, because it is a reading day as you guys all know. So, on Monday instead of the Sexual Assault Prevention Committee meeting, as per usual, Megan Costan and I decided that we were going to make a post in the group to gather some statistics and information to do for our Fast Facts Fridays, and on Wednesday, I added sexual violence New Brunswick resources on how to support someone who has been impacted by sexual violence on STUSU's sexual assault prevention's Instagram account and STUSU's main account. Also, on Monday, I was supposed to have a biweekly meeting with Brock, but that ended up getting canceled, but we've been since discussing back and forth over email. And we are currently trying to figure out when the next Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting is going to be. Throughout the week, I've been talking with Grant, the individual who's going to be doing the meditation session for students next semester. Interestingly enough, he's actually been talking to someone from STU already, but someone in the Human Resources department, so that was a little surprise for me, because I just had no idea that that was happening. So, it looks like he's also going to be doing meditation sessions for administration as well. And it's looking like the tentative date for this is going to be on January 19. The Tri-campus Sexual Violence Prevention Committee met this Wednesday morning, and I unfortunately, double booked myself with two other meetings during this meeting. So, I reached out to Vishnu to get myself updated, who is the UNBSU's VPSP and he also wasn't in attendance. So, I'm just waiting to hear from Maggie and Hillary the CESASES on what was discussed in that meeting. Also, throughout the week, Kelsey and I have been discussing the feasibility about doing two separate initiatives for students next semester, the first being the Naloxone training that you guys are aware of, and the second being the harm reduction workshop that's focused on trauma informed care. Both of these initiatives are open to all students.



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And I'm waiting to hear on the second workshop that I'm trying to work out with them. Earlier in the week, I reached out to Clara with some feedback from the executives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Summit that is going to be happening next semester in January at STU. On Tuesday, I held my virtual office hour. As mentioned, this week is going to be back to doing it virtually and in person again. On Wednesday afternoon, Sarah, and I, as she mentioned, had a First Year Experience Program Review meeting with the administration and Dr. Frederick's. It was nice to hear the updates and changes that are going to be made to the program coming next semester. I'm looking forward to the ways that faculty are going to be pulled into the program and then see the ways that they're going to be able to be involved. The Activities and Events Committee met on Wednesday evening, but I wasn't able to attend because I was in a meeting with the rest of the execs for pass/fail, and as the exec mentioned, was a very great meeting. It was nice to connect. Throughout the week, I have been reaching out to faculty on Senate for pass/fail. A student reached out about ongoing issues relating to their bus pass app. Given that they are ongoing issues, I directed them to Financial Services to get a paper pass. Dr. Zelazny emailed me regarding promoting STU Santa and asked for my feedback on the Christmas dinner initiative that the food bank is doing. I use common picker, which is an online generator for the STUSU giveaway that took place in the month of November, there was 174 entries total. And the winner was announced. Cameron Solis. So big congrats to her. And on Saturday, I gave her those prizes from the giveaway. In January, there's going to be another one, but two students are going to be picked this time. So, over the break, I plan to be reaching out to a few more local businesses to see if there's anything else that I can gather, add to our giveaways. Every morning throughout this week, I've been checking the Mental Health Forum that Andie and I moderate for and I'm pleased to say that there are some students who are posting and sharing their thoughts on the website. So that's amazing. The Emergency Bursary Committee met this week approved an application for \$500 per student. I purchased the three gift cards for the Netflix trivia event that was put on last week or the week before for Sebastian, Estefania and Paolo and sent that to them over their emails. And lastly, the STUSU Mental Health Committee meets tomorrow. And I am excited to officially start doing some great mental health work or advocacy with that committee. And that's it for me.

Sydney: What's the initiative that the food bank is doing for the Christmas dinner? Could you elaborate more on that?

Kyle: Yeah, so basically, it's still in discussions, but basically what the food bank is going to be doing is they're gathering some recipes, some favorite recipes from professors and faculty. And basically, what they're doing is the way they've been doing their food bank this year, as I mentioned was, they put food in hampers. And so basically, they're going to do like Christmas dinner themed hampers that are going to be vegetarian and vegan friendly. And so, the one piece of feedback I gave to her and this was also feedback that came from Sarah was to make sure that they don't have like crème brûlée or duck or something like overly expensive or overly harder to make just that it's student friendly. But in short, it's basically Christmas dinner theme hampers.

Sarah: I just wanted to thank Kyle for bringing my recommendations forward because as all the returning SRC members know, I can only make Kraft Dinner. So, I'm sure I'm not the only person that exists in STU student body that can't cook, and I would love to use those hampers if I'm ever running low on some food but it's definitely great that you brought my concerns for it and I appreciate that Kyle.

Andie: For those hampers, is there any way that we can include like gluten-free stuff because I know some people are celiac or something without nuts in it, stuff like that.

Kyle: Yep. And now that you say that I think that they already are. I believe it's vegan, gluten-free and vegetarian. I might be wrong, but the food bank either way is very accommodating. Like, I can assure you that that is not an issue. I'll write it down to check in though.

5. Employee Reports



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No employee report available.

6. Representative Reports

6.1 Grad Class Representative (Alaina M.)

So Hey, everyone, I hope you're doing well. And in the interest of keeping, you all well, I'll keep things really short and sweet. There does seem to be a lot of folks who are getting their grad photos and T-ring orders all squared away before the end of the semester. As a result, I've gotten tons of awesome positive feedback about these services and how they've been working. And I've also had the pleasure of directing many grads in the right direction to make appointments, get pictures taken, ring size, and whatever else they need. In addition to those communications, I've also been in touch with the Alumni Association by promoting a few of the opportunities that they offered graduating students. So that is coming soon on our social media pages. And I was also connected by the Alumni Association to a couple of students who had reached out to them interested in purchasing some leftover stock from the class of 2020 items. So, it was really awesome to lessen some of the pile of 2020 swag that is sitting in my closet. So those will be going on their way. And that is a good little summary of what's been going on my end this week.

Brianna: I have I have a question about the T-rings. Is there a link? Or do we have to go in person to get to check it out or get size or whatever.

Alaina: So, there is a link that you can find on St. Thomas University's web page, Brianna. I can send it specifically to you. But if you even just go in the search bar off the school's website and type in T-rings, it's one of the first results that comes up. You do not need to go in person to get your ring size, if you already know what your ring size is. They can help you figure it out if you don't, however, they are making appointments to meet with students on campus like in JDH. So, if you want to try that is also an option, but I can send you some information your way.

Brianna: Okay, perfect. Thank you so much.

6.2 Social Inclusion Representative (Andie A.)

Okay, so on Tuesday, I met with the UNB Women's Center. We talked about assistance for students for the upcoming semester, because there's a lot of food insecurity. So, the center is thinking about having gift cards available for students so they can go and get their groceries, I believe each gift card would be about \$20 or \$25 from my understanding. And so, they also because obviously, you know, a lot of people aren't on campus. So maybe making those gift cards electronic, so eat gift cards. So also, if you do need food and money to get food, it's also anonymous that way. We also talked about sexual assault on campus with the case that's been going on, we've reviewed UNB's Student Union response to it and what the tri-campus response should be and what that would look like. And then they were talking about chest feedings. So now, the more inclusive term is just feeding instead of breastfeeding because there are people who don't identify as female, or as a woman and they still you know, chest feed. So, they were looking at making their center the designated chest feeding location on campus. Obviously, STU students can also access that but it's kind of inaccessible because it's down the hill. So, I would also like to bring something up to campus here. So, they were doing some fundraising for transition houses and women's shelters for the holiday season. And that's about it. That's what they were talking about. It was my first meeting. So, it was kind of like out of the loop from everything, but by January, I'll probably get the hang of it. So, on Friday, I met with the Academic and University Affairs Committee, and we talked about potential topics and themes that we'd like to tackle for the upcoming semester. They were all amazing. And I am so excited. I also talked about my initiative about chest feeding, how I kind of want to, you know, want to make a safe space on campus. And the committee was very interested in kind of helping me undertake that project. And then, on Friday, like Sarah and Megan mentioned, I had a meeting



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with them, we went through kind of like what the budget for bringing in the speaker would be. Sarah was very excited, because she thought it was gonna be like a really big amount of money, big sum of money, like \$10,000, but it's less than \$1,000. So, she was very excited about that. We also talked about kind of like; what type of policy should be studied for when we do the Q/A kind of roundtable. And we also talked about possible dates for March for booking this event. And we mentioned how we could collaborate with STU to fund this. Megan said that she can also do some policy research regarding racism, sexual assaults, and all that on campus. And on Thursday, I met with my thesis advisor, who also happens to be the chair of the Political Science department. So, I proposed to him. I gave him a funding proposal for bringing Larissa Crawford onto campus through zoom, obviously. And he or the department awarded me with \$75 for that initiative. I also sent Dr. Murphy an email regarding funding so we can get funding from perhaps the Human Rights department. So, I'll be filling out that application within the next few weeks. And then finally, I had a meeting with students. So, they expressed concern, because they did not know that you could go to the UNB Health Center to get prescription medication or prescription contraception, or that you can get your yearly exams there as a student. So, they suggested that maybe STUSU should do some marketing over that, regarding that, because I mean, if the vast majority of students don't know that, then you know, that's kind of problematic, and we should have students, you know, using the resources that they pay for in their fees. And finally, well, I've been checking the forum twice a day, and I participated in it. And I had a few people participate in it. And it was really nice to see that, you know, at least some people looked at it, and they decided to write some stuff. And that's about it.

Sarah: I will say, just a little bit of context on why I'm so excited about the price, usually and in my experience as VP Student Life speakers run very, very, very, very, very, very expensive. Like I'm talking 10,000 and above dollars. So, I was really excited for this initiative. But I was a little bit scared of the price and scared that it won't be feasible. But that's why I'm so excited because we're getting a fantastic speaker for fantastic price, which is awesome. And also, about the health center, that's a great point. And I can definitely put together some graphics for that and send them over your way, Andie, if you want to, like I don't know, proofread them, or say like, I think this is missing from it, or I think this should be included on this. That's definitely something that I could do.

Alaina: I just wanted to say that I really appreciate you bringing up the idea that we need to advocate more about what services are actually available to students. Because now that you say that I recall that I felt like I always knew about the prescriptions being available there. But that's because there's a sign at every single water fountain within my residence building. And so, it's really important to recognize that some of those spaces that made students aware of things like that are no longer available in our new virtual setting.

6.3 First Year Representative (Lauren H.)

I don't really have much to say this week, because everyone is kind of swamped with final assignments and getting everything done. But yeah, the only thing that people have really been asking me about is whether pass/fail is happening or not. And I just told them that we're unsure at the moment, but I can let them know once it's for sure.

6.4 Sexuality and Gender Diversity Representative (Tyler M.)

So, this week, I had another like email correspondence meeting with a student. And then I had a follow up meeting with Sarah just to fill them in on what happened in that one. I also had another little impromptu meeting as well with a student. And, yeah, we'll get into more of that when the discussion comes up. And then I've also spent the rest of this week from like Wednesday through till now, doing some preliminary research again, for the discussion topic that's coming up later in this meeting. So, I'll just save it all until we get to them. So that's basically all I've been working on for this week.



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

Kathleen: So, we've been working on our 12 days of OC giveaways. And we're thinking about the giveaways being like Amazon gift cards, Walmart gift card, Starbucks, bookstore and STUSU swag. Sydney will be able to tell you the exact dates because I don't have them written down right now. She'll talk about that a little bit more. I want to talk about the French society week that we just had. Unfortunately, we didn't have much participation or any at all. So, our winners of our three gift cards happened to be the professors that actually submitted videos. So, Julien Defraeye, Dr. Christian Mbarga and Daouda Diarra, each won a \$10 Tim's gift card because they were awesome and submitted videos. So that was the French society.

Sydney: Alright, so I guess I'm talking about the dates. It will be this Monday, until I believe it's the Friday of exam week. Just a lot of students have a hard time during exam week. So, we just kind of wanted to give students the opportunity to get a prize super easily. So, I think what we're gonna do is just gonna be like, like, share, and tag a friend kind of like those Facebook giveaways. Just to bring more attention to OC, because although we are a big population, nobody really pays attention to us. And so hopefully this brings more attention. So, when we do more initiatives next semester, that we'll have a lot more participation.

Sarah: I just wanted to say from personal experience in doing a giveaway that when people share stuff like if, like sharing is as part of your like inclusion criteria. I found personally when STUSU did our first giveaway with the hat and the STU swag it was hard to keep track of who was sharing it all. I mean, it kind of got messy in our Instagram. So, I would just suggest, like, I think the way that Kyle did, it was really great. And it was much easier to keep track of, because, you know on Instagram, it'll say message requests or whatever. And then sometimes shares go into there. And then for also some reason, I would see like on my personal Instagram, that people would share our story, but then it wouldn't come up as a notification on STUSU's so got really confusing. I think I managed to cover everyone in the end. But I would just say, especially with exams and stuff, like it took a lot of effort to keep track of all the shares. But I think it's great idea. And I will make sure to check the office tomorrow to see what swag we got. I'm putting it in my agenda right now.

Kathleen: Thank you so much. So probably just liking and commenting you think would be the best way I guess to go with that.

Kyle: I was just gonna say that I might have a few extra things kicking around as well that I could donate to you guys to use into these giveaways. I do believe I have an extra T-pompom hat and maybe another scarf or something that you could throw in. And I'd also be happy to share the link to the website that I used to help keep track of everything.

Sydney: Thank you so much. We'd appreciate that.

6.6 Indigenous Student Representative (Tiger L.)

Hello. This week on Monday, I set up a meeting with the Indigenous Reconciliation Committee, exchanged emails with Trenton Augustine, and Rez Famous about future events. Also exchanged emails with VP Admin for funding. On Tuesday, we held the first Indigenous Reconciliation Committee meeting. We motioned to change the name to Indigenous Student Reconciliation Committee. We appointed two Vice-chairs, Jonah Simon, and Steve Merchant. We appointed a media representative which is Mason Justicin, and we appointed an interrelationship representative Jared Dirrell. We decided that non-natives will be allowed to join the committee and talked about future events, tabled the idea of a secretary position until further meetings. We discussed issues surrounding the inclusion of the term 2-Spirit into the acronym LGBTQIA+ community, which I believe will be brought up later on in this meeting. After that meeting, we found three new members Alley Row, Evan Mackenzie, and Jacob Moore. I met with those



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three to catch them up to speed. And then I introduced them to the committee. I messaged or emailed one of my old profs to try to find some articles for them to read if they want. On Wednesday, I got into contact with Brittany Lee Gray. They showed interest in joining the committee. And they proposed the idea of becoming our educational representative to be the, I guess, liaison or connection between project AIR and our committee. And I think that's it.

Sarah: Firstly, that sounds so exciting. And that's incredible the amount of work that was done so kudos to you and the committee that was really fantastic. And I also wanted to say that if any of the changes that you folks agreed upon or have made, if you would like those reflected in STUSU's actual bylaws and governing documents and stuff to make sure that that's consistent, please, by all means, let me know. And then we can move a motion to pass that in SRC. And then we can make all those changes official because I think if they're coming from the committee and the committee agreed upon it, then I'm of the opinion that they definitely should be reflected in all of these documents.

Tiger: I am motioning to change the name from the Indigenous Reconciliation Committee to the Indigenous Students Reconciliation Committee.

Motion has been moved by the Indigenous Student Representative to change the name of the Indigenous Reconciliation Committee to the Indigenous Students Reconciliation Committee.

Seconded by Sarah K.

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

6.7 Rigby Hall Representative (Jonah S.)

So, this past week, I started off Tuesday with the reconciliation committee and was appointed as vice chair and during that meeting, I brought up the name change from indigenous reconciliation committee to indigenous student reconciliation committee to differ ourselves from the Senate committee, or anything else that might be reconciliation related on Campus. I chose adding students just to show that this is student based and student led. And later on, Tuesday night for Rigby, we had our Among Us night for which we had a fair amount of a participants, we had 20 students. I played a few games, and I think it went on for a good few hours. And it was a good evening of not worrying about schoolwork or exams or anything. That's all for my report.

7. New Business

7.1 Discussion on 2-Spirit and LGBTQIA+

Tyler: Hello everyone again. So as mentioned in my report, this has taken up a lot of my time this week. And I'm actually very excited to have this discussion and see where this goes. So, I will start by reading a statement that was sent out to me by the 2-Spirit Representative on the Indigenous Student Reconciliation Committee. And then I will go on just to outline kind of the precedent that this is right now, and then I will go into the impact this would have on like my position or bylaws, constitution so on, then I will go over the kind of plan that we've outlined, worked with Sarah and the executives, and we've come up with like a bit of a way forward. Then I'll bring up some kind of like, findings of my preliminary research that we've done so far. And then we'll open it up to discussion for everybody. So, any questions, comments, concerns that anybody has, bring them forward, because this is going to be super important that we all have everybody's voice around this table. So, I'm excited to see how it goes. So, starting off with the statement: My name is Mason Justicin. I am the 2-Spirit Representative of the Indigenous Reconciliation Committee. I would like to acknowledge that the inclusion of 2-Spirit in the LGBTQIA+ acronym, and why it should not be a part of this community. 2-Spirit is not only culturally significant to the different indigenous people's populations, but it is also an attempt to further regard or regain our sovereignty. It was created to stray away from



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the Euro-Western labels and westernized gender roles. It is crucial to understand the 2-Spirit is an indigenous only term and including it in the LGBTQIA+ acronym not only further strips away the rights we have as indigenous people, but also strips away the cultural aspect of it. That is their statement that they have brought forward. So, I have never seen like an acronym that has not included 2-Spirit. So, kind of first time that I am aware of having this conversation. So, I think it's super exciting to be having this conversation and see like what the alternatives may be like, how this would look. So, on and so forth. I think that it's a really fun time, like I'm a sociology student so it's kind of cool to see this going on. So, were this to go through, it would mean that we are changing the way that the acronym appears not only in our Constitution and our bylaws, but it also brings up questions as to where 2-Spirit, identifying people would fall? Would they continue to be represented under my position? Would they fall underneath the indigenous rep? Would it be a joint constituency between the two? How would that look and because of all of these questions, I believe, and Sarah can clarify this for me as well, I believe it means that we would have to table everything and then have a two thirds majority on this type of vote because of the amount of change that would have. So, based off of after receiving this email, we have decided to do our own research into this, into the alternatives, into the different standpoints of indigenous, 2-Spirit and community members. I think we were talking about having a focus group to hear all sides of it and see what the consensus is. That way we can make a very informed decision as to whether or not we would like this to go through. And because of that, I have started reaching out to contacts of my own, both indigenous 2-Spirit people, as well as other activists and people that I work with as well, just to see what research has said. And one based off of my very, very, very preliminary research, there is a bit of a divide that has shown itself. So, we are seeing two sides of this debate, some that do completely align with what Mason has brought forward. And like, again, I see that side only well. And then the other side that we've seen that has come from 2-Spirit individuals as well as that they are concerned that were this to be removed from the acronym that it would be almost an omission of their identity as it does fall both within indigenous culture and within like, and as a gender identity as well. So, one of the people that I reached out to identifies as both a 2-Spirit and a pansexual individual, so they are worried that for them, at least in their personal experience, they're worried that if this were to be removed, then it would somehow or that it would not reflect their identity as fully. So, this does show that there are multiple sides to the to this to this discussion. And that is why we decided to go with the research and focus group route. So, having outlined all of that, we can open it up to everyone here to see what kind of questions you will have, what kind of concerns you have, how you think we should tailor research, and so on and so forth. So, I will pass it off to everybody.

Tiger: I think it is a very, very great job. And thank you for bringing this up.

Andie: Can I just get a copy of the comment that was sent to you?

Tyler: Yes, I can.

Sarah: Yes, I just wanted to say obviously, since Tyler read it in this meeting, it will be in the minutes too. But if you want a direct quote of it then I'm sure with Mason's permission, it can be shared. But I also just wanted to elaborate a bit more on what Tyler said. Tyler, you did a great job putting forth the thoughts of the executives. But firstly, I want to say that I too, have never seen this come forward. And I think that's so exciting that we get to be kind of leading this discussion, in a sense, because I know with my fellow student leaders across Canada and across the province that this hasn't come up. So, it is really, really exciting, that we get to kind of lead this conversation and hopefully influence some positive change for other student organizations across the country and in the province. And as well, just on the two-thirds majority part, as per our Constitution, so why it's a two thirds majority? Should the 2-Spirited identity be removed from the acronym and as Tyler said put under the purview of the Indigenous Student Representative, that would be like immense air quotations, but taking away the responsibility of a representative, which requires a two-thirds majority vote, to kind of take away something that a counselor does. And this applies to execs, it applies to everyone as well. And so that's that rationale, but also, because of the fact that you know, we're leading the charge here, and whatever comes out of this discussion is going to be a really



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excellent and positive change for our union that's why the executives and Tyler and I kind of decided upon a focus group would be our best approach just so that we're getting all the perspectives of lots of indigenous people, 2-Spirited people. So, we're ensuring that we do appropriate consultation, and we make sure that whatever change is implemented best reflects the needs and the desires of the indigenous community and the 2-Spirited community. So, these conversations are very, very preliminary but I also will say that Tiger and Jonah and the rest of the Indigenous Students Reconciliation Committee will be consulted on this and will definitely get your feedback on who you think should be a part of these conversations. Some people that I identify just off the top of my head would obviously be you two, Mason, whoever else on the committee, MiG Mohan, Trenton, Brayden, if Brayden wanted to be as well as Wendy. And there's also Meganosa the name but basically Trenton's equivalent at UNB, also could be pulled into this conversation. So, we could really pull from a lot of different perspectives here and make a really, really comprehensive group of people to help make this decision. Because obviously, none of the executives are members of the indigenous community and Tyler isn't as well. So that's why consultation on this matter is the primary focus because we can't make any decisions on this without the feedback of the indigenous community. So, I'm really looking forward to having this conversation and to making the changes because I'm always excited about ways that we can make this STUSU better and ways that we can make STUSU best serve our students.

Sydney: I just had a question and can correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe when you were creating the terminologies guide, and working with the safer spaces workshop, you had consulted the Wabanaki Center, as well as the indigenous community correct when talking about 2-Spirited individuals.

Tyler: Yes, when we did put together the the terminologies guide, as well as the safer spaces workshops, I did consult with the Wabanaki Center, as well as some community members from St. Mary's First Nations. I also consulted with they are an Indigenous Studies Major; I think they're doing their Masters now as well as Cassidy and the 203. So, we did consult with them, all of those different organizations when putting these together. But I do think that we are doing our best to make sure that 2-Spirit is reflected the way the indigenous community would like it to. So, whatever their feedback is, and however ways they would like to be represented and in what capacities and how we do our jobs, I think, I think we'll follow their lead on this one.

Sydney: Yeah, I totally agree, it's so important to follow their lead. I just want to make sure that everybody was consulted that you felt necessary before posting the terminologies guide as well as the safer spaces workshop, just then we don't I guess, misrepresent anyone.

Tyler: I was just gonna follow up with what Sydney had said. Even though the terminologies guide and the safer spaces training have been passed, they are not officially up on our website yet, because we're still, for lack of a better word making the terminologies guide look pretty. So that isn't just a Word document. So, because they are not up for students yet, we'll hold off on releasing them until we see where this discussion goes. That way it'll be way easier to either remove or update or whatever when it comes to the terms. That way we don't have to like to put it out, take it down and then put up a new version of it. So even though they have passed, we are going to freeze them before students see it until this discussion is concluded.

Jonah: Sarah had mentioned about speaking with the Indigenous Representatives, Trenton, and rest of them. We are having a talking circle on Tuesday. So that will be something that will bring up a short, probably beginning or even during our talking circle. And Trenton will be there as well as MiG Mohan, Brayden, Nicholas, and Wendy. So, I'll get there inside and if not many students are there and allows Trenton to maybe send out an email to start discussion with the indigenous community in St. Thomas.

Sarah: I was just gonna say that's really excellent. And I did see that you guys are having a talking circle. And that's really, really awesome of you to volunteer to bring that up. Obviously, I wasn't going to impose that on the talking



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circle. But that'd be really excellent. If it comes up and as well to reach out to Indigenous students in our community, because that would be super, super awesome to get the conversation started.

Tiger: I just wanted to make a comment. I'm very excited for this. In terms of the further decolonization of St. Thomas, it is important that every single indigenous student regains their sovereignty. More than happy that we're starting this. Thank you.

Tyler: The three main questions that I have, and maybe like Jonah and Tiger, you can bring this up to like the talking circle, into indigenous people as well as Indigenous students, just like, what would that representation look like? And how would the advocacy look for 2-Spirit people? And what does the alternative look like in respect to the LGBT+ community? I guess those are my three underlining questions. And after reaching out to other advocates that I work with, as well, those are kind of the three resounding questions with all of us.

Tiger: Would you be able to forward Jonah, I and Mason your questions and I will make sure to get that to the committee. Then I'll make sure that Jonah can get it to the Senate. And the committee will start putting out the word about the focus group in the talking circles and all of it.

Tyler: Yeah, of course I can. I'll get an email thread going with, with all three of you in and I'm just gonna extend that out to everybody else, all the counselors, if there are any, like questions, comments, concerns, anything that you have, you would like to throw in with this discussion? Like just send an email to myself or to Jonah or Tiger and just will have this conversation going. So yeah, just let me know.

Jonah: I will follow up what Tiger and Tyler said. Just send me any question or thoughts you guys have between now and Tuesday 3pm and I will be happy to bring them up.

Sarah: I just want to bring up one last thing before we adjourn for the evening. But I just wanted to emphasize again what Tyler said. When Tyler brought this forward to me, regardless of what the outcome is, I think it's going to be fantastic, because we will be in a much more educated and equitable position as a union. But regardless of what that outcome is, my primary concern and my primary motive is that our 2-Spirited students are represented with the Student Union regardless of what that might look like, I don't know, I don't know the answers for that. But I just want to make sure that that representation is so very explicit in our actions and in our bylaws, and our governing documents and all that stuff. So that's where this consultation is going to really come into play is help guide the direction of what we do moving forward and how we best support our Indigenous students and our 2-Spirited students. So that's just another really exciting aspect of this discussion is, again we have the opportunity to make our union much, much better than it currently is. So, it's very, very, very exciting for me, as you can probably tell, I'm very enthusiastic about this. And I love making positive change.

Andie: Just a general question. Is it possible to sign up so I can get office hours next semester?

Sarah: Do you mean in the help desk or virtually, or both, or neither?

Andie: For both, just like once a month or biweekly.

Sarah: So yeah, that's definitely possible. And I guess this goes for everyone as well. In previous years, I know, STUSU has not cautioned away from office hours, but we didn't want to overwhelm our students with information, but I think that objective has entirely changed here. We kind of need to overwhelm our students with information because we're really lacking in that this year. So again, this goes for everyone, but it's definitely possible in terms of the help desk. I would just talk to Maddie about basically you would sign yourself up as a volunteer, whatever time you would



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like to do and then obviously Kyle could bring it to Maddie saying like, this is for the purpose of office hours so that Maddie can ensure that you get the time that you want. However, I will say that as I'm sure you all know, volunteer slots for the help desk on a weekly basis. So, I'm not sure like how that will work if you wanted to do it monthly. If you wanted to commit yourself to being there every week, but only have it as an office hour monthly, then obviously that's possible. But if you wanted to just only be there monthly, then that would definitely have to be a further conversation with Maddie and Kyle and kind of working that out with the pre-existing schedule but for virtually, that's definitely something that can be set up. And we could just set it up the same way that the executives have our virtual office hours where you go on the, like the representatives' page on our website, and then like the zoom link will be under your name. So, it's really accessible that way. I found that's worked thus far for our virtual office hours and then like promotion, like we could promote it on our story or whatever saying like, our Social Inclusion Rep is having their office from this to this. And then we could say like in the caption like find the zoom link here, like, again, the executives do with our office hours. So yeah, long story short, definitely feasible. Virtually, that's something that can be set up super easily. In-person, definitely a further conversation with Maddie and Kyle just to sort out the scheduling, but it definitely could happen.

Motion has been moved by Sexuality and Gender Diversity Representative to table agenda item 7.1 until the next SRC meeting.

Seconded by Kathleen.

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

8. Questions, Announcements & Notices

Sarah: Hello, everyone. This is just me giving you all a little bit of a farewell as this is our last meeting for the semester, as I mentioned in my report. So, I wanted to thank you, thank you all so very much for your attention and your dedication. So far in the semester, we've done some great things. And we've had some great conversations in our meetings, and especially given how much extra workload this year has been an extra stress. I'm so thrilled with everyone's efforts and your contributions to STUSU thus far. And I'm really, really, really excited to see what second semester has in store for us because we're going to do some fantastic things. And with that, I wish everyone the best of luck on your final assignments, and hang in there, you are so close to Christmas break, you're so close to the holidays, and then you can get that final rest. Also, about our end of the year bonding. I will be sending an email tomorrow about that. I've checked in the doodle poll. And it seems that we've got a general consensus on what day works best for everyone. So, anticipate that tomorrow and yes, best of luck with your final assignments, everyone take care of yourselves. Make sure you're taking time for yourselves and in among all your assignments and whatnot. And I hope everyone has a restful and safe and relaxed holiday break.

9. Adjournment

Motion for adjournment was moved by Jonah S.

Seconded by Megan C.

Motion for adjournment was carried.

Adjournment at 8:17 pm.

Submission:

The minutes were respectfully submitted to the Vice-President of Administration on December 8, 2020.

Minahil Fatima

su_secretary@stu.ca

Recording Secretary

STUSU Student Representative Council